

**To:** Dec <[its-greener-now-comments@dec.ny.gov](mailto:its-greener-now-comments@dec.ny.gov)>

**Cc:** Mayor <[Mayor@watkinsglen.us](mailto:Mayor@watkinsglen.us)>, Joshua Navone Office <[jcnavone@gmail.com](mailto:jcnavone@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Division St issues...part 1

To the DEC. I hope this video comes through so you can get a sense of what I've been dealing with, with Marty when he expanded his gravel pit across the road from me on route 409. I own 25 acres of Big Bend on rt 409 bordered by division Street, and the Village Diversion ditch to the east. When I bought my property 10 years ago there was a moderate sized drainage ditch that went by the front of my house. It handled any rain storms or snow melts we had. About six years ago, coinciding with Marty digging across the road, there was a huge influx of water. Water filled with a lot of sediment.

The Soil and water department put down some rip rap along the closed section of division Street just below my house, in 2018, that was intended to spare the rush of sediment filled water that was filling up the diversion ditch that the village of Watkins Glen is to maintain. A couple years later the Town Of Dix rebuilt the ditch in front of my house in an effort to control the rising waters. They replaced above my house, at my cost, a 12inch drain pipe, with a 24 inch one. Both projects lasted for very little time. The soil and water project was washed out in the first big rainstorm, and the Town Of Dix project was totally inadequate for controlling the waters. Mind you, there had never been an issue with flooding in that area with the previous homeowner who had been there since the 1940s.

This video was shot three years ago, on July 21, 2021. Actually, the water level got much worse and ended up surrounding the house completely and flooding my basement for the third time since I have been here. This is a constant problem I have had that was only alleviated when I heard the DEC made Marty reroute his runoff sometime within the last year. I had personally gone to Marty a couple times pleading for him to do something and his only comment was "Water goes down." My contacts with municipalities did not go very far, as nobody wanted to deal with him.

I have had other conversations with Marty over the years and he has let it be known that he doesn't much like getting permits, or having neighbors to deal with. It seems he likes to be able to do whatever he wants to do. When I saw the article about his plan for expansion, I was horrified. From what I have seen as first hand experience he does not seem to care who is affected by what he does. He could've very well corrected his runoff to spare me, and the Diversion ditch, from his runoff, but he chose not to, only taking action once he was forced to.

Does anybody really believe that if he is allowed to proceed with his plan that he will follow the rules?? Any rules?? There are hundreds of houses on the West Hill of Watkins Glen, and what he does could very well affect any or all of them. And it could have detrimental effect on the already clogged diversion ditch that is intended to alleviate any flooding problems for the west hill of Watkins Glen.

We need to allow businesses to succeed, but we also need to hold businesses accountable, and not let them go unchecked and put their neighbors in harms way. Please listen to what local residents have to say, and carefully consider this expansion. And provide strong oversight for anything that is allowed.

You can reach me by email, or call me at 716-672-9772 for a personal conversation. My roots are deep in this community. I love this town, and I do not want to see anything that would put it in jeopardy, like my house on division Street has been for the last number of years.

Thank you for allowing my input. Please let me know if this video is not viewable, and I will find another way to get it to you. I will send a follow-up with pictures from 2018, which was soon after issues began to arise.

William Pylypciw