



APA'S FAILURE TO HOLD HEARINGS BRINGS JUDICIAL REBUKE

Lake George. Photo by Ken Rimany

The Issue:

For fifty years the Adirondack Park Agency has been charged with holding public hearings about private development of sufficient size, complexity, and public interest to warrant them. Hearings allow:

- expert testimony from the APA and the public before a hearing officer;
- evidence about project impacts and recommended ways to avoid them;
- opportunity for APA to make better land use decisions, including project denial.

The Problem:

From 1973-2011, APA held about three hearings annually until they stopped holding them. Not one public hearing has been since held since 2012 despite the APA's approval of much complex, controversial development since then.

In 2023, NYS Supreme Court in Warren County rebuked the APA for not holding a hearing before issuing a permit for an experimental herbicide in Lake George. The Judge ruled APA's failure arbitrary and irrational - and revoked the APA's herbicide permit.

Other large, complex projects, including large residential subdivisions and mine expansions, are now before the APA. We trust APA has gotten the message that it must resume hearings, but, if not, we ask for your help.

Action Needed:

Please write to Barbara Rice, APA Executive Director, Barbara.rice@apa.ny.gov, call her at 518-891-4050, or make a verbal comment to APA Chair John Ernst during APA public comment period.

Let the APA know that you are aware of the Supreme Court decision at Lake George and that you expect the agency to resume holding public hearings about complex, controversial, significant developments around the Adirondack Park.

Thank you !

WE CAN'T DO THIS WORK WITHOUT YOU!

For a FREE copy of our report, *The Adirondack Park at a Crossroad: A Road Map for Action* or our guidebook, *Pathways to a Connected Adirondack Park: Practical Steps to Better Land Use Decisions*, please visit our website, www.adirondackwild.org, and download them from the main menu under: Media/Publications.

While you're there, we also invite you to make a donation to become a member and to sign up for our award-winning eNewsletter, *Dialogue for the Wild*.



Follow us on Facebook

WE'RE ON THE WILD'S SIDE...

SAFEGUARDING THE WILD | EXTENDING THE WILD | EDUCATING FOR THE WILD

WWW.ADIRONDACKWILD.ORG

Founded 1945