

VILLAGE OF HERMON

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VILLAGE OF HERMAN LAUNCHES DISSOLUTION PROJECT WEBSITE RESIDENTS CAN STAY INFORMED AS STUDY UNFOLDS

Village of Hermon, NY – July 31, 2014 – A new webpage specifically designed to help residents stay informed of developments as the Village of Hermon dissolution study progresses, is now active. Since neither the Village nor Town has their own website, the Development Authority of the North Country is hosting the webpage on their existing website. The webpage (<http://www.danc.org/operations/engineering/hermon-dissolution-study>) has been launched by the Village appointed Dissolution Study Committee to ensure the Village and Town residents have access to all of the information and materials being considered by the study committee.

The Hermon Village Board appointed Dissolution Study Committee consists of Hermon Mayor Cathy Race, Village Trustee Nathan Young, Hermon Town Councilman Lee Carvel, former Town Councilman David Dorion, residents Jeff Foster, Sheri Smith, Tracy Woodrow and Jamie Matthews. The committee will also conduct public informational meetings and a public hearing on the final Dissolution Study, Plan and Alternatives. At each stage of the process additional information will be available on the website.

Village Trustees decided to investigate dissolution because populations have been declining, businesses have closed, and there is a loss of financial resources making it increasingly difficult for the Village to provide municipal services. Many government functions are being provided by the Town of Hermon or St. Lawrence County. The Village's population for 2010 was 415 people, making it the 5th smallest Village in St. Lawrence County. Moreover, Hermon Trustees have observed the Village of Edwards dissolution process unfold resulting in the Village's dissolution in 2012.

The Village Board of Trustees applied for a \$10,000 Citizen Reorganization Empowerment Grant. The New York State Department of State awarded the grant to the Village in June 2014. The grant will cover 50% of the cost of the \$20,000 dissolution study.

The Village has engaged the Development Authority of the North Country and C2AE to complete the study. The Dissolution Study Committee, with assistance from the consultants, will be working on preparing a report that will satisfy the grant requirements: to develop a detailed Dissolution Study with a recommended Dissolution Plan and Alternatives to Dissolution which answers questions that Village and Town of Hermon residents have about the dissolution process, impacts of dissolution, and how dissolving would affect residents and local governments. The final deliverable will be transmitted to the Village Board for approval. The entire process will take about 24 months and is slated to be completed by June 2016.