

**Village of Chaumont
Dissolution Study Committee Meeting
Meeting #1 – June 3 @ 6:00 p.m., Lyme Central School Library
Minutes**

Meeting started at 6:04 p.m.

Attendees:

Committee Members:

Ed Demattia (Town Resident), Robin Govesteen (Village Resident), Fred Jackson (Village Resident), Bill Johnson (Town Resident), Jim Morrow (Village Trustee), Scott Radley (Village Resident), Valerie Rust (Village Mayor), Marcie Travers-Barth (Town Resident), Pet Weston (Town Highway Superintendent)

Consultants:

Development Authority of the North Country: Star Carter, Warren Salo, Carrie Tuttle

Public: Greg Ingerson, Karen Fitzgerald, Reginald Schweitzer Jr.

1. Introductions

- Development Authority of the North Country Consultants Star Carter, Warren Salo, and Carrie Tuttle will be the primary Authority staff working on the project. The Committee members introduced themselves and noted if they represent the Village or the Town.
- S. Carter discussed the roles of the Authority and the Committee for this Dissolution Study. The Authority will guide the committee through the Dissolution Study process, gather and present information to the committee on each meeting topic, facilitate the meetings, write the reports, and complete the DOS grant administration tasks. The Committee will review the information for each meeting topic, come prepared to discuss the topic and make recommendations, review the reports and provide edits and corrections, and ultimately make a recommendation to the Village and Town Boards about how to move forward with dissolution and/or shared services options. The Committee's task is complete after they deliver the Final Dissolution Study Report and Plan to the Village Board. There are several potential shared services solutions and options that may come out of the Dissolution Study outside of village dissolution.
- S. Carter showed the committee the Chaumont Dissolution Study website where all of the dissolution study information will be available to the public.

2. DOS Work Plan and Meeting Presentation

- S. Carter notes that the meeting presentations and other information handouts will be provided to committee members approximately one week in advance of the committee meetings for review.
- S. Carter reviewed the "Demographics and Socioeconomics" presentation with the Committee. Please see presentation for details.
 - o Chaumont has considered Village dissolution twice in the past. In 1999, the Village sent out a petition/poll to Village residents asking if they wanted to move forward with a village dissolution process. The majority of returned polls were "No". The Village completed a Dissolution Study in 2012 that went to a vote, and the majority of Village registered voters voted against dissolution.

- There are two ways a village can dissolve: Voter Initiated Dissolution and Board Initiated Dissolution. Chaumont is following the Board Initiated process.
- Question from Reginald Schweitzer, Jr.: Is there a dissolution process where both town and village have a vote? S. Carter answered by describing the differences between municipal dissolution, consolidation, and co-terminus village/town. For more information, please visit the DOS webpage: <https://www.dos.ny.gov/lg/lge/dissolution.html> Specific information about co-terminus municipalities can be found here: *legal memo LG06 from NYSDOS*: <https://www.dos.ny.gov/cnsl/lg06.htm>
- There was discussion about petitions and how many signatures are needed for a valid petition. The Village of Chaumont has 415 registered voters in 2019. “A petition needs to be signed by at least ten percent of the number of electors or five thousand electors, whichever is less, in each town, village or special district to be consolidated or dissolved. However, if the town, village or special district has five hundred or fewer electors, the petition needs to be signed by at least twenty percent of the number of electors from that local government unit. You will probably want to collect many more signatures than is needed, in order to ensure that you have an adequate number of signatures in the event some of them are invalidated.” Source: <https://www.dos.ny.gov/LG/publications/CitizenGuidetoPetitions.pdf>
- A Committee member asked about the date of census data in the presentation. S. Carter noted that the data is 2010 data unless noted otherwise. The decennial census data is the most accurate and while there are American Community Survey (ACS) estimates available for the years between the decennial census, the data can vary drastically from year to year. S. Carter noted that the State usually requires decennial census data for applications and reports, and so the data in this presentation is from 2010. C. Tuttle provided additional information after the meeting that some grant funding agencies are now using the ACS census estimates. For example, the USDA Rural Development program uses 2010 census data but the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation has been using ACS data the past few years.

3. Other business: None. The next meeting will be June 26, 6:00 p.m., at the Lyme/Chaumont Municipal Building.

Meeting	Month	Location
#1 Kickoff and Demographics	June 3	Lyme School Library
#2 What Exists: Municipal Financials	June 26	Municipal Building
#3 What Exists: Municipal Officials & Employees, Public Works, Water & Sewer	July 24	Municipal Building
#4 What Exists: Local Laws, Fire & Ambulance	August 28	Municipal Building
#5 What Exists: Draft Existing Conditions Report	September 25	Municipal Building
#6 Public Meeting #1 - Existing Conditions	October 23	Municipal Building
#7 Alternatives: Dissolution and Other Shared Services Options	November 27*	Municipal Building
#8 Alternatives: Second Meeting	December 25*	Municipal Building
#9 Draft Alternatives Report	January 22	Municipal Building
#10 Public Meeting #2 - Alternatives	February 26	Municipal Building
#11 Final Dissolution Report and Plan	March 25	Municipal Building

* The meetings in November and December occur near major holidays and will be rescheduled.