

From: Drake Edgewood <drake.edgewood@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 4:24 PM
To: Mayor <mayor@scarsdale.com>
Cc: Clerk's Department <clerk@scarsdale.com>
Subject: Hutchinson River drainage improvement

CAUTION: External sender.

Dear Mayor and Trustees,

The Hutchinson River is important to Scarsdale because it provides most of the drainage for three Scarsdale neighborhoods – Sherbrooke Park, Edgewood and Arthur Manor – that border the river. To provide this essential drainage the river must remain obstruction free. At the dead end of Tunstall and Barry roads there is major obstruction from fallen trees, brush, silt build-up, etc. impeding the river. Further downstream, at Boulevard and Sprague roads, there are undersized culverts which further impede the flow.

The river used to be maintained, but that hasn't happened for more than two decades. Neglect of the river causes serious problems because during a typical heavy rain of three to four inches, the river will back up and spread outside its banks up to 150 feet on the Scarsdale side, flooding the homes of many residents. During the aftermath of hurricane Ida, the river expanded over 300 feet on the Scarsdale side.

The Hutchinson River also provides essential drainage for communities in New Rochelle and Eastchester. These two municipalities and Scarsdale began the Hutchinson River improvement project. Westchester County approved a grant to support project funding. But recently progress has stopped due to concerns about the condition of the Lake Isle dam. Lake Isle is downstream of Scarsdale along the Hutchinson River.

Nine months ago, the Journal News reported that local politicians, (JOURNAL News, 4/30/2021) Amy Paulin, Shelley Meyers, Jamaal Bowman and George Latimer promised to take action to prevent the Lake Isle dam from giving way and flooding New Rochelle, the Hutchinson River Parkway, Mount Vernon and the Bronx. The dam was constructed in 1894 and has deteriorated for many years. It has been declared unsound by Westchester County with a potential for loss of life. Should the Lake Isle dam give way, the residents who would be most immediately affected live in New Rochelle and Mount Vernon.

At this time the New York DEC has determined that repairs to Lake Isle dam must occur before the Hutchinson River improvement project can proceed.

We need the drainage improvement project for the Hutchinson River to go forward to alleviate the inevitable flooding of a large area encompassing multiple neighboring communities. It makes sense that downstream facilities, including the Lake Isle dam, need to be in order so that they can safely handle increased flow rates from an improved river upstream. Since the dam seems to be the stopgap it is imperative that the repairs to that facility take place soon. The dam is already unsound, and the build-up of debris along the dam's spillway is potentially a major issue to cause

damage and eventual failure of the dam, releasing millions of gallons of water, flooding downstream communities. It must be addressed now.

We need your help. Repairs to the Lake Isle dam are estimated to cost \$8 million. It may be possible to obtain funding assistance from the recently passed federal infrastructure legislation, since this project encompasses a large swath of land in Westchester County. If you have not already started, then please look into obtaining funds from the federal government. Please encourage the neighboring municipalities to join the effort.

Thank you,

Camille Roche and Greg Schwend

Drake Edgewood Neighborhood Association