

Winans Lake Drain Update January 2022

Congratulations to the Winans Lake Community for the momentous victory that was achieved on December 13th when a Board of Determination unanimously agreed that the Winans Lake Drain was necessary and should go forward!

Now, finally—after decades of gridlock, roadblocks, failed attempts and piecemeal actions—there promises to be a comprehensive and holistically engineered solution to the storm water induced degradation of our Lake, roads, properties and quality of life.

We should all be very proud of how our community mobilized in force to protect our Lake by providing hours of passionate, compelling and, ultimately, indisputable testimony. Remarkably, some of those who testified in opposition were some of the most compelling witnesses for the drain, as they confirmed that there were indeed problems that needed to be solved. And, alas, some self-proclaimed friends of the Lake showed their true colors for all to see.

We must all thank the WLA's SSRC committee for the 3+ years of diligent hard work that enabled this victory. In addition to their time and effort, they also put their reputations and even friendships on the line for the greater good of the Lake and community. We must also be thankful to all of the members who showed their support at a critical time by signing petitions, writing letters and testifying at meetings. We also owe gratitude to those who have worked in the past to solve these issues. Their work was the foundation for this victory and was not in vain! We further thank the Livingston County Drain Commission for their responsiveness and professionalism. Last but not least, kudos to the Board of Determination for their careful and correct decision!

So while we had a bit more to celebrate for this holiday season, we also know that important work lies ahead of us: specifically, the task of ensuring that this project is executed effectively from an engineering and cost standpoint. Our membership can rest assured that the WLA and SSRC is committed to seeing this through accordingly.

The drain project will now continue on with the next steps of scoping, engineering, bidding, apportionment of costs and, finally, construction—probably a 2-3 year timeline in all. The WLA and SSRC will continue to keep the membership informed of the progress going forward as we have from the very beginning.

Congratulations and Happy New Year!