

# *Village of Lake George Interim Dissolution Study*

## *Public Information Meeting #1*



## LABERGE GROUP



**BEN H. SYDEN, AICP**  
VICE PRESIDENT



**KATHLEEN A. ROONEY**  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
SPECIALIST

# Meeting Decorum

- Please sign up to speak
- Speakers will be selected in order from the sign-in sheet
- Questions/Comments will be received at the end of the presentation
- Each person who signed in will have 3 minutes to speak

# Overview of Presentation

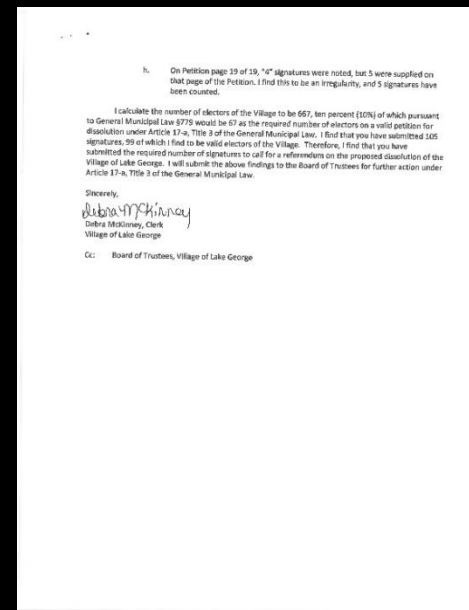
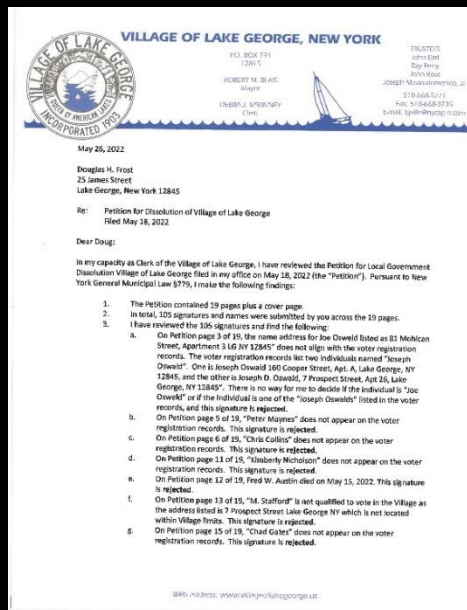
- How Did We Get Here?
- The Dissolution Process
- What is an Interim Dissolution Study?
- What is a Dissolution Plan
- Next Steps
- Questions & Answers on Process / Public Comment

# How Did We Get Here?

## Steps toward Dissolution in Lake George to Date:

### Citizen-Initiated Reorganization

- May 18, 2022 the electorate of the Village of Lake George submitted a petition for Dissolution.



# How Did We Get Here?

## Steps toward Dissolution in Lake George to Date:

### Citizen-Initiated Reorganization

- [May 26, 2022](#) the Village Clerk reviewed and certified petition.
- On [June 20, 2022](#) the Village Board met to enact a resolution calling for a Referendum on the proposed Dissolution no less than 60 days and no more than 90 days from the meeting.
- The date of the referendum has been set for [September 13, 2022](#).
- No further action is required of the Village Board until after the referendum.
- The Village can choose to provide information prior to the referendum in the form of an *Interim Dissolution Study*.

# How Did We Get Here?

## Dissolution vs. Consolidation

	Dissolution	Consolidation
<b>Definition</b>	The termination of a local government entity.	The elimination of the original governments and the forming of a new local government entity or the merger of one surviving government entity with the other absorbed into it.
<b>Services</b>	May end or be assumed by another local government entity that may provide the service at the same or different level.	May eliminate both entity's services and form new government services or retain one government entity's services and absorb additional services from the other entity.
<b>Documents</b>	Dissolution Plan - Contains the terms and information regarding the dissolution of a local government entity.	Consolidation Plan - Both the Town and Village get to vote on the plan.

# How Did We Get Here? New York State Precedent and Enabling Legislation

- Prior to 2010, 39 New York Villages had been dissolved.
- Effective March 21, 2010 New York State General Municipal Law 17-A “Dissolution and Dissolution of Local Government”.
- NYS GML 17-A provides guidance for citizens and local governments regarding Dissolution and Dissolution of government bodies, duties and roles.
- Citizen Empowerment Tax Credit (when available) = 15% of the joint general fund tax levy

# How Did We Get Here?

## Villages Dissolved

### 1900-2022

Roxbury - 1900  
Prattsville - 1900  
Rifton - 1919  
LaFargeville - 1922  
Brookfield - 1923  
Oramel - 1925  
Newfield - 1926  
Pleasant Valley - 1926  
Marlborough - 1928  
Northville - 1930  
Old Forge - 1933  
Forestport - 1938  
North Bangor - 1939  
The Landing - 1939  
Downsville - 1950  
Amchir - 1968  
Prattsburg - 1972  
Pelham - 1975  
N. Pelham - 1975  
Fort Covington- 1976  
Friendship - 1977

Belleville - 1979  
Rosendale - 1979  
Savannah - 1979  
Elizabethtown - 1981  
Bloomingdale - 1985  
Pine Hill - 1985  
Woodhull - 1986  
East Bloomfield - 1990  
Holcomb - 1990  
Pine Valley - 1990  
Ticonderoga - 1992  
Westport - 1992  
Henderson - 1992  
Schenevus - 1993  
Fillmore - 1994  
Mooers - 1994  
Andes - 2003  
Pike - Wyoming - 2009  
Limestone - 2010  
East Randolph - 2011  
Randolph - 2011

Perrysburg - 2011  
Seneca Falls - 2011  
Edwards - 2012  
Altmar - 2013  
Keeseville - 2014  
Bridgewater - 2014  
Lyons - 2015  
Salem - 2016  
Hermon - 2016  
Forestville - 2016  
Macedon - 2017  
Port Henry - 2017  
Herrings - 2017  
Cherry Creek - 2017  
Mastic Beach - 2017  
Harrisville - 2018  
Van Etten - 2018  
Morristown - 2019  
South Nyack - 2022

# How Did We Get Here?

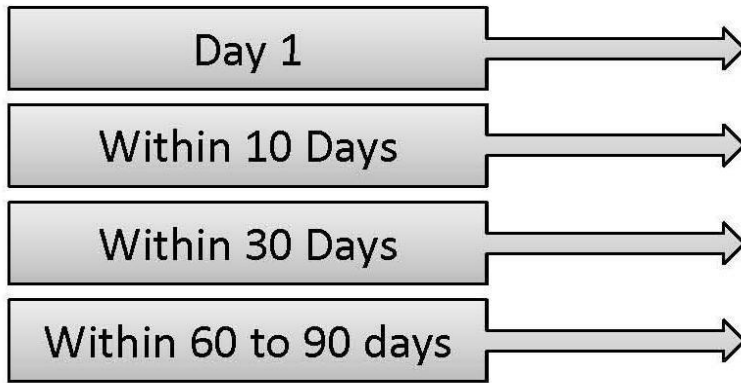
## Initiation of Process

- “The... Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act ... provides a process for citizens to petition for a public vote on dissolving or consolidating local governments The Dissolution or Consolidation process may also be initiated by a local governing board.”
- The first step shall be a petition, said petition must be signed by at **least 10%** of the number of electors.
- The Lake George process is a citizen-initiated process.

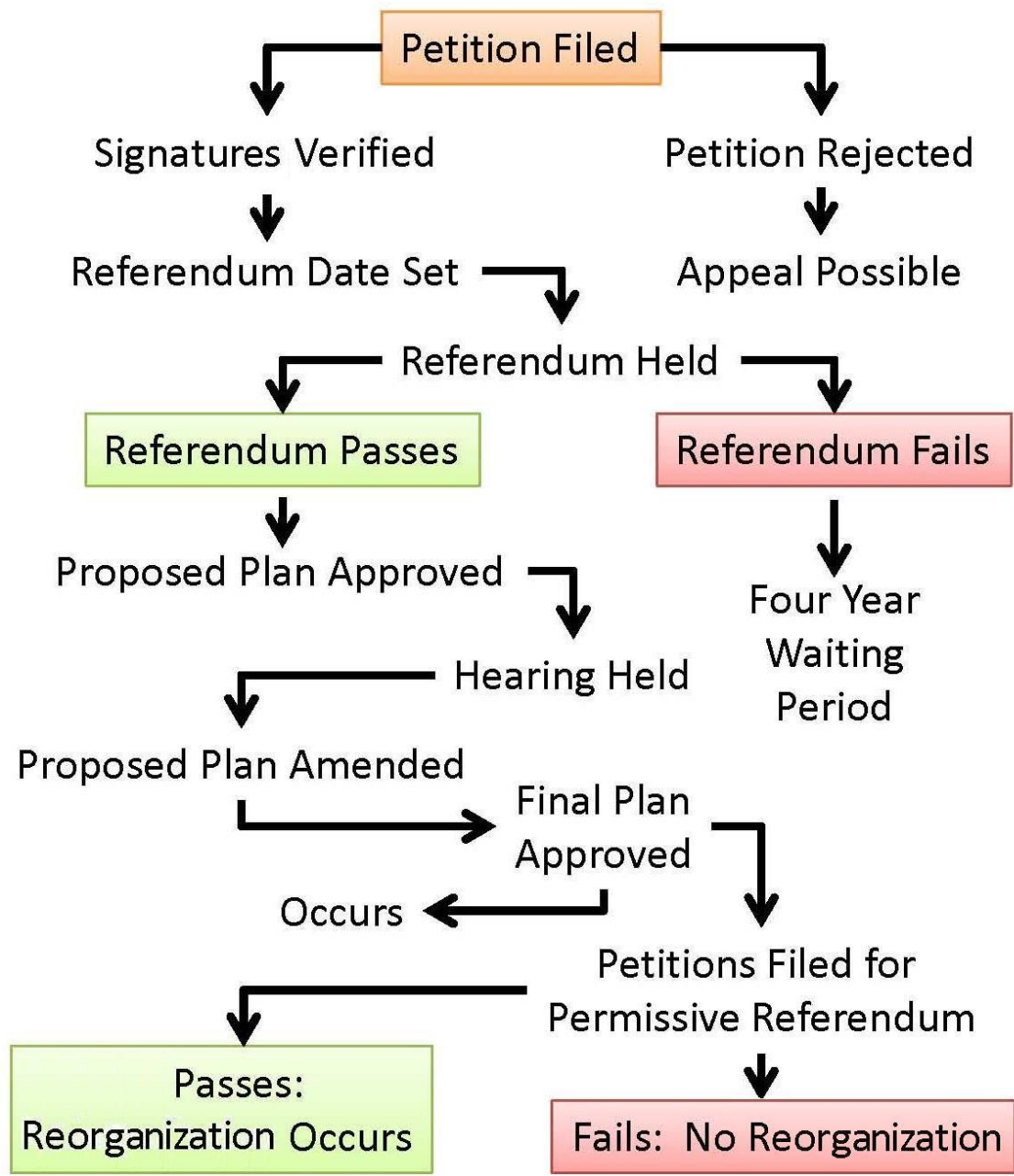
# Overview of the Proposed Dissolution Process: Prior to Referendum

- Public informational meetings: June 27, 2022 and TBD in September (in person and livestreamed).
- The Village has chosen to develop an *Interim Dissolution Study*. Consultants will interview Village and Town officials and staff, review municipal data, and develop the *Study* and other memoranda.
- Links to the *Study* will be available at [www.labergegroup.com/lakegeorge](http://www.labergegroup.com/lakegeorge)
- This website will be accessible from the Village website.

# Voter-Initiated



Within 30 Days, Board Must Meet



# Overview of the Proposed Dissolution Study Process: Referendum

The referendum vote shall be:

September 13, 2022

Location to be determined (12pm - 9pm)

The question will appear on the ballot as follows:

“Shall the Incorporated Village of Lake George  
be dissolved?”

# Overview of the Proposed Dissolution Process After the Referendum

If the vote is “No”

- Dissolution will not take effect; nothing further will occur.
- Dissolution process may not be initiated again for 4 years from the date of the Referendum.
- Village and Town may focus on shared services with other entities to reduce costs and improve quality.
- The Village and Town or their residents can still pursue a consolidation, but that is very rare.

# Overview of the Proposed Dissolution Process After the Referendum

If the vote is “Yes”, the Village Board:

- Shall meet within 30 days to create a committee & set schedule.
- Shall approve a Dissolution Plan in 180 days or less.
- Shall have one or more public hearings following the approval of the Dissolution Plan (35-90 days after)
- Shall have up to 60 days to **finalize & adopt** the Dissolution Plan based on hearing(s).
- The Final Dissolution Plan is subject to Permissive Referendum **(25% of the electorate)**. **THERE IS NOT A GUARANTEED SECOND VOTE.**
- A petition for a second referendum must be submitted within 45 days.

# State Financial and Technical Assistance for Dissolution Studies and Plans

- New York Department of State provides financial and technical assistance to local governments.
- The Local Government Citizens Reorganization Empowerment Grant (CREG) assists local governments with planning and implementation activities related to Dissolution of government.
- The Village has applied for an Expedited Re-Organization Assistance grant which reimburses 90% of expenses up to \$50,000.
- This would have covered most of the costs associated with the Interim Report and if necessary, the Final Dissolution Plan.

# What is an Interim Dissolution Study?

- The *Interim Dissolution Study* is intended to better educate and inform the public of the Dissolution process and potential outcomes.
- The *Study* will summarize a potential new government model of service delivery and identify pros/cons associated with Dissolution.
- The *Study* will provide a potential fiscal impact to both Village & Town residents.
- Information will be shared through public meetings, pamphlet(s), and the *Interim Dissolution Study* website.

# What is an Interim Dissolution Study?

The *Interim Dissolution Study* includes:

- Summary of Existing Government Services and Functions
- Review of Municipal Services
- Potential Post-Dissolution Conditions
- Listing of Local Laws & Land Use Regulations
- Potential Fiscal Impact: Tax Impact of Dissolution
  - Option 1: Projected Tax Impact of Dissolution, with Citizen Empowerment Tax Credit (CETC) Savings
  - Option 2: Projected Tax Impact of Dissolution, without CETC Savings

# What is the Citizen Empowerment Tax Credit?

- An incentive provided by New York State when two local governments consolidate.
- Based on a formula of 15% of the combined property tax levy at the time of local governmental Dissolution .
- **70% must** be used towards the reduction of the tax levy.
- **30% may** be used for further tax reduction or capital improvement projects.
- Based in 2020 tax levies, the CETC would be – approximately \$934,924 (T- \$3,046,659, V - \$3,186,171)

# Interim Dissolution Study

In the event that the vote passes and Dissolution is to occur, the *Interim Dissolution Study* will give residents an idea of how the Dissolution might affect them:

- Provide an estimate of the cost/benefit of dissolution
- Outline future conditions for delivery of services
- Outline any potential plan for the transfer or elimination of public employee positions
- Discuss how options affect the quality or level of service provided
- Terms for disposing of Village's assets & liabilities & indebtedness.

# Next Steps

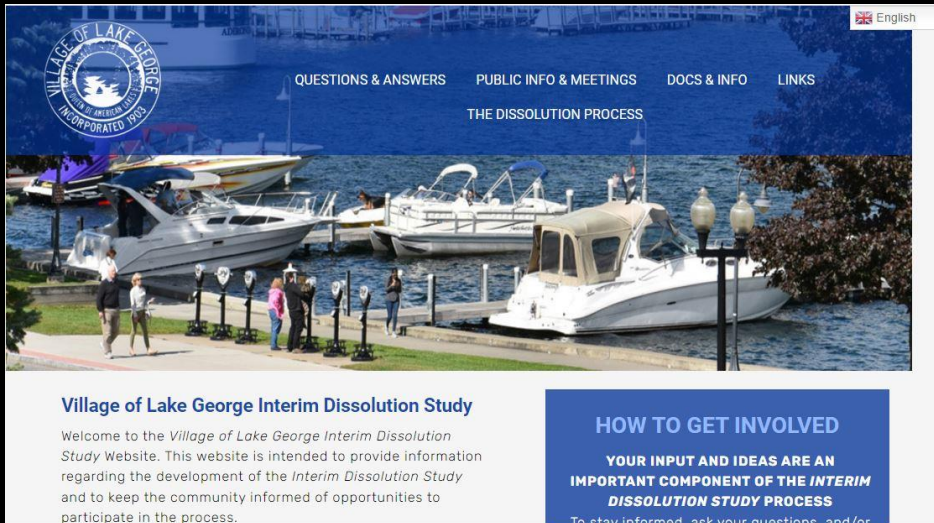
- The Town, Village and the Consultant team has begun the process of collecting data from the Village and Town, i.e.
  - Budgets and financial reports, inventories of assets, debts, personnel, and equipment
- Research options for continuing critical services
- Assess feasibility and general impact of each option
  - Is it legally, operationally and politically doable?
  - How is it likely to affect costs and level of service?
- Hold an additional public information meeting prior to the Referendum tentative date.

# For More Information...

**Ben Syden, AICP**  
**Vice President**  
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**Kathleen Rooney**  
**Local Government Specialist**  
[krooney@labergegroup.com](mailto:krooney@labergegroup.com)

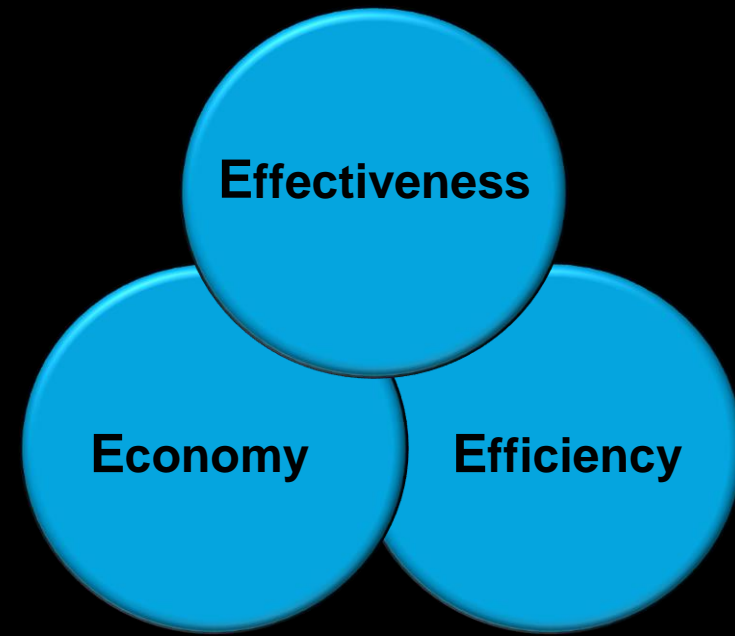
***Interim Dissolution Study Website*** [www.labergegroup.com/lakegeorge](http://www.labergegroup.com/lakegeorge)



- **Access the latest information**
- **Submit Your Questions**
- **Sign-up for Email Updates regarding upcoming events and information as it becomes available**

# Preliminary Test: Does it make “sense” or “cents”

- **Economy**: Will the proposed Dissolution reduce the current Village and/or Town costs now or in the future?
- **Efficiency**: Will the proposed Dissolution improve the current delivery of Village and/or Town services?
- **Effectiveness**: Will the proposed Dissolution allow the Town to deliver needed services that are qualitatively improved or that the Village would find difficult to provide individually?



# Goal of Interim Process: Balancing Community Values vs. Cost Savings



▪ Cost



▪ Services



▪ Cost



▪ Services



▪ Cost



▪ Services



▪ Cost



▪ Services

