

# Panel split on fate of old dam

◆ **Maxwell Pond:** Decision to remove or fix to be taken up by full board in two weeks.

By RILEY YATES  
Union Leader Staff

**MANCHESTER** — The Board of Mayor and Aldermen will take up the fate of Maxwell Pond Dam on Black Brook, after a committee passed the decision on without recommendation yesterday.

Two West Side aldermen said they are torn over what should happen to the 100-year-old dam, which is in need of costly repairs. Restoring the pond is estimated to cost \$1.3 million, while removing the dam would be covered by state and federal money. Fixing its immediate problems would cost \$60,000, plus \$5,000 a year in maintenance.

The Committee on Lands and Buildings yesterday avoided taking a position on the dam, rejecting a motion by Alderman Mark Roy of Ward 1 to support its removal, a plan pushed

► See **Dam**, Page B2

## Dam

Continued From Page B2

by city and state environmental officials.

"The city doesn't have enough money in its budget to maintain that dam," Roy said. "It would not be fair to city taxpayers."

Alderman Armand Forest, whose Ward 12 includes the dam, said his constituents have made it clear in two public hearings that they want the dam to remain. He said he intends to vote against its removal when the issue comes before the full board in two weeks, but guessed it would pass.

Removing the dam, "is the

obvious choice because it's the lesser of two evils," Forest said. "I got to vote against it. My constituents won't want it."

Aldermen Ted Gatsas of Ward 2, Paul Porter of Ward 6 and Hank Thibault of Ward 11 opposed the motion. Alderman Ed Osborne of Ward 5 joined Roy.

Thibault said he's received a lot of phone calls from West Side residents who value the dam for its history and do not want it torn down. He also said financially the issue is simple.

"If someone would really pressure it, I think I might go the other way," and support its

removal, Thibault said. "I'm afraid I'll offend a lot of people."

Maxwell Pond is in Saratoga Blodget Park, just west of Fish Street, north of Goff Street, and just south of Fish Barton Road.

Also yesterday, the committee recommended selling a continued portion of South Bedford and South Commercial streets near Fisher Ballpark to abutter Tri-Enterprises, for \$20,000. 4,682 square foot property could be used for a few parking spaces and signage, city officials said.