TOWN *OF* HERMON, MAINE *Comprehensive Plan* 2010

Book 2

Inventories and Analyses

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For the Citizens of Hermon, Maine…Our most valuable "natural resource"!

A. INTRODUCTION

During the economic "boom" of the eighties, the State of Maine experienced substantial growth, not only in the urban areas, but also in the outlying rural communities. This growth, which was a mix of industrial, commercial and residential, occurred in many communities, which were not prepared to deal with the increased demands on municipal budgets or the environmental effects. In response to this growth and in an effort to reduce the impact on taxes, community character and our environment, the State of Maine Legislature enacted various land use laws that were intended to provide municipalities with the tools to prepare for future growth and development. The "Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act of 1988," which is frequently referred to as the "Growth Management Act" required municipalities throughout the State to adopt a Growth Management Program. The program, which consisted of a comprehensive plan and implemented land use ordinance, would provide the framework for municipalities to guide their future growth and development while still maintaining the character and identity of their community. Due to a period of decreasing state revenues, the program was repealed by the Legislature to eliminate the mandatory aspect of the law; but many communities had already recognized the necessity of this program and continue today to achieve Growth Management's goals.

A comprehensive plan is a document adopted by a local government and created by local people. This document is actually a map to the town's future that guides the decision making process regarding the community and the vision that the residents have for their future. The essential characteristic of the plan makes it comprehensive, general, and long-range. The plan is comprehensive since it encompasses all aspects of the community; general because the plan summarizes policies and implementation strategies but does not include detailed regulations, and long-range since the plan looks to the future to envision the problems and possibilities.

A.1 STATUTORY BASIS

Hermon's Comprehensive Plan was developed in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act of 1988 (MRS Title 30, Section 4861). The adoption of the plan can assist Hermon in receiving preferential consideration when applying for federally or state funded grants that affect community development (MRSA Title 30-A, Section 4349).

A.2 PURPOSE

The purpose of a comprehensive plan is to provide the factual basis and policy framework for future planning, regulatory, and community development decision-making, in both the public and private sectors for the town. The plan is a valuable working instrument for the future growth and development of Hermon.

A.3 CONSULTANT

The Town of Hermon has contracted with the Penobscot Valley Council of Governments through the Eastern Maine Development Corporation to assist the Comprehensive Plan Committee and municipal staff in preparing this comprehensive plan.

A.4 STATE OF MAINE GROWTH MANAGEMENT GOALS

In order for the plan to be deemed consistent by the state, it must address the State's Ten Goals of Growth Management as outlined in M.R.S.A. Title 30-A§4312. The following is a listing of those goals.

1. To encourage orderly growth and development in appropriate areas of each community, while protecting the state's rural character, making efficient use of public services and preventing development sprawl.
2. To plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development.
3. To promote an economic climate that increases job opportunities and overall economic well-being.
4. To encourage and promote affordable, decent housing opportunities for all Maine citizens.
5. To protect the quality and manage the quantity of the state's water resources, including lakes, aquifers, great ponds, estuaries, rivers and coastal areas.
6. To protect the state's critical natural resources, including without limitation, wetlands, wildlife and fisheries habitat, sand dunes, shorelands, scenic vistas and unique natural areas.
7. To protect the state's marine resources industry, ports, and harbors from incompatible development and to promote access to the shore for commercial fishermen and the public.
8. To safeguard the state's agricultural and forest resources from development that threatens those resources.
9. To preserve the state's historical and archaeological resources.
10. To promote and protect the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities for all Maine citizens, including access to surface waters.

A.5 SCOPE

A comprehensive plan involves the following:

- Survey of existing and potential resources;
- Analysis of past, present, and future community trends;
- Development of policies;
- Adoption of implementation strategies by Town Officials and residents; and
- Continuous monitoring of the plan's policies and implementation strategies.

A comprehensive plan follows an established framework set forth by the State. Within the plan, however, are the collective thoughts and actions of Hermon's residents. The entire comprehensive plan must be applicable now and in the future. As a result, the town must periodically review the plan and update it to reflect needed changes in local policies and to incorporate updated information.

This comprehensive plan looks at local and regional issues that affect or concern the Town of Hermon. This plan will guide the town over the next ten years, and provide a reasonable approach to land use regulation in preparing the town for future development while retaining, or even enhancing the local quality of life.

This comprehensive plan examines the above-mentioned available information, including inventory and analysis, local policies, implementation strategies and regional policy/coordination, through the following components:

- History and Community Character
- Population
- Employment and Economy
- Housing
- Transportation
- Public Facilities and Services
- Recreation
- Natural Resources
- Fiscal Capacity
- Land Use

A.6 LIMITATIONS

This comprehensive plan has been assembled and compiled with the genuine intention that all of the data and information contained herein is reasonably accurate and correct. The information contained in this plan was gathered from the sources cited. Some of the sources were found to be more detailed and more recent than other sources. Where appropriate, future application of the information contained in this plan should be preceded by a check of the sources to see if additional or revised information is available. Most of the information contained in the plan is considered current enough and of sufficient detail to support the conclusions and recommendations offered. This information is suitable for general planning; however, it may not be appropriate for site-specific decisions.

A. 7 DISCLAIMER

The information used to create the maps in this Comprehensive Plan has been derived from multiple sources. The map products as provided are for reference and planning purposes only and are not to be construed as legal documents or survey instruments. EMDC/PVCOG provides this information with the understanding that it is not guaranteed to be accurate, correct or complete; that it is subject to revision; and conclusions drawn from such information are the responsibility of the user. Due to ongoing road renaming and addressing, the road names shown on these maps may not be current.

Any user of the maps accept the same; as is, with all faults, and assumes all responsibility for the use thereof, and further agrees to hold EMDC/PVCOG harmless from and against any damage, loss, or liability arising from any use of the maps.

B. COMMUNITY CHARACTER AND HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

STATE GOAL
To preserve the State's historic and archaeological resources.

The history of Hermon was recently documented in a book titled *Hermon Maine, Then and Now* developed from the Historical Committee and written by Mary Gaudreau, Rosanne Gray, and Bernice Heath in 2005. This book is thorough and complete on the history of Hermon from the first day of settlement to today. This resource is maintained in the Town Office and at the High School Library and has become a useful resource to the Town. We wish to thank all who contributed to this significant project and it will help Hermon for decades to come.

B.1 GEOGRAPHY

The Town of Hermon is located north of Interstate 95 along the western border of the City of Bangor in the southwest corner of Penobscot County in the State of Maine. Physically it is 35 miles southwest of the geographic center of Maine. Hermon is 235 miles from Boston, Massachusetts and 188 miles from St. John, New Brunswick, Canada.

Hermon is bordered by the City of Bangor to the east, the Town of Levant to the northwest, the Town of Glenburn to the northeast, the Town of Hampden to the southeast, the Town of Newburgh to the southwest. The total land area contained within the corporate limits is 36.80 square miles according to the 2000 census.

The topography of Hermon consists of rolling hills, fields and valleys as well as large tracts of woodland and wetland areas.

B.2 COMMUNITY CHARACTER

Early settlers began inhabiting Hermon (then known only as Plantation 2, Range 2, west of the Penobscot River) as early as 1780. An early map shows 23 lots and a population of 84 in Hermon on or before 1784.

In November, 1795, these settlers petitioned the Massachusetts legislature for 100 acres each of the land they settled, lived on, and improved since 1784 and before.

Earliest settlement patterns as documented by the map would tend to indicate a sort of overflow from the bustling neighboring town of Wheelersborough (Hampden) up the Soudabscook Stream in proximity to Hermon Pond.

Incorporation of Hermon was petitioned for on January 12, 1814 and was approved by the Governor on June 13, 1814, making Hermon the 207th town in the District of Maine. The first Town Meeting was assembled at the home of John Swan on the 23rd of March, 1815 at one o'clock in the afternoon. Discussion was about taxes, education, and town leadership.

Before Hermon's incorporation, schools were supported privately in settlers' homes. At the first Town Meeting, $600 was raised for construction of three schools and creation of three Districts, but this early vote was later rescinded and the money never spent! Within a year, Districts had formed on their own, with each building its own school. For many years they were autonomous. The Pond School being the first, was designated #1. It was soon followed by #2-Garland Hill School and #3-North Hermon School. From 1828 on, the following schools were added to the list: #4- Read Hill; #5-Hermon Corner; #6-Junction; #7-Prescott; #8-Leather's Corner; #9-Burnette; #10-Brackett; #11-Snow's Corner; #12-Coldbrook Road; #13-Webber; and #14-Clark Road. All of the schools were apparently quite similar in construction and operation. Several of the structures still exist in vastly modified form. Only #5 has survived in a nearly authentic state. Thanks to the efforts of the Hermon Historical Society, it has been restored and is a treasure today and for the future.

In the 1880's a high school was established and operated at the Town Hall for years until fire destroyed the building in 1927. Through the years since, consolidation of schools and acquisition of properties for that purpose indicate a sincere and historic attempt at achieving the highest quality of education for Hermon scholars.

The free practice of religion and Hermon were irrevocably linked from 1798, when Reverend Paul Ruggles, on his way to Carmel, stayed at the home of Ebineezer Garland at Garland Hill. Ruggles later returned to settle and became a significant influence on social development. The very naming of the Town for the sacred mountain attests to it.

The first church in Hermon, built in 1845 at North Hermon, was the Advent Chapel. This was followed in 1848 by the Universalist Church at Hermon Corner, the organization of the Christian Church at Reed Hill in 1860, the Freewill Baptist Church at Hermon Corner in 1869, and much later, the Hermon Community Church (known as the Assembly of God Church of Hermon) in 1951.

A rich social heritage is witnessed by participation, ongoing since 1874, in the various fraternal organizations, clubs, and groups. They each have contributed in some way to the character of the community.

The Lynde Lodge #174, A.F. and A.M., was founded August 19, 1874, and still meet at the Lodge at Hermon Corner. Jonathan Hunt Chapter #9, Order of Eastern Star was organized in February 1892. Triumph Lodge #119, I.O.O.F. was instituted in 1889, and the Rebekah Lodge in 1891. The Union Grange was organized sometime before the Town Centennial in 1914 and although its charter was given up in the 1940's, it was very active for many years and a significant influence in a primarily agrarian society. Other prominent groups in Hermon include: the American Legion; the Kiwanis Club; the Hermon Fire Department, Juniors and Ladies Auxiliary; the Garden Club; the Historical Society; the Snowmobile club; the Boots and Saddle Club; the Rescue Squad; and Boy and Girl Scouts of America.

Men and women of Hermon have also dedicated themselves historically to the military support of their country. In every conflict, from a limited participation in the Revolution right up to Operation Desert Storm, they have shown willingness, and a bravery for which Hermon is proud. This is witnessed by the dedication of one of Hermon's historic monuments, the Soldier's Monument at Hermon Corner, erected in 1901, in honor of the Defenders of Our Country.

Historically, Hermon's commercial/industrial base has been diverse. As mentioned above, a great deal of commerce up to the 1960's was agrarian and revolved around the traditional family farm. Land claimed from forests of pine and spruce was put into cultivation. Not only did families raise enough vegetables and livestock to subsist on, but also to supply the lumber camps and Bangor's growing population. With the coming of the railroad and steamship, agricultural products were easily and inexpensively exported.

Since lumbering was a significant economic activity, with huge quantities of pine and spruce being shipped annually, it led to related endeavors such as sawmills blacksmiths, harness makers, carriage shops, general stores, traders, inns, and taverns.

Railroads began operating in the area in the mid 1800's, with the Bangor and Aroostook coming to Hermon with its main operation in 1905. While the railroad has employed many residents of Hermon directly, it has also indirectly benefited the economy in general by facilitating an ease and economy in shipping. So too did it stimulate the ice businesses in town, which were thriving enterprises before electricity.

B.3 PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Maine's Native Americans left no written records, indeed few lasting records of any kind, before the arrival of Europeans. The first historic record of them was written by European explorers in the sixteenth century, so we refer to the archaeology of Maine's Native American inhabitants as "prehistoric" archaeology. To understand Maine's prehistoric archaeological sites, the threats to them, and the means for their protection, the following paragraphs provide an introduction to Maine prehistory and archaeological site location.

The first Native Americans to live in Maine moved into the area from the south or the west about 11,000 years ago as the land recovered from its glaciations, and as tundra and open spruce woodland vegetation grew enough to support the large and small game that they hunted (including mastodon and caribou). We call these people Paleo-Indian. Because of poorly developed late glacial drainage, and perhaps because of major seasonal runoff and occasional catastrophic drainage of huge interior lake basins dammed by ice or glacial till, these people tended to camp on very well drained (sandy) soils away from river valleys.

Between 10,500 and 9,500 years ago, trees (pine, poplar, birch, oak, with other hardwoods later) covered the Maine landscape, forcing everyone who has resided here since to live and travel along lakes and waterways and otherwise accommodate to a dense forest. One such accommodation is the proliferation of stone axes and gouges during the Archaic Period (between 10,000 and 3,000 years ago), indicating exquisite skill in woodworking, examples of which have

not survived in Maine's acidic soil. Until 4,000 years ago, we have reason to believe that people traveled in dugout canoes on the ocean, on rivers, and on major lakes. Dependence on heavy dugout canoes to some degree limited mobility. Sometime between 4,000 and 3,500 years ago, the birch barks canoe was developed. Use of such light, back-portable watercraft allowed travel up and down small streams and beaver-flowages, as well as cross-drainage portaging. The birch bark canoe opened up the Maine interior away from major lakes and rivers.

The Ceramic Period in Maine (1000 B.C. to A.D. 1500) is so-named because the state's Native Americans adopted the use of pottery. Pottery with exterior designs increased the number and stylistic detail of artifacts that we can use to understand the archaeological record. After the first European explorers arrived off the Maine coast in the early 1500's and began trading (the so-called Contact Period), dramatic changes in Native American life occurred, and European written records began.

For most of prehistory, Maine's Native American population supported itself by hunting, fishing, and gathering in band-organized societies without complex political organization or monumental construction. In southwestern Maine, corn, bean, and squash agriculture was added to an existing hunting and gathering base after about 1000 A.D. without drastic change in socio-political organization and with only subtle changes in the use of the landscape. Maine Native Americans always have been relatively mobile in lifestyle and lived in small groups. The largest and most prominent occupations were multi-seasonal villages of several hundred individuals, from which most of the population would disperse over the landscape at certain seasons. Thus, in the absence of monumental architecture or permanent villages and towns, we recognize four types of prehistoric archaeological sites: (1) habitation/workshop sites, (2) lithic (stone raw material) quarries, (3) cemeteries, and (4) rock art petroglyphs and pictographs.

Ninety-five percent or more of known prehistoric habitation/workshop sites in Maine are located adjacent to canoe-navigable water (coast, lake, river, stream, swamp) or "fossil" (former) waterways or shorelines of the same types. Of the remainder, approximately one percent are predictable on highly specialized locations, such as eolian (windblown or dune) sands in the case of Paleo-Indian sites, or tillable, alluvial (river flood sediment) soils in the case of Late Woodland and Early Contact period sites.

Habitation/workshop sites are found in two major depth categories in Maine: shallowly buried and deeply buried. The majority are shallowly buried on soils derived from glacial till, reworked till, sand, gravel, and silt emplaced by geological processes before 12,000 years ago. In these situations there has been no net accretion of the land surface except by human action, and archaeological matter is found within the top 30 to 40 cm of active soil turnover (by frost and plant growth) on these types of soils. In these situations, which represent more than ninety-five percent of the land surface of Maine, archaeological material is shallowly buried and can still be discovered or destroyed by any process that disturbs the top 40 cm or so of the soil column. Deeply buried sites occur only in alluvial settings along rivers and streams, where periodic flooding has deposited silt or sand which separates sequential occupations. Such sites can be up

to three meters deep. The maximum dimension (length) of archaeological sites range from two meters to 800 meters. The modal average maximum dimension falls around 50 meters.

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) lists one known prehistoric archaeological site (number 73.6) in Hermon; and is located on Hermon Pond. No systematic professional archaeological survey has been done in within the town. Additional archaeological sites might be located along this ancient shoreline. Please refer to the Archaeological Resources Map in Appendix A for the general location of identified archaeological sites in Hermon.

B.4 HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

In 1976 the Maine Historic Preservation Commission began to address archaeological sites of the historic period, complementing the survey programs for prehistoric sites and architectural resources. Thus was born the tripartite definition of Maine's historic resources, a structure continuing to the present which ensures that the most significant sites and buildings are addressed. This division also recognizes the different professional disciplines - prehistoric archaeology, historic archaeology, history, and architectural history - which must address these various resources, disciplines not coincidentally required on the Commission's review board.

Maine historic archaeology was not born overnight. When the University of Maine at Orono hired a historic archaeologist in 1978, the number of such professionals in the state doubled. Since then, partly due to trained individuals moving into the state and partly due to "home-grown" talent, the number of historic archaeologists who have worked or are working in Maine has grown to sixteen.

One of the first actions in 1976 was to establish survey priorities for the new science of historic archaeology in Maine. The cornerstone of the initiative was the decision that sites of the early colonial period should be the primary focus for identification, evaluation, and protection. This period is subdivided into three phases: Early settlement (1604-1675), Indian Wars (1676 to early eighteenth century), and Resettlement Period (early to mid-eighteenth century). Simply stated, these sites were recognized as the scarcest, least well documented, and most prone to destruction by vandalism, development, and erosion in that they are almost exclusively found on navigable water, either estuarine or marine.

On a secondary level, other sites were also recognized as deserving attention. The Commission determined that sites representing the earliest penetration of European Americans into a given area, regardless of period, are worthy of attention, given their poor documentation, their vulnerability to subsequent expansion of communities, and their data regarding adaptation of new populations to wilderness areas. In addition, sites relating to important Maine events or industries are recognized, hence the surveys of sites such as Fort Edgecomb and Fort Sullivan, as well as reconnaissance level projects in the areas of Baxter State Park and the White Mountain National Forest respectively focusing on nineteenth century logging industry sites and extinct agricultural neighborhoods.

Leon Cranmer of MHPC indicates that there are no identified historic archaeological sites in Hermon. However, no professional survey of historic archaeological sites has been conducted in Hermon. Such a survey could concentrate on locating the sites of the first wave of settlers beginning in 1820's, and also early mills and other significant sites in the community.

B.5 HISTORIC BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES, AND OBJECTS

Kirk Mohney of MHPC notes that there is one Historic Building listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the District Number 5 School House, located on the Billings Road.

A further comprehensive survey of Hermon's above-ground resources should be conducted in order to identify other properties which may be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

B.6 THREATS TO HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Historical and archaeological resources must first be identified before they can be protected from any potential threats. Protection of identified historic sites in Hermon is the responsibility of the municipality or individual owners of the site(s). Archaeological resources are often threatened by development because their existence is not obvious. Public ownership of historic sites is an option, only if the owners desire to sell their property. The Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) indicates, after review, that there is need for further survey, inventory and analysis of Hermon's historic aboveground resources in order to identify properties that may be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The MHPC further indicates no prehistoric or historic archaeological sites are known.

B.7 RESOURCE PROTECTION MEASURES

B.7.1 Maine Historic Preservation Commission

The MHPC is the central repository in the state for archaeological and historic buildings survey information. Survey files include computer files, map sets, paper data forms, field notes, unpublished reports, photographic archives and published works. Archaeological files are exempt from the "right to know" legislation and are accessible only with permission from MHPC staff, to protect sensitive archaeological sites and landowners' privacy. Summaries of sensitive archaeological information are made available on a case-by-case basis.

The MHPC contains an inventory of sites, yet has no jurisdiction over these sites. The MHPC coordinates funding for inventory and restoration of historic sites. Towns with historic protection ordinances may also be eligible for monies through MHPC. Funding for inventory and restoration is (sometimes) available depending on legislative appropriation.

B.7.2 National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and

culture. Authorized under the National Register Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archaeological resources. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service under the Secretary of the Interior. Properties listed in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. These resources contribute to an understanding of the historical and cultural foundation of the nation. Listing in the National Register includes the following results:

- Recognition that a property is of significance to the nation, the state, and the community;
- Consideration in the planning for federal or federally assisted projects;
- Eligibility for federal tax benefits; and
- Qualifications for federal assistance for historic preservation, when funds are available.

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) maintains an inventory of important sites including buildings or sites on the National Register. The standard of what makes an historic or archaeological resource worthy of preservation should normally be eligibility for, or listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Because the National Register program accommodates buildings and sites of national, state and local significance, it can include local values.

Listing a property on the National Register provides protection only when federal funds are used for a project, which would affect the historic property. More complete protection is provided by a local historic preservation ordinance.

B.7.3 State Permits and Local Ordinances

Developments requiring review under Maine's Site Location of Development Law must evaluate impacts on historic resources. The following locally adopted ordinances can also protect historic area zones from harmful impact and regulate their development.

- *Shoreland Zoning Ordinance*

Because archaeological sites are found along shores (99% of Maine's know prehistoric archaeological sites are located near water), shoreland zoning will often provide protection of such sites. To the extent that the future archaeological sites may be identified on the banks of water bodies within the community, they may be partially protected from development by state mandated setbacks in shoreland zones.

- *Subdivision Ordinance*

Maine law requires that municipal reviewers of subdivision plans ensure that there are no "undue adverse" effects of a subdivision on historic or archaeological resources (MRSA 30-A §4404).

B.7.4 Public or Nonprofit Ownership/Easements

Public ownership of historic resources is another option for protection of historic buildings or sites.Individual landowners, historic societies, or nonprofit agencies may apply a number of development restrictions to their properties on a voluntary basis. These restrictions may be strengthened by deed constraints or easements.

B.8 PLANNING PERSPECTIVES

The Town of Hermon has a rich and interesting history to be proud of and to preserve. It has an active Historical Society and should continue to support its work to protect the Town's heritage. Significant areas, structures, monuments, and archaeological sites should be noted and targeted for preservation.

Examples of such important sites include:

- Preservation of the Civil War Soldier's Monument at Hermon Corner; and
- Possible preservation of one prehistoric site, number 73-6, discovered before 1930 and located on Hermon Pond (no recent professional archaeological work has been done on this site; it may no longer exist due to gravel mining).

No professional survey for archaeological sites has been conducted, to date, in Hermon. Such fieldwork should focus on sites relating to the earliest European settlement of the town, beginning in the early 19th century. Also, a comprehensive survey of Hermon's historic above-ground resources needs to be conducted in order to identify those properties which may be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Local preservation efforts could be expended on properties or structures which are of local significance but not necessarily eligible for State and Federal historic protection programs. Proposed development activity should be reviewed to insure that significant historical resources are not disturbed or destroyed as a result of the activity.

Hermon celebrates its bicentennial in 2014 and should designate a Bicentennial Planning Committee to develop plans for the event.

C. POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

STATE GOAL

While there is no specific state goal that addresses population; all of the other goals depend upon an understanding of population and demographic data for the municipality and region.

C.1 INTRODUCTION

One of the most important factors in a comprehensive plan is the population of the town and how that population may change in the future. Changes in population can affect many aspects of the community. More children in the school system may necessitate a school construction project; more families may require additional housing units or expansion of infrastructure such as sewer and water to accommodate the additional housing; more retirement aged individuals may increase demand for public services.

In this section Hermon's past, present and future projected population trends are important to consider in planning for the town's future. The intent of this section is to analyze selected demographic characteristics of Hermon's year-round population (hereinafter referred to as population) to provide a better understanding of the people that live within the community and a basis for future growth management decisions. An important goal of a comprehensive plan is to provide for a productive healthy relationship between the future population and the important community resources that they rely upon. Accordingly, most phases of the Comprehensive Plan are either dependent upon, or strongly influenced by, the size and composition of the Town's current and future population.

The best source for population statistics comes from the U.S. Census. Besides the U.S Census information, various agencies of the State of Maine also collect, analyze and project population trends for municipalities throughout the state. Census information is considered to be the base for assessment of population trends. Due to overlapping postal service areas and perceived inconsistencies in Census Data, the Town of Hermon has analyzed the population based upon previous census numbers, in comparison to its local resident household information, building permits, births and deaths in the community and feel that the Census data to understated. Although the Census data will be utilized within this document to portray population trends within the community, the Town of Hermon will continue to plan conscientiously, as local projections continue to place the population at higher numbers.

C.2 OVERVIEW

There was no growth in population from the 1890's through the 1930's. This changed to a steady growth from the 1940's to the 1990's with an average increase of 22.3% per decade.

During the first half of the twentieth century, the population of Hermon was approximately 1,200 people with only minor increases and decreases in levels taking place during that period of time. Hermon experienced its first major increase in population during the 1940's when population increased by 46%, from 1,182 in 1940 to 1,728 in 1950. Population continued to increase steadily during the 1950's and 1960's. An additional 794 people moved to Hermon during the

1970's and 585 people during the 1980's, reflecting a trend toward suburbanization around cities such as Bangor.

During the past five decades, Hermon's population has increased at a faster rate than Bangor and the State as a whole. However, other towns surrounding Bangor, namely Hampden, Glenburn, and Carmel are experiencing similar growth which reflects population movement to the suburbs.

Hermon's age distribution mirrors national trends, comprising mostly of "Generation X'ers" and the tail end of the "Babyboomer" generations (ages 25-54) being the primary age group.

Similarly, the 1964 and 1995 Plan discusses the close ties between Bangor and Hermon and the accompanying population growth.

C. 3 TOTAL POPULATION AND GROWTH RATES

The information shown in the following table (Table C-1) shows the population and growth rate in Hermon for each decade since 1890. The town believes that the 1990, 2000 Census and 2005(SPO estimates) figures are in error. Continued growth in population can be seen with increased numbers of youth in the schools, building permits and registered voters has resulted in a town estimated (2005) population of 5400 year-round residents.

TABLE C-1. POPULATION GROWTH

Hermon			State of Maine		
Year	***Population***	***Growth Rate***	***Year***	***Population***	***Growth Rate***
1890	1282	-	1890	661,086	-
1900	1183	-8%	1900	694,466	5%
1910	1210	2%	1910	742,371	6%
1920	1190	-2%	1920	768,014	3%
1930	1204	1%	1930	797,423	4%
1940	1182	-2%	1940	847,226	6%
1950	1728	32%	1950	913,774	7%
1960	2087	17%	1960	969,265	6%
1970	2376	12%	1970	992,048	2%
1980	3168	25%	1980	1,124,660	12%
1990	3755	16%	1990	1,227,928	8%
2000	4,437	15%	2000	1,274,923	4%
2005 (SPO Estimate)	4,921	10.9%	2005 (SPO)	1,321,505	3.7%

Source: Fogler Library Maine Census Data –
http://www.library.umaine.edu/census/townsearch.asp
And U.S. Census (Percents Rounded)
And http://www.maine.gov/spo/economics/projections/index.htm#pop

C.3.1 Historical Population Change

Hermon's population historically had remained constant. However, during the past 50 years, Hermon has experienced population growth due to the continual suburbanization in and around service centers. Population increases can also be attributed locally to regional and statewide closures of manufacturing facilities and Air Force bases throughout Maine. With reductions in employment opportunities in the previous decades, with the closing of paper mills in Millinocket, East Millinocket, and Lincoln, shoe factory closures in Dexter and Milo as well as the closing of Loring Air Force Base in Limestone, people are being forced to relocate to find work, and many have decided to relocate to the suburbs of Bangor.

C.3.2 Population Growth

Hermon's population has been increasing since the 1940's when it hit a low of 1,182 people. Although SPO estimated 4,921 people in Hermon in 2005, the Town believes that the number was closer to 5,400. Hermon's population is expected to increase through 2030, as projected by the State Planning Office (SPO) to total 6,820 persons, an increase of nearly 40%. The town is cognizant that the population growth rate may fluctuate, and that community and regional influences must be recognized. It must be understood that the current level of growth may not continue and that market forces could reverse certain aspects of growth

Hermon is located next to Penobscot County's major service center; Bangor. Like many service centers in the state, Bangor has experienced rates of population decline but has begun to maintain its decline and is currently leveling off. Communities around Bangor however, are experiencing a dramatic increase in population, as primary residences, seasonal, recreational or occasional use housing increases, as with other areas in the state.

Table C- 2. POPULATION LEVELS AND RATES OF CHANGE

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005 (SPO Estimates)	2030 (SPO Projection)
Hermon	2,376	3,168	3,755	4,437	4,921	6,820
Rate of Change	n/a	33%	19%	18%	10.9%	38.6%
Penobscot County	125,393	137,054	146,601	144,199	140,625	142,591
Rate of Change	n/a	9%	7%	-2%	-2%	1.4%
State of Maine	993,663	1,124,660	1,227,928	1,274,928	1,321,505	1,469,211
Rate of Change	n/a	13%	9%	4%	3.1%	11.1%

Source: Fogler Library Maine Census Data – http://www.library.umaine.edu/census/townsearch.asp
U.S. Census Bureau Projections: State Planning Office
And http://www.maine.gov/spo/economics/projections/index.htm#pop

C.4 MIGRATION ANALYSIS

Maine's population is "on the move". The Maine State Planning Office (SPO) reports that, on average, 40 percent of the State's residents move at least once during a five-year period. With the housing boom throughout Maine, Hermon has felt the effects of increased housing starts and sales from persons within the community building new homes within the community and selling off their current home to "outsiders" or new residents.

Analysis of birth and death statistics for a town indicates whether or not its population should be changing as a result of natural increase. When this information is compiled for a decade and compared with the results of the census, it can be determined whether the population change is a result of a natural change or the product of in or out migration. The information below was determined based on the net migration formula, utilizing data from the town for the years 1990 and 2000.

As indicated above, net migration is simply defined as the number of people that a community has gained or lost after factoring out the actual number of births and deaths. From 1990 to 2000, Hermon's net-migration was an increase of 685 persons or 15.4 % increase in population, as illustrated in the following table.

TABLE C-3. Migration Analysis 1990-2000

	Population		Inter-censal		Net Migration	
	2000	1990	Births	Deaths	Persons	Percent
Hermon	4,437	3,755	410	407	685	15.4%
Penobscot County	144,919	146,601	16,436	12,760	(5,358)	(3.70)%
State of Maine	1,274,923	1,227,928	148,158	116,087	14,924	1.17%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, State of Maine
Net Migration = 2000 Population – (1990 Population + (Intercensal Births – Intercensal Deaths))

A large portion of the influx in population for the Town of Hermon has been incoming new residents. The town recognizes the potential for increased participation in local government and programs, but also recognizes the potential demand upon town roads, facilities and services. As the town moves forward to further understand its population, the opportunities exist where the community can embrace its growth if understood and properly maintained.

C.5 POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

Demographic changes affect many aspects of a community's economy and overall well-being. Demographic changes result in changes in income, consumer expenditures, the labor force, demand for education, demand for human resources, and state revenues and local expenditures. Although the youth population in the United States has increased over the last 15 years, Hermon's population of under-18 year olds is growing. Many young people (20-34 year olds) are motivated to move to areas with greater career or social opportunities. However, it appears that a majority of Hermon's

population growth is among young professionals or "Generation X'ers" (35-54 year olds) seeking or returning to a comfortable rural setting to build a home and raise a family. Peak earning years for workers occur between the ages of 45 and 64, making it very important economically for a community to maintain this population segment. Hermon's 45 to 64 year old population increased during the past decade and is projected to grow through 2030. The senior population in Maine as a whole has grown rapidly and is projected to continue increasing, causing communities to shift the focus of special services and public support to meet the needs of the elderly, which is quite challenging in rural communities where services are not always readily available. As Hermon's population continues to age, the community should consider using its existing resources to meet the evolving needs of the community. Hermon's 65-79 and 80+ year old population increased during the 1990s and into 2000, as the "baby-boomer" generation is entering retirement and seniors relocate in close proximity to their extended families, increased demand for services is expected. As the senior population increased across the community and the region, increases in such services as affordable housing, elderly services are going to affect the balance of services currently provided to the community.

Given the small size of the town's population and the potential for Census errors, it is important to recognize the limited value of the Census data. These data limitations create a concern among the community and in order to gain a more accurate understanding of the community's population, the town should engage the U.S. Census Bureau and complete an assessment and population monitoring process where the town can maintain an accurate understanding of its population. The town should also engage the US Postal service to address the need for an expansion of the postal code system to provide a more accurate account of Hermon residents versus Bangor or Carmel. Nevertheless, since a majority of all population groups are increasing, albeit modestly in real numbers, the importance of providing services that meet elderly, working age and school age populations will continue to be necessary.

C.5.1 Age Distribution

The following 1990 and 2000 statistics in Table C-4 gives a comparative breakdown by age group for Hermon, Penobscot County and the State of Maine.

TABLE C-4. AGE DISTRIBUTION									
AGE	HERMON			PENOBSCOT COUNTY			STATE OF MAINE		
	1990	2000	Change/ % change	1990	2000	Change/ % change	1990	2000	Change/ % change
0-4 years old	236	256	20	9,601	7,768	-1,833	85,722	70,726	-14,996
% of total	6.30%	5.80%	8%	6.50%	5.40%	-19%	7.00%	5.50%	-17%
5-9 years old	296	361	65	10,116	9,034	-1,082	88,506	83,022	-5,484
% of total	7.90%	8.1	22%	6.90%	6.20%	-11%	7.20%	6.5%	-6%
10-14 years old	278	358	80	9,881	10,075	194	84,579	92,252	7,673
% of total	7.40%	8.1	29%	6.70%	7.00%	2%	6.90%	7.2%	9%
15-19 years old	302	324	22	12,368	11,579	-789	87,927	89,485	1,558
% of total	8.00%	7.3	7%	8.40%	8.00%	-6%	7.20%	7%	2%
20-24 years old	196	169	-27	13,288	10,962	-2,326	86,040	69,656	-16,384
% of total	5.20%	3.8	-14%	9.10%	7.60%	-18%	7.00%	5.5%	-19%
25-34 years old	658	589	-69	24,375	18,177	-6,198	205,235	157,617	-47,618
% of total	17.50%	13.3	-10%	16.60%	12.50%	-25%	16.70%	12.4%	-23%
35-44 years old	621	830	209	22,310	23,851	1,541	193,345	212,980	19,635
% of total	16.50%	18.7	34%	15.20%	16.50%	7%	15.70%	16.7%	10%
45-54 years old	478	694	216	14,780	21,173	6,393	124,751	192,596	67,845
% of total	12.70%	15.6	45%	10.10%	14.60%	43%	10.20%	15.1%	54%
55-59 years old	178	236	58	6,561	7,315	754	54,216	68,490	14,274
% of total	4.70%	5.3	33%	4.50%	5.00%	11%	4.40%	5.4%	26%
60-64 years old	169	180	11	6,361	6,065	-296	54,234	54,697	463
% of total	4.50%	4.1	7%	4.30%	4.20%	-5%	4.40%	4.3%	1%
65-74 years old	204	276	72	9,593	10,481	888	91,600	96,196	4,596
% of total	5.40%	6.2	35%	6.50%	7.20%	9%	7.50%	7.5%	5%
75-84 years old	109	131	22	5,604	6,263	659	53,547	63,890	10,343
% of total	2.90%	3	20%	3.80%	4.30%	12%	4.40%	5%	19%
85 and above	30	33	3	1,763	2,176	413	18,226	23,316	5,090
% of total	0.80%	0.7	10%	1.20%	1.50%	23%	1.50%	1.8%	28%
Total	3,755	4,437	682	146,601	144,919	-1,682	1,227,928	1,274,923	46,995

Table C-5 shows the breakdown of the population by sex and indicates that the distribution has been similar in Hermon over the past ten years with a slightly higher number of females than males.

TABLE C-5. TOWN OF HERMON POPULATION BY GENDER						
YEAR	FEMALE	%	MALE	%	MEDIAN AGE	TOTAL

1990	1914	51.7	1841	48.3	33.8	3,755
2000	2,285	51.5	2,152	48.5	36.8	4,437

C.5.2 Population Growth Comparisons

Table C-6 shows population levels from 1980 through 2000 for Hermon, the surrounding communities and comparison communities, the county, and the State of Maine

TABLE C-6. Year-round Populations and Growth Rates

Municipality		1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	Change in Population 1960 -2000
Hermon	**Population**	2,087	2,376	3,168	3,755	4,437	2,350
	rate of growth	-	12%	25%	16%	15%	53%
Bangor	**Population**	38,912	33,168	31,643	33,181	31,473	-7,439
	rate of growth	-	-17%	-5%	5%	-5%	-24%
Glenburn	**Population**	965	1,196	2,319	3,198	3,964	2,999
	rate of growth	-	19%	48%	27%	19%	76%
Levant	**Population**	765	802	1,117	1,627	2,171	1,406
	rate of growth	-	5%	28%	31%	25%	65%
Carmel	**Population**	1,206	1,301	1,696	1,906	2,416	1,210
	rate of growth	-	7%	23%	11%	21%	50%
Newburgh	**Population**	636	835	1,228	1,317	1,397	761
	rate of growth	-	24%	32%	7%	6%	54%
Hampden	**Population**	4,583	4,693	5,215	5,974	6,327	1,744
	rate of growth	-	2%	10%	13%	6%	28%
Newport	**Population**	2,322	2,260	2,755	3,036	3,017	695
	rate of growth	-	-3%	18%	9%	-1%	23%
Penobscot County	**Population**	126,346	125,373	137,015	146,601	144,199	17,853
	rate of growth	-	-1%	8%	7%	-2%	12%
State	**Population**	969,265	992,048	1,124,660	1,227,928	1,274,928	305,663
	rate of growth	-	2%	12%	8%	4%	24%

Sources: U.S. Census and Maine State Planning Office

Table C-6 indicates that although the state has shown a 4.0 % population increase from the 1990-2000 Census, the growth that Hermon has experienced (15.0 %) appears to be significantly above the state average, and in line with the suburban communities of Bangor. State Planning Office projections continue this growth projection with increases in population to 6,820 by the year 2030.

C.6 HOUSEHOLDS

C.6.1 Household Size

In Tables C-7 and C-8, the household size and number of households with rates of change for the Hermon, Penobscot County and the State of Maine are presented. The decrease in average household size can be attributed to the decreasing young adult population, increasing elderly population, increasing single-parent families, and single-person households becoming more common as a trend throughout Maine.

TABLE C-7. HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND GROWTH RATE: HERMON, COUNTY, AND STATE

		1990	2000
Hermon	**Household size**	2.79	2.66
	% growth	-	-4.70%
Penobscot County	**Household size**	2.56	2.38
	% growth	-	-7.10%
State	**Household size**	2.56	2.39
	% growth	-	-7.10%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau

C.6.2 Number of Households

As shown in Table C-8, the number of households in Hermon has increased from 1990 to 2000 and in comparison with TableC-6 and C-7, has grown faster than the total population, in line with the decrease in median household size.

TABLE C-8 NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS; HERMON, COUNTY, AND STATE

	1990	2000	Rate of Change
Hermon	1,345	1,666	19%
Penobscot County	54,063	58,096	7%
State of Maine	465,312	518,200	10%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau

C.6.3 Group Quarters

2000 Census information indicates that Hermon has 3 persons, or 0.1% of the population as living in-group quarters. Of this number, there are none listed as institutionalized, where all three are listed as non-institutionalized. The percentage of residents living in group quarters in Hermon is significantly lower than the reported total population for the State of Maine who live in group quarters, at 34,912 persons or 2.7%, and Penobscot County only has 182 persons, or 1.1% of the population living in group quarters. It is expected, that the number of Group quarters within Hermon will remain low in total number, but as affordability becomes a growing issue throughout the region, it is understood that group quarters available in Hermon will increase.

C.7 EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

As the economic environment has grown more complex, there has been a corresponding increase of educational expectations and aspirations. At one time, an eighth grade education was considered sufficient. Today a high school diploma is considered a minimum level of achievement. However, the means to greater earning potential has often been reserved for those with a college education. No other social indicator suggests quality of life and overall well being more than does educational attainment.

Maine shows a slightly higher number of persons with at least a high school diploma and slightly less with college degrees than the United States as a whole. This is due to the nature of the economy in Maine. People generally attend college to secure better paying work, and the tendency is to move to places where the opportunities are the greatest. The same economic influence accounts for differences among the counties and municipalities of the state as well. Rural counties and towns some distance from job centers tend to have lower levels of educational attainment because economic opportunity is usually found elsewhere. Rural communities within commuting distance of job centers and coastal retirement areas tend to have higher levels because economic success allows the flexibility of residential choice.

C.7.1 Educational Attainment

In efforts to improve the quality of life and community, it is essential that the value of education is impressed upon the youth of the community, and that a solid work ethic and understanding of accountability is instilled.

TABLE C- 9. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
Persons 25 years old and over

	HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE		4 OR MORE YEARS OF COLLEGE	
	1990	**2000**	**1990**	**2000**
Hermon	79.4%	90.8%	13.2%	19.4%
Bangor	83.5%	87.0%	24.4%	24.4%
Hampden	87.7%	96.1%	27.0%	34.7%
Carmel	74.8%	86.0%	9.2%	10.7%
Newburgh	74.2%	84.5%	14.9%	18.2%
Glenburn	79.0%	89.0%	11.4%	12.8%
Levant	77.4%	84.0%	11.5%	14.0%
Penobscot County	79.1%	85.7%	17.7%	20.3%
State of Maine	78.8%	85.4%	18.8%	22.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table C-9 above shows that education throughout Maine, and specifically the Town of Hermon has become a priority. In 1990, only 78.4% of Hermon's residents were high school graduates and only 13.0 % had 4 or more years of college education. Where over the last 10 year census period, 1990 to 2000, the Census shows that these numbers have risen to 90.8% and 19.4% respectively.

C.7.2 Student Enrollment

Table C-10. SCHOOL ENROLLMENT PERSONS 3 YEARS AND OVER				
School Enrollment	1990	% Population 1990	2000	% Population 2000
Hermon	893	23.8%	1,217	27.4%
Penobscot County	41,743	28%	40,435	28%
State of Maine	304,868	25%	321,041	25%

C.8 SEASONAL POPULATION

Although Hermon is not a widely promoted seasonal destination, its campgrounds and RV parks make for a prime staging grounds for visitors to the region who are looking for a suitable place to camp or park their motor-home and travel to outer lying amenities such as Acadia National Park and Baxter State Park. No hard numbers are available for the effects of a seasonal population; however, the community understands the importance of these visitors to the region and the community.

C.9 PLANNING PERSPECTIVES

Population figures are only as accurate as the most recent and available information. The difficulty in reviewing presently available population information is much of it is five to 9 years out of date. As can be seen with the population projections above compared to the 1990 and the 2000 census returns, many of the projections from 1980 to 1990 appear to have been incorrect.

At this point there are contentions that the 2000 Census is not an accurate reflection of the Town of Hermon. Because the Bangor and Carmel postal codes were used for the town of Hermon, accurate sampling of Hermon residents may have made Hermon residency more difficult for the U.S. Census Bureau to determine. Currently Hermon residents are served by only Bangor's postal code.

There are, however, several trends which population figures provide the town and which impact the future. Historically, Hermon's population fluctuations have reflected those of the region. This, due to an influx of housing starts and suburbanization of rural parts of Hermon has changed local trends in the past two decades with Hermon's population growing faster than Bangor and the region. This accelerated growth is due primarily to the continued movement from urban areas to slightly more rural ones. Younger families who seek more affordable land and lower housing costs (less municipal services in rural towns within close proximity to commercial services, thus taxes etc. are usually lower) find Hermon extremely attractive. People are also attracted to Hermon when seeking a more rural lifestyle with the advantages of living close to an urban area for employment, services and cultural activities. As a result of these factors Hermon sees itself more as a rural suburb of Bangor than the true rural areas of Penobscot County.

In either case, increases in population represent a challenge to the community as demands and needs for municipal services expand. The most immediate impact is on schools. This is caused

by the influx of new students and the lag time in obtaining additional classroom space and funding.

Hermon's growth due to its attractiveness to new residents will increase land values which can affect existing residents through a representative rise in their own real estate values. As development pressures continue throughout the region pressure for land development and the influx of new people will have considerable impact on the town and its existing residents.

The relative youth of Hermon's residents is both a challenge and an opportunity to create a vibrant community. Balancing the increases in population against a local desire to control growth, regulate certain types of growth to specific areas, and preserve a rural character represents a distinct opportunity to the community.

C.10 SUMMARY

The year-round population of Hermon has increased over the past forty years to SPO projected totals of 4,921 persons in 2005; however, the town estimated its 2005 population to be 5,400 persons, a significant difference from SPO and the Census figures. As with the County and the State, Hermon has seen a decrease in the average household size but an overall increase in population. More and more single parents, married couples without children and "empty-nester" households are locating in Hermon. With increased in population, the community has experienced an influx of over 1,000 people per 5 year planning period. For future planning purposes, the town conservatively estimates the year-round population in 2017 to be approximately 6,500 persons. Local opinion is that this estimate may still be too low, but as market forces may alter the growth rate of the community, the community must plan for these changes. The subsequent chapters of this plan describe and assess the impacts and needs, and the importance of the community's residents to economic development and prosperity of the community.

D. HOUSING

STATE GOAL

To encourage and promote affordable, decent housing opportunities for all Maine citizens.

D.1 INTRODUCTION

A sufficient supply of affordable, safe, and livable housing is a basic need for all of Hermon's residents. Present and future demands for housing must be considered in planning for the Town's future. Housing supports business and industrial development in the Town and in the region. The housing stock is the primary basis of Hermon's tax base, which funds Town services and public education of school-aged children. Housing represents the single largest investment for most families.

Historically, housing was first located around streams, rivers and crossroads. Most of this represents Hermon's stock of older housing. New housing construction is often found on former agricultural land. Growth of housing in Hermon has been fueled by the proximity of Bangor, the relatively affordable nature of rural and suburban housing, and the attractive community character of Hermon.

D.1.1 Census Data Limitations

To maintain confidentiality, the Census Bureau applies statistical procedures that introduce some uncertainty into data for certain areas. The Census results in many of the following tables contain both sampling error and non-sampling error. Accordingly, the data should be used with caution. Based on local knowledge, suspected errors in the data are noted throughout this chapter.

D.1.2 Housing Information Sources

The most detailed information on Hermon's housing is from the 2000 U.S. Census. More recent and therefore more useful information is available from the Maine State Housing Office. Local information consists of tracking through the Code Enforcement Officer and the Tax Assessor.

D.2 TOTAL HOUSING UNITS

In 2000, Hermon had 1,748 housing units. During the 1990s, the Town recorded almost a 23% increase in its housing stock, compared to just about 9% for Penobscot County and 11% for the State.

TABLE D-1. TOTAL HOUSING UNITS

Place	1980	1990	2000	Annual Average Change	Total Change
Hermon	1,063	1,423	1,748	3.2%	64.4%
Penobscot County	53,415	61,359	66,847	1.3%	25.1%
Maine	501,093	587,045	651,901	1.5%	30.1%

Source: Census (Percents Rounded)

The Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) estimates that from 2001 to 2004, Hermon had a net increase of an additional 186 housing units. When added to 2000 Census figures, Hermon had an estimated total of 1,934 housing units in 2004 and current projections for year ending December 2007 show 2,149 housing units (calculated by estimated population 5,589 divided by 2.6 the average household size in the 2000 census).

By 2017 housing units in Hermon may total 2,336, an increase of 402 units above the year 2004 estimated figure. This forecast is based upon declining household size (persons per household), the State Planning Office population forecast of 5,615 persons for the year 2017 in Hermon, and the housing growth seen over the past 20 years. Of course, changes in land use, local regulations, and the economy will determine the actual increase in the number of housing units in Hermon over the next ten years. PVCOG you may need to recalculate due to the new information above.

TABLE D-2. HERMON HOUSING PREDICTIONS

Method	Total Housing Units in 2017
Regression Analysis	2,336

Source: PVCOG

D.3 HOUSING TYPES

There are several types of housing units in Hermon: single-family; two-family; and multi-family. Within single-family housing units there is a further division of "stick-built" (constructed on site) housing and manufactured housing (either modular or mobile homes). Mobile homes are housing types which are constructed on a steel chassis with axles. Housing is also categorized as occupied year-round or vacant/seasonal.

The distribution of housing unit types is an important indicator of affordability, density, and the character of the community. Housing units in structures are presented in the next table. In 2000, one-unit structures (attached and detached) represented almost 73% of Hermon's housing stock. Multi-units accounted for just over 8% of the housing stock. Manufactured housing, which includes mobile homes and trailers, accounted for almost 19% (331 units) of housing.

TABLE D-3. HOUSING UNITS

Housing Types	Hermon				Penobscot County			
	1990		2000		1990		2000	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total housing stock	1,423	100.0 %	1,748	100.0%	61,359	100.0 %	66,847	100.0 %
1-unit, detached	1,020	71.7%	1,268	72.5%	35,817	58.4%	41,000	61.3%
1-unit, attached	23	1.6%	6	0.3%	936	1.5%	1,260	1.9%
2 to 4 units	67	4.7%	106	6.1%	9,351	15.2%	9,384	14.0%
5 to 9 units	28	2.0%	32	1.8%	3,211	5.2%	3,230	4.8%

10 or more units	8	0.6%	5	0.3%	2,293	3.7%	2,576	3.9%
Mobile home, trailer, boat, RV, other	277	19.5%	331	18.9%	9,751	15.9%	9,397	14.1%

Source: Census Table H30-SF3 for 2000 data (Percents Rounded)

Hermon has a larger proportion of mobile homes and trailers relative to its entire housing stock than does Penobscot County. The number of mobile homes and trailers increased in absolute terms but decreased as a portion of total housing units during the 1990s in Town. Mobile homes and trailers are located on individual lots and in one mobile home park in Hermon. Although not disproportionate, many of these homes are inhabited by elderly people. Overall, mobile homes are in fair condition.

D.4 RECENT HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

The Town records indicate that 423 homes have been built between 2001 and 2007, of which approximately 10.8% were mobile homes or double-wide mobile homes.

New Homes	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Totals
Single-Family	47	54	54	62	63	52	31	**363**
Multi-Family	0	0	1	2	2	4	5	**14**
Mobile/Double Wides	8	6	14	5	4	5	4	**46**
Total	55	60	69	69	69	61	40	**423**

Source: Town of Hermon

D.5 OCCUPANCY AND TENURE

Home ownership is a good indicator of the overall standard of living. One way to trace home ownership changes over time is to compare owners and renters as a proportion of total occupied housing, as shown in the table below. A high rate of owner-occupied housing is typical in a predominately residential community like Hermon. During the 1990s, Hermon had just a slight increase in the proportion of owner-occupied housing to 80% in 2000. Renter occupied housing was steady as a proportion of total housing during the same period, comprising over 15% of housing in 2000 at the Town level (267 units). The proportions of owner and renter-occupied housing units at the County level remained relatively stable. The county as a whole has a greater proportion of rental housing (around 26%) than does Hermon.

TABLE D-4. HOUSING OCCUPANCY AND TENURE

Housing Units	Hermon				Penobscot County			
	1990		2000		1990		2000	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total	1,423	100.0%	1,748	100.0%	61,359	100.0%	66,847	100.0%
Occupied	1,345	94.5%	1,666	95.3%	54,063	88.1%	58,096	86.9%
- Owner-occupied	1,126	79.1%	1,399	80.0%	37,679	61.4%	40,554	60.7%
- Renter-occupied	219	15.4%	267	15.3%	16,384	26.7%	17,542	26.2%
Vacant	78	5.5%	82	4.7%	7,296	11.9%	8,751	13.1%
- For Seasonal Use	27	1.9%	35	2.0%	4,038	6.6%	4,962	7.4%

Source: Census (Percents Rounded)

In 2000, almost 5% of the Town's total housing units were classified as vacant by the Census; most of these vacant units were for seasonal or recreational use. In the same year, more than 13% of units countywide were vacant, most also for seasonal or recreational use. The homeowner vacancy rate for Hermon was 1.0%, and for Penobscot County was 2.3% in 2000. The rental vacancy rate for Hermon was 2.9%, compared to 6.2% for Penobscot County. The data suggest a very limited supply of housing for purchase and rent in Hermon as compared with the County as a whole. This suggests greater housing demand in Hermon, which has in turned encouraged more new construction in Town.

D.6 HOUSING AGE

Hermon's housing on average is significantly newer than the County and State averages. More than 27% of the Town's housing stock was built in the 1990s, compared to almost 14% for Penobscot County and more than 14% for the State. About 15% of Hermon's housing stock dates prior to 1939, compared with more than 28% for the County and more than 29% for the State. Older units are more likely to be in substandard condition and in need of repair.

TABLE D-5. YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT

	Hermon		Penobscot County		Maine
Years	**Number**	**%**	**Number**	**%**	**%**
1990 to March 2000	478	27.3	9,196	13.7	14.6
1980 to 1989	427	24.4	9,955	14.9	16
1970 to 1979	332	19	11,412	17.1	15.9
1940 to 1969	254	14.5	17,371	25.9	24.4
1939 or earlier	257	14.7	18,913	28.3	29.1
Total housing stock surveyed	1748	100.0	66,847	100.0	100
Median Year	1981	-	1966	-	1966

Source: Census Table QT-H4-SF3 (Percents Rounded)

D.7 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The next table shows the proportional make-up of housing units by general physical characteristics in Hermon for the most recent year of available data. Only a minimal number of

residential buildings are serviced by public water and sewer. The reason is that it is only available in a limited area of the Town which is zoned for commercial and industrial uses.

TABLE D-7. HERMON HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS IN 2000		
	Number	**%**
Occupied Housing Units	**1,666**	**100.0**
ROOMS		
1 room	0	0
2 rooms	12	0.7
3 rooms	64	3.8
4 rooms	243	14.6
5 rooms	436	26.2
6 rooms	404	24.2
7 rooms	292	17.5
8 rooms	92	5.5
9 or more rooms	123	7.4
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS		
Lacking complete plumbing facilities	12	0.7
Lacking complete kitchen facilities	5	0.3
No telephone service	10	0.6
HOUSE HEATING FUEL		
Utility gas	0	0
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	42	2.5
Electricity	53	3.2
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	1,475	88.5
Coal or coke	0	0
Wood	81	4.9
Solar energy	0	0
Other fuel	15	0.9
No fuel used	0	0

Source: Census (Percents Rounded)

D.8 HOUSING VALUES

The value of housing units surveyed by the Census in the next table includes just 977 of the 1,399 owner-occupied housing units in Hermon for 2000. More recent figures are shown later in this chapter. It is important to note that at any given time, most homes are not for sale, and so their value does not reflect their availability for purchase.

TABLE D-8.HERMON SPECIFIED OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS		
Value in 2000	**Number**	**%**
Less than $50,000	59	6
$50,000 to $99,999	376	38.5
$100,000 to $149,999	440	45
$150,000 to $199,999	62	6.3
$200,000 to $299,999	25	2.6
$300,000 or more	15	1.5
Median	$104,700	(X)

Source: Census (Percents Rounded)
Note: To maintain confidentiality, the Census Bureau applies statistical procedures that introduce some uncertainty into data for small geographic areas with small population groups. The census results in this table contain sampling error and non-sampling error.

The rents surveyed by the Census in the next table include 260 of the 267 renter-occupied housing units in Hermon for 2000. As surveyed by the 2000 Census, more than 37% of monthly rents charged in Town were under $500, while more than 32% were between $500 and $749. More than 11% of apartments had no cash rent charged.

TABLE D-9. HERMON SPECIFIED RENTER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS		
Gross Rent in 2000	**Number**	**%**
Less than $200	14	5.4
$200 to $299	7	2.7
$300 to $499	76	29.2
$500 to $749	84	32.3
$750 to $999	50	19.2
$1,000 to $1,499	0	0
$1,500 or more	0	0
No cash rent	29	11.2
Median	$552	(X)

Source: Census (Percents Rounded)
Note: To maintain confidentiality, the Census Bureau applies statistical procedures that introduce some uncertainty into data for small geographic areas with small population groups. The census results in this table contain sampling error and non-sampling error.

D.9 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Directly linked to the issue of housing growth in Hermon is the question of affordability of housing for residents. In many instances, housing costs have far outstripped the ability of many residents to purchase homes in their hometown. This has occurred across the state as a result of

rising land costs and housing costs at a rate far greater than household incomes. The result can be seen with the decrease of home ownership, longer waiting lists for subsidized housing, more affordable housing types such as mobile homes being used, and a movement away from urban areas to lower cost rural communities.

The consequences to the community of the affordable housing issue are many. For example: people are often forced to live in substandard housing; higher housing costs can affect the ability of a business to attract and retain qualified employees; fixed income residents spend an increasing portion of their income on housing forgoing other necessities like medical care; young families cannot purchase a home in their home community; and employees cannot afford to live in the Town in which they work.

The causes of the dramatic rise in housing costs are varied and complicated. Some of them include: the aging of the "Baby Boom" and their need for homes; a decrease in household size; population growth; a dramatic growth of seasonal properties; high mortgage costs; reductions in federal subsidized housing programs; higher development costs as a result of expanded levels of regulation; and an increase in the size of the average house.

Affordable housing means decent, safe, and sanitary living accommodations that are affordable to very low, low, and moderate-income people. The State defines an affordable owner-occupied housing unit as one for which monthly housing costs do not exceed approximately 30% of monthly income, and an affordable rental unit as one that has a rent (including utilities) not exceeding 30% of the monthly income. Affordable housing often includes manufactured housing, multi-family housing, government-assisted housing for very low, low and moderate-income families, and group and foster care facilities.

The next table shows monthly housing costs as a percentage of household income for almost 70% of the owner-occupied housing units in Hermon in 1999, the most recent available Census data. In that year, about 13% of Hermon households had monthly owner costs over 30% of their income, indicating that their housing was considered unaffordable by state definition. The table also shows monthly housing costs as a percentage of household income for almost 98% of the renter-occupied housing units in Hermon in 1999. Almost 33% of these households had monthly rental costs over 30% of their income, indicating that their housing was considered unaffordable by state definition. This data suggest that housing affordability has been an issue for a sizable minority of Hermon residents, especially renters. More current data is presented below.

TABLE D-10. SELECTED HERMON HOUSEHOLDS: MONTHLY OWNER COSTS IN 1999

Household Income Spent on Housing	Owner-Occupied		Renter-Occupied	
	Number	%	Number	%
Less than 15%	347	35.5	48	18.5
15 to 19%	206	21.1	53	20.4
20 to 24%	191	19.5	6	2.3
25 to 29%	105	10.7	33	12.7

30 to 34%	24	2.5	31	11.9
35% or more	104	10.6	54	20.8
Not computed	0	0	35	13.5
Households Surveyed	977	-	260	-

Source: Census (Percents Rounded)
Note**:** To maintain confidentiality, the Census Bureau applies statistical procedures that introduce some uncertainty into data for small geographic areas with small population groups. The census results in this table contain sampling error and non-sampling error.

According to the Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) the median income earner in Hermon could afford the median home sale price in 2001 through 2005. The next table shows 2005 data. The median home sale price in Penobscot County and in the State as a whole was unaffordable to the median income earner in 2005. For Penobscot County, the median income earner could only afford 88% of the median home sale price. For the State, that amount was just 70%. The home price that is affordable for the median income earner is based on the state definition of not spending more than 30% of monthly income on housing. Home prices have tended to rise in recent years beyond the affordability of many residents who depend upon the local or regional economy for their livelihoods. However, median incomes of Hermon residents have continued to remain above both County and State figures.

Table D-11. 2005 Housing Affordability

Place	Index	Est. Median Income*	Home Price the Median Income Can Afford	Actual Median Home Price	Income Needed to Afford
Hermon	1.03	$56,284	$169,855	$165,000	$54,675
Penobscot County	0.88	$39,453	$116,196	$132,500	$44,988
Maine	0.70	$43,370	$129,445	$184,000	$61,648

Source: MSHA, Claritas
Note: An Index of less than 1 is Unaffordable; an Index of more than 1 is Affordable.
*Estimated Median Income of those who earn an income, not the Median Household Income.

The percent and number of very low, low and moderate-income households in Hermon, and what housing they could afford in 2005 is shown in the next table. In 2005, the actual median home price was affordable to those in the median and moderate income categories, but was not affordable to those in the very low and low income groups, about 702 Hermon households (or 37.2% of all households).

Table D-12. Estimated Housing Affordability by Income 2005

Income Categories	Hermon Households				
	Number	%	Income	House One can Afford	Rent can Afford
Very Low (up to 50% of	359	19.0	$28,142	$84,928	$704

Median Household Income)		%			
Low (greater than 50% to 80% of Median Household Income)	343	18.2 %	$45,027	$135,883	$1,126
Median Household Income	-	-	$56,284	$169,855	$1,407
Moderate (greater than 80% up to 150% of Median Household Income)	730	38.8 %	$84,426	$254,783	$2,111

Source: 2005 Claritas, MSHA, PVCOG

Note: Analysis for houses assumes a front end percentage of 28%, a loan period and interest of 30 years, with 5% down. The analysis for rents assumes rental costs do not exceed more than 30% of monthly income. The data represents two bedroom rents and does include a utility allowance. The Very Low category includes the Extremely Low income category also. The table does not include those earning above 150% of the Median Household Income, and so the percents do not total 100%

MSHA does not have figures for the average rents charged for apartments in Hermon. In 2005, the average rent charged for a two-bedroom apartment (including utilities) in Penobscot County was $802; for the Bangor Housing Market it was $873. These figures are affordable to those in the low, median and moderate income households in Hermon, but not affordable to those in the very low income group, about 19% of Hermon's households.

D.10.1 Affordability and State and Local Laws

The State of Maine Planning and Land Use Regulation Act requires that every municipality "…shall seek to achieve a level of at least 10% of new residential development, based on a five-year historical average of residential development in the municipality, meeting the definition of affordable housing." During the period from 2001 to 2006, 280 housing units were constructed in Hermon. Within this period, affordable housing meeting state guidelines was built in the form of mobile housing, as 37 such units were put in place, which was 13% of all residential housing constructed.

Locally, Hermon encourages the development of multi-family development through its density standards in designated areas for higher density residential growth. The Land Use Ordinance breaks down multi-family acreage and number of units per building. Multi-family developments in RB, RC and VC zones must meet the following requirements:

- RB District: 1 acre for a one family dwelling, 1.5 acres for a two family dwelling, 2 acres for a three family dwelling, 2.5 acres for a four family dwelling. NOTE: each building shall be limited to no more than 4 units. Minimum 200 feet of frontage shall be required for each development.
- RC District: Maximum density, six units per acre- Minimum frontage required is depending on the availability of town water and sewer
- VC District: Two units per acre - Maximum of eight units per lot -Minimum frontage required is depending on the availability of town water and sewer

In addition, all acreage required must be classified as buildable. Easement areas, freshwater wetlands and other unusable areas are not classified as buildable.

D.10.2 Subsidized Housing

To reduce the gap between real housing costs and income levels several financing programs are available through various federal and state agencies. These programs assist homeowners in purchasing homes by reducing the cost of interest on a mortgage, provided the homeowner and home meet certain financial guidelines. The most active of these programs is the Maine State Housing Authority's (MSHA) program for first time home buyers. Qualification for this program is met through income levels and the cost of the home. The program allows smaller down payments and lower interest rates than most mortgages from conventional lenders.

MSHA data shows that in 2005 there were 30 subsidized family units in Hermon, of which 22 were Project Based and 8 were Section 8 Vouchers. MSHA estimates that an additional 47 units of subsidized affordable rental units are needed in Hermon to serve families and seniors earning up to 50% of the Area Median Income, as determined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Town of Hermon is host to two subsidized housing projects. Boulier Place serves an elderly population while Ridgewood Apartments serves low-income families. Rents in these two facilities are charged relative to the ability of the residents to pay. Federal funds make up the difference between what residents pay and what the real market rental fee would be. There are several privately held apartment complexes in Hermon which charge market levels for rents. All of the multi-family housing complexes in Hermon were built between 1980 and 1992.

D.10 ELDERLY HOUSING

Elderly housing is a concern for many Hermon residents. In 2005, MSHA estimated that there were 538 persons aged 65 and older living in Hermon. Senior households earning very low, low and moderate incomes totaled 332 households in 2005. MSHA estimates that housing for seniors (aged 65 and over) constitutes 26 out of the 47 estimated needed subsidized units noted above. Hermon Elderly Project, also known as Boulier Place and Ridgewood Apartment are both located in the Village Area with Bangor providing the bulk of affordable housing because of its close proximity to shopping, medical facilities and public transportation services. Assisted living facilities are found closest to Hermon in Bangor. Though the Town's needs for elderly housing are being met currently, a reexamination of this issue would be worthwhile as our population ages.

D. 11 LOT SIZE AND COMMUNITY WASTEWATER FACILITIES

Smaller housing lots are generally more affordable than larger lots. Given rising housing costs, the Town may consider lot sizes in amending the land use ordinance. Depending upon soil conditions, small lots may not be able to support housing that is dependent upon septic system and/or well standards necessary to ensure the health of a home's occupants, and to meet minimum state standards. In these areas, municipal sewer and water can allow for smaller and therefore more affordable lots for homebuyers.

The extension of sewers and water systems is a substantial cost to municipalities. Significant state and federal funds are often leveraged to develop or expand these systems. Maintenance of sewer and water systems is a large part of the municipal expenditures of service center communities. Consideration of community wastewater facilities may prove to be a worthwhile compromise. Such shared systems allow for development on smaller lots than could be accommodated by individual septic systems. These shared systems are paid for by developers and users rather than by the Town as a whole. When major subdivision proposals are before the Town, with adequate ordinance standards, the planning board could request proposals from developers for community wastewater facilities. The costs of these systems are often offset by the increase in allowable units and in costs savings to developers for these planned developments.

D. 12 PLANNING PERSPECTIVES

Growth of housing in Town is a result of Hermon's desirability as a place to live caused by its closeness to Bangor, land values, and its rural character. Housing concerns in Hermon arise from the significant growth in recent years and affordability. Several trends are clear.

Housing stock of Hermon is significantly newer than many of the Towns in the region. While Hermon has some older homes stemming from past years of growth a large portion of today's housing stock is under twenty-five years old. This means Hermon is not facing as great a need for housing rehabilitation as are other communities with older housing stock.

Subdivision development has created a potential for additional growth in housing. The need for housing has not outstripped available house lots. The future impact on municipal services of as yet un-built housing could be significant depending upon the timing and rate of new dwellings.

Hermon has a relatively high share of mobile homes as part of its entire housing stock. This is a result of several factors such as relatively inexpensive land, lower costs of mobile homes as compared to stick-built homes, and lower taxes than comparable, more urban areas. The mobile homes are predominantly located on individual lots and not in mobile home parks.

Although there are affordable options in Hermon, Bangor provides the bulk of affordable housing because of its close proximity to shopping, medical facilities and public transportation services.

The results of the public opinion survey show a desire to have more controls on residential development. Most favor open space preservation as a part of subdivision development. Also some portions of the survey indicate a desire to see more cluster development. This could have impacts on the village because this would be the most suitable area due to a need to extend water and sewer to provide safe cluster development.

There may be a push for new housing construction in the community due to a pent-up demand and the lack of available and affordable housing in the Town and region. If population growth estimates are accurate, Hermon expects to have an additional 300-400 Housing units by 2017.

E. EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMY

STATE GOAL

To promote an economic climate that increases job opportunities and overall economic well-being.

E.1 INTRODUCTION

The economy plays a key role in the vitality of Hermon. The economic well being of the residents of Hermon directly effects how the town functions its ability to raise taxes and its own financial health. The historical driving forces of any town's economy are its people. Hermon's strengths include its location in the Bangor metropolitan area, public infrastructure, availability of internet and telecommunications, partnerships with private business and industrial park developers, a streamlined land use and permitting process, rail hub, and an inter-model transportation center.

This chapter identifies and analyzes the local and regional economy. The goal of this chapter is to develop policies that expand the Town's tax base, improve job opportunities for residents needing employment, and encourage overall economic well-being. Indicators of the health of Hermon's economy are statistical in nature and include labor force statistics, employment statistics, retail sales, and wages.

Today's world of rapid communication and ease of travel focus a greater importance on regional economies than local economies. The inter-relationships between local, regional, and state economies are more complex and more significant. This is in contrast to Hermon's early history which indicates a relative self sufficiency created by limited access of local businesses to the Bangor (regional) market.

Bangor provides the primary employment base for Hermon as well as a retail sales base. As people are more willing to travel greater distances to access goods and services these goods and services become more centralized, locating in urban areas. Most goods and services desired by Hermon residents are accessed and supplied by businesses in Bangor.

Several statistics provide us with a window through which some understanding can be gained of Hermon's economy.

E.2 LABOR FORCE

The labor force is defined as all persons who either are employed or are receiving unemployment compensation. The table below shows the distribution of Hermon and Penobscot County residents aged 16 and older who were working in 2000. Hermon has had a higher percentage of residents who are in the labor force than does Penobscot County. This is due to more young families living in Town, which when considered with the age distribution presented in the Population Chapter indicates a slightly higher percentage of younger adults in Town than in the County. Almost 24% of Hermon's residents older than 16 were not in the labor force. Most of these persons were retired.

Table E-1. Labor Force Status: 2000

Persons 16 years and over	Hermon		Penobscot County	
	Number	%	Number	%
	3,420	**100.0**	**116,139**	**100.0**
In labor force	2,610	76.3	74,297	64.0
Civilian labor force	2,610	76.3	74,022	63.7
Employed	2,504	73.2	69,846	60.1
Unemployed	106	3.1	4,176	3.6
Armed Forces	0	0.0	275	0.2
Not in labor force	810	23.7	41,842	36.0

Source: Census DP3-SF4 Note: Percents rounded

More recent data from 2005 is available at just the county-level, and suggests that the unemployment rate has increased somewhat from 2000, see the next table.

Table E-2. Employment Levels in 2005

	Penobscot County	Maine
Civilian Labor Force	78,880	711,900
Employed	74,850	677,400
Unemployed	4,030	34,500
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	4.8%

Source: Maine Department of Labor Note: Percents rounded

Of those who worked, most were employed in wage and salaried positions in the private sector, almost 79%. About 13% of Hermon's workers were employed in government. Those self-employed constituted 8.5% of Hermon's labor force.

Table E-3. Class of Worker in 2000

Class of Worker	Hermon		Penobscot County	
	Number	%	Number	%
Private wage and salary workers	1,967	78.6	53,065	76.0
Government workers	324	12.9	11,600	16.6
Self-employed workers	213	8.5	5,010	7.2
Unpaid family workers	0	0.0	171	0.2

Source: Census DP3-SF4 Note: Percents rounded

The size of the labor force and its distribution by industry are important factors to consider when planning for future economic development. The plans for a new business or the expansion of an already existing one are often based on the assessment of available labor, in addition to the potential consumer market. See the next table for the number and percent of Hermon and Penobscot County labor force by sector. The top three sectors as defined by the 2000 Census for Hermon residents were:

1. Educational, health and social services

2. Retail trade
3. Wholesale trade

Table E-4. Industry Sectors in 2000

Sectors by Industry	Hermon		Penobscot County	
	Number	%	Number	%
Employed civilians 16 years and over	**2,504**	**100.0**	**69,846**	**100.0**
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	62	2.5	1,607	2.3
Construction	140	5.6	4,037	5.8
Manufacturing	186	7.4	8,308	11.9
Wholesale trade	219	8.7	2,658	3.8
Retail trade	440	17.6	9,745	14.0
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	200	8.0	3,899	5.6
Information	35	1.4	1,662	2.4
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	160	6.4	2,859	4.1
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	150	6	3,908	5.6
Educational, health and social services	599	23.9	19,968	28.6
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	72	2.9	4,785	6.9
Other services (except public administration)	136	5.4	3,445	4.9
Public administration	105	4.2	2,965	4.2

Source: Census DP3-SF4 Note: Percents rounded

For Penobscot County the top three sectors were 'Education, health and social services'; 'Retail trade'; and 'Manufacturing'. Hermon has a similar proportion of its population working in 'Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining' as does the County. The Town has a higher proportion of residents with generally well-paying jobs in the finance, insurance and realty markets, than does Penobscot County, and a lower percentage of people working in the manufacturing sector.

Manufacturing jobs have provided a base historically for Penobscot County residents, but as seen nationwide, the manufacturing sector has declined steadily over the past decades. In 2000, 186 Hermon residents were employed in manufacturing, while in 1990 such jobs employed 230 Town residents, see table below. Oftentimes, lower paying service sector jobs, including retail and tourism related occupations, have replaced lost manufacturing jobs. Wholesale and retail trade occupations increased for Hermon residents during the 1990s, from 568 to 659 jobs, offsetting much of the loss in manufacturing. Note: The Census used somewhat different sector categories between 1990 and 2000.

Table E-5. Employment Characteristics in 1990

Sector by Industry	Hermon		Penobscot County	
	Number	%	Number	%
Employed persons 16 years and over	1,961	100.0%	67,389	100.0%
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries	14	0.7%	1,256	1.9%

Mining	0	0.0%	58	0.1%
Construction	152	7.8%	4,324	6.4%
Manufacturing, nondurable goods	132	6.7%	7,839	11.6%
Manufacturing, durable goods	98	5.0%	3,697	5.5%
Transportation	116	5.9%	2,825	4.2%
Communications and other public utilities	44	2.2%	1,580	2.3%
Wholesale trade	129	6.6%	2,789	4.1%
Retail trade	439	22.4%	13,121	19.5%
Finance, insurance, and real estate	143	7.3%	2,739	4.1%
Business and repair services	91	4.6%	2,198	3.3%
Personal services	62	3.2%	2,151	3.2%
Entertainment and recreation services	18	0.9%	698	1.0%
Health services	125	6.4%	6,684	9.9%
Educational services	190	9.7%	8,685	12.9%
Other professional and related services	65	3.3%	3,952	5.9%
Public administration	143	7.3%	2,793	4.1%

Source: Census Note: Percents rounded

E.4 INCOME

Median household income and the percent change over the recent period are shown in the table below. Hermon's median household income has been increasing at a faster rate than seen at the County level and statewide. The median household income of Hermon residents will likely continue to stay above the Penobscot County and State median household income.

Table E-6. Median Household Income

Place	1989	1999	Change	2005 Est.*	Total Change
Hermon	$ 31,935	$47,206	47.8%	$56,284	76.2%
Penobscot County	$26,631	$34,274	28.7%	$39,453	48.1%
Maine	$27,854	$37,240	33.7%	$43,370	55.7%

*Source: Census, *Claritas Note: Percents rounded*

The income distribution for residents of Hermon and Penobscot County is shown in the next table for the most recent year for which this data is available. Hermon has had a significantly higher proportion of households than Penobscot County who earned between $50,000 and $74,999. Hermon has had a significantly higher per capita income than Penobscot County.

Table E-7. Income Distribution in 1999: 2000 Census

Households Earning:	Hermon		Penobscot County	
	Number	%	Number	%
	1,666	**100**	**58,135**	**100**
Less than $10,000	107	6.4	7,260	12.5
$10,000 to $14,999	52	3.1	4,947	8.5
$15,000 to $24,999	180	10.8	8,949	15.4
$25,000 to $34,999	205	12.3	8,448	14.5
$35,000 to $49,999	362	21.7	10,502	18.1
$50,000 to $74,999	448	26.9	10,376	17.8
$75,000 to $99,999	197	11.8	4,261	7.3
$100,000 to $149,999	68	4.1	2,346	4.0
$150,000 to $199,999	31	1.9	485	0.8
$200,000 or more	16	1.0	561	1.0
Per capita income	$19,714	-	$17,801	-

Source: Census DP3-SF4 Note: Percents rounded

Sources of income for Hermon and Penobscot County residents for 1999, the most recent year for which this data is available, are shown in the table below. Almost 87% of Hermon households derived their primary source of income from wages, salaries, interest income or rental income, or a combination of these sources. For the County that figure was less, around 78%. Wage and salary income includes total money earnings received for work performed. While wage and salary employment is a broad measure of economic well-being, the figures do not indicate whether the jobs are of good quality.

Table E-8. Income Type in 1999

(Households often have more than one source of income, as seen here.)	Hermon		Penobscot County	
	Number	%	Number	%
Households	1,666	100.0	58,135	100.0
With earnings (wage, salary, interest, rental) income	1,448	86.9	45,161	77.7
With Social Security income	388	23.3	16,164	27.8
With Supplemental Security Income	39	2.3	3,130	5.4
With public assistance income	47	2.8	3,351	5.8
With retirement income	233	14.0	9,454	16.3

Source: Census DP3-SF4 Note: Percents rounded

More than 23% of Hermon residents collected social security income. This is a smaller proportion than for Penobscot County residents as a whole. Social Security income includes Social Security pensions, survivor's benefits and permanent disability insurance payments made by the Social Security Administration, prior to deductions for medical insurance and railroad retirement insurance from the U.S. Government. Almost 3% of Hermon residents received public assistance. Public assistance income includes payments made by Federal or State welfare agencies to low-income persons who are 65 years or older, blind, or disabled; receive aid to families with dependent children; or general assistance. Fourteen percent of Hermon residents received retirement income, which was slightly less than Penobscot County residents as a whole.

The table below shows poverty status in Hermon and Penobscot County from the 2000 Census. The income criteria used by the U.S. Bureau of Census to determine poverty status consist of a set of several thresholds including family size and number of family members who are under-18 years of age. In 2000, calendar year 1999, the average poverty threshold for a family of four persons was $17,050 in the contiguous 48 states (U.S. DHHS). More than 4% of Hermon's families were listed as having incomes below the poverty level, which included 293 individuals. Penobscot County had a higher percentage of residents in poverty than did Hermon.

Table E-9. Poverty Status in 1999

Below poverty level	Hermon		Penobscot County	
	Number	%	Number	%
Individuals	293	6.6	18,956	13.7
Persons 18 years and over	201	6.2	13,816	13.0
Persons 65 years and over	24	5.4	1,996	11.1
Families	58	4.4	3,712	9.7
With related children under 18 years	34	4.9	2,682	14.6
With related children under 5 years	11	4.8	1,222	19.6

Source: Census DP3-SF4 Note: Percents rounded

More recently, the percent of total Penobscot County population in poverty in 2003 was 12.5%. For the State that figure was 10.7%. (USDA: Economic Research Service). Recent figures are not available at the town level.

Recent employer, employee and wage figures by sector are shown at the county level in the next table for the year 2004. Recent figures are not available at the town level.

Table E-10. Penobscot County: Employment and Wages by Sector in 2004

North American Industry Classification System Sector	Employers at Year End	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wages
Total, All Industries	**4,301**	**68,378**	**$566**
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	122	796	637
Construction	457	3,006	624
Manufacturing	163	4,558	731
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	1,084	16,699	504
Wholesale Trade	181	2,463	704
Retail Trade	700	11,325	415
Transportation and Warehousing	190	2,627	636
Utilities	13	284	1,101
Information	68	1,545	715
Financial Activities	352	2,537	679

Professional, Scientific and Tech Services	343	2,597	665
Management of Companies and Enterprises	25	538	886
Admin & Support & Waste Management, and Remediation Service	186	2,583	421
Educational Services	33	566	495
Health Care and Social Assistance	458	13,239	668
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	69	528	235
Accommodation and Food Services	297	5,420	232
Other Services	331	1,919	435
State Government	29	5,163	675
Local Government	283	6,685	544

Source: Maine Department of Labor
Note: Average wages may be influenced by seasonal factors, bonus and retroactive payments, high proportions of part-time

E.5 EMPLOYERS

Hermon has attracted many small and medium sized businesses; there is no one major employer that Hermon residents rely upon for its tax bases and employment opportunities. Because of the value of local small businesses in the Town, many businesses are ultimately dependent on one another for much of their individual success. It is believed that business growth will continue occur steadily over the next ten years. The table on the next page shows selected larger employers located in Hermon, with their employee ranges.

Table E-11. Selected Employers in Hermon with 20 or more employees (2006)

NAME	LOCATION	SECTOR	EMPLOYEE RANGE
Dysart's Restaurant	530 Coldbrook Rd	Food Service, Retail	**100-249**
Dysart's Service Inc.	530 Coldbrook Rd	Service Station, Fuel, Tires	**250-499**
Dysart's Transportation	530 Coldbrook Rd	Trucking, Motor-Freight	**205-499**
Lane Construction Corp.	1067 Odlin Rd	Construction	**100-249**
Pottle's Transportation Inc.	15 Page Rd W	Trucking, Motor-Freight	**100-249**
Maine Energy Inc.	1625 Hammond St	Fuel, Heating/Plumbing	**50-99**
Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Rail *(bankruptcy filed in 2001)*	15 Iron Rd	Railroad Contractors	**50-99**
Nortrax Equipment	34 Page Rd W	Construction Equipment	**50-99**
Pine Tree Waste	31 Freedom Pkwy	Waste Collection, Recycling	**50-99**
Bangor Tire Co	514 Coldbrook Rd	Tire Dealers	**20-49**
Bangor Volvo Truck & Trailer	2245 Odlin Rd	Motor Vehicles, Trucks, Service	**20-49**
C & K Variety	8 Billings Rd	Food Service, Retail	**20-49**

C B Kenworth Inc	2239 Odlin Rd	Motor Vehicles, Trucks	**20-49**
Daigle & Houghton Inc	571 Coldbrook Rd	Motor Vehicles, Trucks	**20-49**
Herman Town Of Recreation Dept	27 Billings Rd	Municipal	**20-49**
Hermon Elementary School	235 Billings Rd	Education	**20-49**
Hermon Family Restaurant	151 Billings Rd	Food Service	**20-49**
Hermon Fire Dept	327 Billings Rd	Municipal	**20-49**
Hermon High School	2415 Route 2	Education	**20-49**
Hermon Meadow Golf Club	281 Billings Rd	Recreation	**20-49**
Hermon Mountain Ski Area	Newburg Rd	Recreation	**20-49**
Hermon School Supt	Billings Rd	Education	**20-49**
Idealease Of Maine	2239 Odlin Rd	Motor Vehicles, Trucks	**20-49**
Lyford PA Inc	53 Daves Way	Landscaping	**20-49**
Maine Commercial Tire Inc	55 Freedom Pkwy	Tire Dealers	**20-49**
Maine Trailer Sales & Leasing	1701 Hammond St	Motor Vehicles	**20-49**
OHI Business Office	25 Freedom Pkwy # B	Social Service, Welfare	**20-49**
S W Cole Engineering Inc	37 Liberty Dr	Civil Engineering	**20-49**
Schwan's Sales Enterprises	1502 Odlin Rd	Food Service	**20-49**
Scotts Lawn Svc	53 Daves Way	Landscaping	**20-49**
Service Master Co	84 Freedom Pkwy	Janitorial	**20-49**
Snowman Printing & Presort Exp	1 Printers Dr	Printers, Mailing	**20-49**
Sports Arena	1640 Hammond St	Bowling, Banquet, Food Service	**20-49**
Sunquip Division	1065 Odlin Rd	Machinery Repair	**20-49**
Uniship Inc.	**20 Freedom Pkwy**	**Delivery, Freight**	**20-49**

Source: Reference USA

The major regional employers in Penobscot County are listed in the table below, most are located within Bangor. Should we mention Cianbro and Hollywood Slots

Table E-12. Penobscot County: Major Employers with over 500 employees each

Business Name	Location	Sector
Acadia Hospital	Bangor	Medical
Air National Guard	Bangor	Military
Bangor Savings Bank	Bangor	Financial
Community Health and Counseling	Bangor	Medical
Dead River Co	Bangor	Fuel
Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems	Brewer	Medical
Eastern Maine Medical Center	Bangor	Medical

GE Power Generation	Bangor	Energy
Katahdin Paper Co LLC	East Millinocket	Paper
Microdyne Outsourcing	Orono	Call Center
Penobscot Shoe Co	Old Town	Clothing
Regional Breast Care Center	Bangor	Medical
Sargent Corp	Hampden	Excavation
University of Maine	Orono	Education
Webber Energy Fuels	Bangor	Fuel

Source: Reference USA

E.6 COMMUTING

In 2000, 17.5% of those Hermon residents who worked did so in Hermon. Over 77% worked outside of Hermon, but still in Penobscot County, many in Bangor. See the Transportation Chapter for more information on commuting patterns. Maybe indicate that our survey only 10% indicated they work in Hermon.

E.7 TAXABLE SALES

Taxable sales are an indicator of the relative vitality of Hermon's local economy. Maine Revenue Services gathers information on the amount of sales and sales tax gathered for each municipality and county. From 2001 to 2005, total taxable sales in Hermon increased by about 31.6%. In 2005, Auto Transport comprised about 73% of total taxable sales, the largest sector, by far, in Hermon

Table E-13. Taxable Sales (IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS) for Hermon

Year	Business operating	Bldg. Supply	Food store	General mdse.	Other retail	Auto transport	Restaurant & lodging	Total
2001	13,268.5	1,143.1	1,573.4	620.5	359.1	52,215.5	555.5	69,735.6
2002	13,185.7	1,407.4	1,476.6	529.5	312.3	57,939.9	673.4	75,524.8
2003	14,846.5	1,322.5	1,522.3	458.4	436.5	63,485.9	712.6	82,784.7
2004	19,579.1	1,420.5	1,533.3	318.6	624.8	69,248.4	627.8	93,352.5
2005	19,821.7	1,629.4	1,731.2	247.2	589.0	67,011.8	725.5	91,755.8

Source: Maine Revenue Service

In Penobscot County from 2001 to 2005, total taxable sales increased by about 20.8%. Constituting the largest sector, Auto Transport activity saw the largest volume (with an increase of about 19.2%) in taxable sales during this same period. The second largest sector by volume was general merchandise, which saw about 24.8% increase in sales. For each year, total sales were greatest in the fourth quarter, weakest in the first quarter. Categories are described following the table.

Table E-14. Taxable Sales (IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS) for Penobscot County

Year/ Quarter		Business operating	Bldg. Supply	Food store	General mdse.	Other retail	Auto transport	Restaurant & lodging	Total
2000	**1**	47,250.6	35,547.5	35,271.0	67,405.2	25,879.0	115,274.8	43,362.5	369,990.6
	2	49,890.5	55,655.0	38,578.0	81,412.2	31,880.4	133,373.6	49,420.9	440,210.6

	3	51,721.8	62,768.0	40,981.3	87,547.1	31,835.1	126,180.7	61,018.1	462,052.1
	4	47,942.7	53,759.7	39,054.2	115,451.7	41,948.7	104,870.1	48,867.3	451,894.4
	YR	**196,805.6**	**207,730.2**	**153,884.5**	**351,816.2**	**131,543.2**	**479,699.2**	**202,668.8**	**1,724,147.7**
2001	**1**	48,833.6	32,892.8	30,602.1	71,638.5	26,878.9	104,240.7	44,665.3	359,751.9
	2	49,630.3	54,696.5	34,326.3	84,517.4	33,229.4	139,342.9	49,860.8	445,603.6
	3	46,017.4	59,491.0	35,928.1	93,911.5	32,379.5	129,650.4	61,040.5	458,418.4
	4	44,918.9	58,285.7	35,067.9	120,549.5	46,080.9	134,342.7	50,426.8	489,672.4
	YR	**189,400.2**	**205,366.0**	**135,924.4**	**370,616.9**	**138,568.7**	**507,576.7**	**205,993.4**	**1,753,446.3**
2002	**1**	38,289.3	36,043.9	32,523.5	78,175.7	28,196.0	119,256.1	46,878.6	379,363.1
	2	46,265.9	57,134.8	35,057.4	87,822.5	36,600.4	139,965.7	52,417.1	455,263.8
	3	46,243.0	62,082.8	37,623.5	95,942.0	34,109.8	140,861.2	63,544.5	480,406.8
	4	48,088.3	60,620.3	35,344.5	117,260.9	48,629.4	122,962.9	51,400.7	484,307.0
	YR	**178,886.5**	**215,881.8**	**140,548.9**	**379,201.1**	**147,535.6**	**523,045.9**	**214,240.9**	**1,799,340.7**
2003	**1**	44,177.1	36,811.4	33,218.2	73,825.5	31,065.3	118,766.4	46,881.1	384,745.0
	2	46,949.4	61,441.8	36,035.4	88,662.7	39,522.3	153,828.5	53,194.5	479,634.6
	3	49,890.4	68,416.6	37,716.8	99,522.4	37,620.2	154,648.6	65,614.9	513,429.9
	4	51,881.1	66,230.6	37,064.8	128,091.9	52,399.2	140,067.5	53,328.3	529,063.4
	YR	**192,898.0**	**232,900.4**	**144,035.2**	**390,102.5**	**160,607.0**	**567,311.0**	**219,018.8**	**1,906,872.9**
2004	**1**	44,570.4	42,898.1	32,903.8	83,125.4	33,014.9	129,708.0	50,400.1	416,620.7
	2	53,413.7	69,295.1	36,385.1	97,835.0	38,720.2	154,919.4	55,817.7	506,386.2
	3	53,777.0	78,865.1	38,489.5	105,150.0	39,018.1	155,345.5	68,451.9	539,097.1
	4	59,241.2	72,972.8	37,422.6	135,422.8	55,071.7	131,008.8	56,047.2	547,187.1
	YR	**211,002.3**	**264,031.1**	**145,201.0**	**421,533.2**	**165,824.9**	**570,981.7**	**230,716.9**	**2,009,291.1**
2005	**1**	48,614.5	43,934.8	34,309.1	86,744.0	35,258.6	131,174.8	52,054.3	432,090.1
	2	54,862.5	71,048.8	37,774.5	102,761.3	42,963.5	156,751.5	58,693.5	524,855.6
	3	57,610.9	81,828.3	40,886.2	105,640.0	42,129.2	156,159.2	70,682.0	554,935.8
	4	62,544.7	75,822.9	40,182.6	143,880.7	60,565.2	127,945.1	59,128.0	570,069.2
	YR	**223,632.6**	**272,634.8**	**153,152.4**	**439,026.0**	**180,916.5**	**572,030.6**	**240,557.8**	**2,081,950.7**

Source: Maine Revenue Service

- ***Business Operating:*** Purchases for which businesses pay Use Tax, i.e., for items that are used by the business in its operation (like shelving and machinery) and not re-sold to consumers.

- ***Building Supply:*** Durable equipment sales, contractors' sales, hardware stores and lumberyards.

- ***Food Stores:*** All food stores from large supermarkets to small corner food stores. The values here are snacks and non-food items only, since most food intended for home consumption is not taxed.

- ***General Merchandise:*** In this sales group are stores carrying lines generally carried in large department stores. These include clothing, furniture, shoes, radio-TV, household durable goods, home furnishing, etc.

- ***Other Retail:*** This group includes a wide selection of taxable sales not covered elsewhere. Examples are dry good stores, drug stores, jewelry stores, sporting good stores, antique dealers, morticians, bookstores, photo supply stores, gift shops, etc.

- ***Auto Transportation:*** This sales group includes all transportation related retail outlets. Included are auto dealers, auto parts, aircraft dealers, motorboat dealers, automobile rental, etc.

- ***Restaurant/Lodging:*** All stores selling prepared food for immediate consumption. The Lodging group includes only rental tax.

E.8 COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAM

During the past 15 years the need for internet access has grown rapidly. Hermon found itself just far enough outside of Bangor and with insufficient population for private investment for internet access infrastructure.

Starting the mid 90's the school department implemented a service of free dial-up internet access. Over the next ten years this grew to almost 2,000 users at its peak. This service continues today, but due to high-speed access Hermon had to move with the times.

In about 2003 the business parks became negatively impacted because no affordable high-speed internet access was available and providers were still reluctant to develop. The Town and School entered a joint effort to become a high-speed internet provider. By 2007 this grew and merged into a partnership with private company, Redzone Wireless.

As a municipality the resources to effectively deliver the service was become problematic and the abilities of a private company helped Hermon meets its needs. Due to the lack of the private sector developing Hermon which was impacting our community it has been decided to stay involved as partners with the private sector so that when the technology grows Hermon is positioned to work to make the upgrades necessary to keep business competitive.

E.9 HOME OCCUPATIONS

Local Ordinances support the use and development of home occupations. The Council also takes on a variety initiatives, including high speed intenet connectivity to allow more home business oppurtunities.

E. 10 RETAIL STORES

Most retail needs for Hermon's residents are met in Bangor. There are a few retail stores in Hermon, including:

1. C & K Variety
2. County Market
3. Danforth's Down Home Grocery

The Village Commericial district over the past five years has seen steady growth that tends to indicate some increase in retail services in Hermon.

E. 10 REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Hermon is a member of the Penobscot Valley Council of Governments and Bangor Region Development Allinace. Both organizations serve to plan and grow the "greater Bangor" region.

The Hermon Council is also open to regional programs, grants, and efforts to promote our community and the region. Currently there are no specific long-term plans.

E.11 LOCAL ECONOMIC INCENTIVES

Hermon hosts a large Tax Increment Financing distirict which provides business with the potential for credit enhancement agreements based upon investment and job creation. We also utilize State created Pine Tree zones. The Council also adopted and funded a low interest to no interest small business loan program to support equipment purchases.

Hermon also is open to other incentives one example would be the partnership of the Town with a developer, Ray Wood owener of Pine Wood Business Park, to set aside land for a large local business to plan an expanded business to keep them in Hermon and the Bangor region.

E.12 PLANNING PERSPECTIVES

Hermon is closely tied to the regional economy. Reliance on the Greater Bangor Area for employment and for the majority of goods and services desired by residents directly affects Hermon's economy.

The labor force of Hermon is employed primarily in adjacent communities. Unemployment rates for Hermon reflect a relatively stable economy and are comparable to those of adjacent municipalities.

Hermon's relatively low real estate taxes should be beneficial in attracting new businesses who are looking for less expensive development costs. This coupled with the continued efforts Economic Development Committee should assist the town in attracting additional businesses to the community as well as maintaining viable existing businesses.

F. TRANSPORTATION

STATE GOAL

To plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development.

F.1 INTRODUCTION

Communities depend on well-maintained road systems. Safe and efficient streets affect property values, the productivity of the downtown area, tourist activity, and the overall safety and convenience of Hermon's residents. Only through the use of adequate roadways, parking and traffic control, can a community be assured of economical, efficient, and safe traffic circulation patterns.

A community's transportation system provides linkages both within the community and to other communities. Transportation is the means over which goods and services move as well as the access for residents to employment opportunities. The relative efficiency of a town's transportation system directly impacts the success or failure of the local economy. Transportation linkages to regional, state, and national markets are a critical element in the economic viability of the community.

Most communities are settled and grow as a direct result of their geographic location relative to transportation systems. The ability of local transportation links to move products to the marketplace directly impacted the growth of the community.

F.2 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION LINKS

Hermon can access a variety of transportation modes. In a regional context, Hermon is served by two railroad lines, Interstate 95, State Route 2 (which is often considered Maine's East/West highway), State Route 222, and the Bangor International Airport. Cold Brook Road also plays a major role in providing regional transportation connections between Route 2 and Interstate 95 at Exit 180.

F.2.1 Road Types

The concept of road types is derived from the 'Highway Functional Classification' and 'State Highway System' and can be confusing and easily misinterpreted. The expressions 'local road' and 'townway' may sound interchangeable and are often used to describe the same road; however, they mean very different things. What is important to realize about these two terms is that the first describes the federal road classification and the second describes the corresponding state system. The difference between the two categorizations is simple: the Federal Functional Class (FFC) describes the functionality and geographic characteristics of a road based upon federal guidelines; the State Highway System identifies which entity (State or local) is responsible for maintenance and capital expenditure of that road.

The proper classification of all roads is important to towns because it ensures that Federal, State, and local highway funds are spent on the proper roads. In addition, Urban-Rural Initiative Program (URIP) funds are calculated using these classifications and systems. The State Highway

System also establishes highway and bridge maintenance responsibilities and determines authority on traffic ordinances and other related issues.

F.2.1.1 Federal Functional Classifications

Federal Highway Administration separates roads into classifications based upon use. In simplistic terms, "functional classification" reflects a highway's balance between providing land access versus mobility. Functional classification is the process by which public streets and highways are grouped into classes according to the character of service they are intended to provide. Generally, highways fall into one of three broad categories: *arterials, collectors, and local roads*. *Arterials* provide longer through travel between major trip generators (larger cities, recreational areas, etc.); *local roads* provide access to private property or low volume public facilities; and *collector roads* collect traffic from local roads and also connect smaller cities and towns with each other and to the arterials.

The Transportation Road Network Map in Appendix A shows the federal function classification of the roads in the Town of Hermon. The following is a description of the federal function classifications:

Arterials. Arterials are characterized by high-volume roadways which provide linkages between major cities, towns and developed areas, attracting travel over long distances. Basically, they provide service to interstate and inter-county travel demand. The arterial system typically provides for high travel speeds and long trip movements.

According to the federal functional classification, Hermon's only arterial is the stretch of I-95 that passes through it.

Collectors. Collector roads are characterized as routes that gather traffic from local and private roads and deliver it to the arterial system. Traffic volumes and speeds on collector roads will typically be lower than those of arterials. Construction of these roads is usually town- or state-funded, mainly because of their limited volumes and purpose**.** They are then maintained by the State. Collector roads generally serve local and regional motorists rather than statewide traffic, and travel distances are shorter than on arterial routes.

Major Collector Roads (regional). Major collector roads serve regional functions by:

(a) serving larger towns not directly served by higher systems;
(b) linking nearby large towns or cities with routes of a higher classification; and
(c) serving important intra-county travel corridors which may connect consolidated schools, shipping points, important agricultural areas, etc.

According to federal highway classifications, the Town of Hermon has 11.65 miles of major/urban collector roads: Route 2, Union Street, and Cold Brook Road.

Minor Collector Roads (local). Minor collector roads provide service to smaller communities and are spaced consistent with population density to accommodate local roads within a reasonable distance of collector roads. They are intended to link locally important traffic generators with the arterial system. According to federal highway classifications, the Town of

Hermon has approximately 11.09 miles of minor collector roads: Annis Road, Billings Road, Fuller Road (from Wing Road to Billings Road), Newburgh Road and Wing Road.

Local Roads and Streets. All public roads and streets not classified as arterials or collectors classified as local roads. Local roads and streets are characterized by many points of direct access to adjacent properties and have a relatively minor role in accommodating mobility. Speeds and traffic volumes are usually low. These roads are within the town and the town maintains them. These roads usually carry only local traffic and serve only the abutting properties. Depending on the owner of a particular road, these roads are maintained by the town, by a land developer or by a road association. According to federal highway classifications, Hermon has 42.40 miles of local roads and streets. These are all identified in Table F-1.

The town believes that local road and street classifications are becoming increasingly important because they determine whether the Town or the State will be responsible for maintenance. As residential and commercial growth continues, traffic flow and management are growing concerns. Increased traffic on what used to be local shortcuts have caused these routes to effectively become regional connectors. It is important for the community to foster a relationship with the Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) for continued understanding and assistance on maintaining the health and welfare of travelers on Hermon's roadways. Roads of specific concerns are Billings Road, US Route 2, the New Boston Road, Swan Road, Black Stream Road, Pine Tree Road, and the Bog Road.

Hermon' Land Use Ordinance uses four classifications of roads (Arterial, Collector, Minor and Industrial/Commercial) for construction of a new town road. The Road Commissioner uses the following definitions for maintenance and pavement planning:

- Business Park: Any road in a business park that most likely has lower traffic volume but higher weighted vehicles.
- Subdivision 1: Any road that dead ends and is part of completely designed and engineered plan.
- Subdivision 2: Any road that dead ends and was not designed or engineered.
- Connector: Any road that does not dead end and connects other roads in Hermon.

For comparision Industrial/Commerical and Business Park are 100% interchangeable. Subdivision #1 and #2 would be minor, Connector would be mostly collectors and some Minor, and there are no Arterials (except I-95).

Private Roads. Private roads include subdivision roads and other roads that have not been accepted for maintenance by the Town. In some cases, because of the new Enhanced 911 system, private roads include some driveways. A driveway will have a name if it accesses more than one residential structure, to lessen the confusion for emergency personnel. Private roads are privately maintained. All proposed private roads shall, as a minimum, meet the standards for minor roads as listed in Table 9.3 of the Subdivision Ordinance.

The Town estimates that there are approximately 5 miles of private residential and commercial roads within the community.

F.2.1.2 Determining Highway Classification

As development occurs and populations shift, the functionality of roads may change. For this reason the Maine DOT has established guidelines, based upon Federal Highway Administration criteria, for the functional classification of all road types.

The following guidelines are used to make a distinction between collector and local roads:

1. **Land Use:** How is the land presently being used? Is it being used for business purposes that generate significant amounts of traffic or is it used for agricultural or residential purposes?
2. **Relative Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT):** On an average day, how many, what type, and for what purposes are vehicles using this road?
3. **Trip Length:** Are a majority of travelers using this road for short trips originating or terminating at locations in the local area or as a road to pass through the region?
4. **Network Configuration & Continuity:** How does this particular road fit within the present road network? Does the present classification of roads in the surrounding geographical area allow for the efficient movement of traffic through the area?
5. **Route Spacing:** Is this particular road spaced correctly within the geographical area to provide good opportunities for travelers to reach specific locations on well-maintained and safe roadways?

In order to qualify for collector status, a road must generally meet at least three of these five criteria and function as a collector on a regional basis. It should be noted that traffic activity (AADT) accounts for only one of the criteria. Other factors like network configuration, land use, trip length, and route spacing are given equal consideration during the functional class review of roads.

If a municipality feels that the function of a road has changed, a written request can be submitted by municipal officials to the commissioner of Maine DOT. The Town of Hermon feels that there numerous changes that should be made to the federal and state classifications of roadways within the community. Hermon's town manager and town council shall investigate the opportunities for maintaining an open communication with the Commissioner of the Maine DOT and shall assist by proposing roadways and supporting documentation for changes in these classifications.

F.2.2 State Highway System

The Maine DOT has devised a system that determines maintenance responsibility for its roadways. The State Highway System divides roads into one of the following three categories.

State Highways. State highways form a system of connected routes throughout the state that primarily serve intra- and interstate traffic. With the exception of compact areas, the Maine DOT has responsibility for the year-round maintenance of state highways. The State Highway category generally corresponds with the federal 'arterial' classification.

Maine DOT estimates that Hermon has 7 miles of State Highways: US Route 2 and Cold Brook Road.

State Aid Highways. State aid highways connect local roads to the State Highway System and generally serve intra-county rather than intrastate traffic movement. With the exception of compact areas, state aid roads are usually maintained by Maine DOT in the summer and by the municipalities in the winter. The State Aid Highway category generally corresponds with the federal 'collector' classification.

Maine DOT estimates that Hermon has 16.34 miles of State Aid highways: Annis, Billings, Fuller, Newburgh, and Wing roads.

Townways. Townways comprise all other public roads and highways not included in the State Highway or State Aid Highway classifications that are maintained by municipalities or counties. In the federal functional classification system, these roads are classified as local roads.

MaineDOT estimates that Hermon has 42.40 miles of townways.

F.3 LEVEL OF SERVICE

LOS is a qualitative measure that characterizes operational conditions within a traffic stream and includes speed, travel times, freedom to maneuver, traffic interruptions, and the perceptions of motorists and passengers.

There are six levels of service, given letter designations from A to F. LOS A represents the best operating conditions, while LOS F represents the worst. LOS E is defined as the maximum flow or capacity of a system. For most purposes, however, a level of C or D is usually used as the maximum acceptable volume. As an annual average, however, LOS does not reveal the increased congestion during the tourist season. And so, for planning purposes, a seasonally adjusted LOS should be used when analyzing the need for local traffic management improvements.

The following table lists LOS and a brief description of traffic flow and maneuverability.

Table F-1. LEVEL OF SERVICE CLASSIFICATIONS

LOS	DESCRIPTION
A	Free flow operation; vehicles completely unimpeded in their ability to maneuver with traffic stream.
B	Reasonably free-flow conditions; ability to maneuver is slightly restricted.
C	Although flow conditions are stable, a small increase in flow will cause substantial deterioration in service; maneuverability is noticeably restricted, with lane changes needing additional care.
D	Borders on unstable flow; small increments of flow cause large increments in congestion; maneuverability is severely limited.
E	Borders on operation at capacity; extremely unstable flow; no usable gaps in stream.
F	Corresponds to forced flow generally associated with queue formation.

Source: Transportation Engineering – An Introduction, C. John Khisty

Table F-1 shows the level of service rating, as reported by Maine DOT, for each classified road within the Town. The Transportation Road Network Map shows LOS ratings in Hermon.

F.4 ROAD INVENTORY

An inventory of Hermon's roads is shown in Table F-2 on the following pages and is shown on the Transportation Road Network Map in Appendix A. The roads are divided into four categories of road function: arterial, collector, local and private. Hermon contains 73.58 miles of roadways. Within the town are: 3.44 miles of arterial roads, 22.74 miles of collector roads, 42.40 miles of local roads and 5 miles of private roads. Table F-2 also indicates ownership, maintenance responsibility, length in miles, speed limit, and level of service. Hermon's road information is based primarily on state and town acquired information, including local data from town maintained Road Surface Management records.

The Maine Office of GIS has mapped all roads for E911 purposes. The Transportation Road Network Map shows major roadways in Hermon as named during the E911 addressing process. Hermon's town manager acts as the Town's Road Commissioner. He and the Director of the Public Works Department monitor and maintain the public roads within the community. Public Works is responsible for maintaining approximately 62 miles of roadways, of which approximately one mile is unpaved. During 2006, approximately 5.8 miles of roadway were resurfaced. Each year approximately 15 miles of roadway are lined/relined by a hired contractor. The Public Works Department contracts for plowing, sanding, and other routine road maintenance services. The Department currently has adequate equipment for its other current needs. The Public Facilities and Services section provides additional material on the Public Works Department.

Table F-2. HERMON ROADS DATA

Road/Street name	Length (miles)	Jurisdiction	Federal Function	Speed Limit	Level of Service
Annis Road	1.15	State aid	Minor collector	45	B
Billings Road	3.25	State aid	Minor collector	45	B/C
Birch Drive	0.10	Townway	Local	45	A
Bishop Drive	0.38	Townway	Local	45	A
Black Stream Road	2.10	Townway	Local	45	A
Bog Road	3.05	Townway	Local	46	B
Bond Road	0.47	Townway	Local	45	A
Bryant Road	0.22	Townway	Local	45	A
Cedar Brook Drive	0.20	Townway	Local	45	A
Clark Road	1.80	Townway	Local	45	A
Cold Brook Road	1.96	State aid	Major/urb collector	45	B/C/E
Concord Drive	0.27	Townway	Local	45	A
Creamery Road	0.36	Townway	Local	45	A
Crogan Road	0.83	Townway	Local	45	A
Deerfield Drive	0.37	Townway	Local	45	A
Diesel Shop Road	0.49	Townway	Local	45	A
E Lane	0.09	Townway	Local	45	A
Elem School Drive	0.22	Townway	Local	45	A
Emerson Mill Road	0.34	Townway	Local	45	E/B
Evergreen Street	0.44	Townway	Local	45	A
Freedom Park	0.58	Townway	Local	45	A/B

Fuller Road	1.97	State aid	Minor collector	45	A
Fuller Road	4.45	Townway	Local	45	A/B
George Road	0.18	Townway	Local	45	A
Glenwood Ave	0.37	Townway	Local	45	A
Higgins Drive	0.28	Townway	Local	45	A
Homestead Lane	0.56	Townway	Local	45	A
Hopkins Road	0.37	Townway	Local	45	A
I-95 Northbound & South.	3.44	State hwy	Princ art interstate	65	D
Kelley Road	1.26	Townway	Local	45	A
Klatt Road	0.79	Townway	Local	45	A
Lexington Drive	0.25	Townway	Local	45	A
Liberty Drive	0.30	Townway	Local	45	A
Littlefield Avenue	0.40	Townway	Local	45	A
Maple Leaf Lane	0.41	Townway	Local	45	A
Mountainview Drive	0.88	Townway	Local	45	A
Munn Drive	0.20	Townway	Local	45	A
New Boston Road	1.95	Townway	Local	45	A
Newburgh Road	2.67	State aid	Minor collector	45	A
Newburgh Road	0.74	Townway	Local	45	A
North County Road	0.10	Townway	Local	45	A
North Street	0.12	Townway	Local	45	A
Odlin Road	1.30	Townway	Local	45	C/D
Ohio Street	0.28	Townway	Local	45	A
Old Trail Road	0.36	Townway	Local	45	A
Page Rd West	0.20	Townway	Local	45	A
Patten Drive(A&B)	0.60	Townway	Local	45	A
Pine Tree Road	1.26	Townway	Local	45	A
Reed Hill Road	0.10	Townway	Local	45	A
Ridge Dr South	0.30	Townway	Local	45	A
Ridge Road	0.12	Townway	Local	45	A
Robinhood Drive	0.20	Townway	Local	45	A
School House Lane	0.27	Townway	Local	45	A
School House Road	0.10	Townway	Local	45	A
Shaw Hill Road	0.83	Townway	Local	45	A
Skyway Valley Drive	0.50	Townway	Local	45	A
Smith Road	1.21	Townway	Local	45	A
Spruce Street	0.61	Townway	Local	45	A
Swan Road	1.28	Townway	Local	45	A
Treadwell Acres	0.37	Townway	Local	45	A
Union Street	2.81	State aid	Major/urb collector	40/45	C/D
US Route 2	6.88	State hwy	Major/urb collector	35/45/40	C/D/E
Vafiades Avenue	0.20	Townway	Local	45	A
Valley Avenue	0.60	Townway	Local	45	A
Webber Road					
Wendy Acres	0.74	Townway	Local	45	A
Wheeler Road	0.21	Townway	Local	45	A
Wing Road	1.69	State aid	Minor collector	45	A/B

York Road	1.11	Townway	Local	45	A
TOTAL STATE AID ROAD	15.50				
TOTAL STATE HIGHWAY	10.32				
TOTAL TOWN WAY	38.67				
Total Town Roads	64.49				

Source: Maine DOT and Community E911 Road Maps

F.5 TRAFFIC VOLUMES AND PATTERNS

Traffic counts are meant to help understand the overall patterns of vehicular movements. Many factors influence traffic count results. When traffic volumes are counted over periods of time, the annual average daily traffic volume (AADT) can be determined. The AADT is the total annual traffic volume divided by the number of days in the year. These average daily figures do not reflect peak daily traffic volume.

Table F-3 displays recent AADT data available for the Town of Hermon. Note that the State gathers data at different locations in different years depending upon perceived needs, and so comparisons may not be readily available. The data also do not explain temporary detours that may result from road construction at various locations, nor does it distinguish heavy truck traffic from auto traffic.

Nonetheless, it is apparent from the 2001 and 2003 data that there is significant traffic in Hermon. Traffic on Route 2 / Route 100 is consistently high. It is classified as a major urban collector. AADT data shows that levels of service along it vary from B to E along its length, meaning that in areas traffic flows fairly smoothly whereas in other areas it borders on exceeding its design capacity. In addition, several stretches of the road are in poor condition. In short, the road is in need of repair and, in some sections, re-design in Hermon, as it is in Carmel.

The intersections of Route 2 with the Bog Road and with Billings Road are of particular concern. The Town will be holding a bond referendum for improvements to Billings Road in 2008. Upgrading Billings Road, the Town's principle connector between Union Street and Route 2, will further impact traffic loadings on Route 2.

As noted, Route 2 in Carmel also needs repair and potential re-design. In both communities, Route 2 serves as the logging truck alternative to transporting lumber from forest to mill. While the federal interstate highway weight limit remains at 80,000 pounds, loaded lumber trucks will be using Route 2 to essentially parallel the interstate. Route 2 was not designed for the heavy loads, and so has deteriorated more quickly than its anticipated design lifetime under the burden. Hermon and Carmel are exploring ways of further influencing Maine DOT scheduling to promote corrections to this road.

Cold Brook Road at Odlin Road recorded an AADT of 12,090 vehicles per day in 2001. This intersection receives traffic entering and exiting I-95 at interchange 180, feeding both Hermon and Hampden. It is the location of a popular truck stop and sees significant truck activity in Hermon's industrial zone. Maine DOT has identified the intersection as a high crash location.

Table F-3. RECORD OF HERMON ANNUAL AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC (AADT) VOLUME, 2001 TO 2007				
	Annual average daily traffic (vehicles per day) for the year -			
Location	**2001**	**2003**	**2005**	**2007**
US Rt 2/SR 100 SE of IR 1846	9460	-	-	-
US Rt 2/SR 100 W of IR 425 (Old Stage Road)	8220	7920	9390	-
US Rt 2/SR 100 E of IR 553 (Coldbrook Road)	7620	6990	-	-
US Rt 2/SR 100 NW of IR 476 (Bog Road)	9090	8550	-	-
US Rt 2/SR 100 E of IR 1213 (Vafiades Avenue)	7840	7470	-	-
US Rt 2/SR 100 E of IR 421 (Blackstream Road)	4880	4140	-	-
US Rt 2 at Carmel town line	-	-	-	4021
IR 404 (Fuller Road) E of IR 423 (Wing Road)	1240	1390	-	-
IR 404 (Fuller Road) W of IR 423 (Wing Road)	1310	1340	-	-
IR 404 (Fuller Road) SE of IR 468 (Billings Road)	-	670	-	-
IR 404 (Fuller Road) W of IR 417 (Pine Tree Road)	1120	-	-	-
IR 404 (Fuller Road) at Carmel town line	-	-	-	1075
IR 417 (Pine Tree Road) N of IR 404 (Fuller Road)	720	750	-	-
IR 417 (Pine Tree Road) at Levant town line	-	-	-	711
IR 421 (Blackstream Road) S of IR 404 (Fuller Road)	-	550	-	-
IR 421 1.0 Mile S of IR 404 (Fuller Road) @ BR#3560	760	-	-	-
IR 423 (Wing Road) N of IR 404 (Fuller Road)	2060	1980	-	-
IR 423 (Wing Road) S of IR 404 (Fuller Road)	2280	2030	-	-
IR 460 (New Boston Road) NE of US Rt 2/SR 100	-	620	-	-
IR 468 (Billings Road) NE of IR 1302 (Middle School Road)	3840	3090	-	-
IR 468 (Billings Road) SW of SR 222 (Union Street)	-	3890	-	-
IR 468 (Billings Road) NE of IR 404 (Fuller Road)	3650	-	-	-
IR 476 (Bog Road) W of US Rt 2/SR 100	1570	1470	-	-
IR 477 (Swan Road) SW of US Rt 2/SR 100		410	-	-
IR 480 (Odlin Road) NE of IR 553 (Cold Brook Road)	3610	3780	-	-
IR 482 (Emerson Hill Road) SW of IR 553 (Cold Brook Road)	5580	-	-	-
IR 553 (Cold Brook Road) SE of US Rt 2/SR 100	3960	3250	-	-
IR 553 (Cold Brook Road) SE of IR 480 (Odlin Road)	12,090	-	-	-
IR 553 (Cold Brook Road) NW of IR 480 (Odlin Road)	4560	-	-	-
SR 222 (Union Street) SE of IR 468 (Billings Road)	7370	7860	-	-

Location abbreviations: BR = bridge, SR = state route, IR = intermediate route, a numerical designation given by the State to local roads that are not otherwise numbered.

F.6 ROAD SURFACE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RSMS)

The Maine DOT Local Roads Center provides a "Road Surface Management System for Maine Towns" training program, including Road Surface Management System (RSMS) software to

identify which road maintenance techniques should be considered for individual roads or streets in a local street network. Introduced in 1990, it is being used by many communities to inventory their road network, record road surface condition data, interpret the surface distress information gathered and "defend" their road maintenance budgets. The system is generic and it provides an objective tool that a municipality can customize with its own repair techniques and local costs.

Town experience with the RSMS has found that the difficulty with local customization is that it creates a system of subjectivity with an objective utility. The Town feels that the Maine DOT should invest in revitalization and redevelopment of this program with input from the communities to determine what may best serve the needs of local government.

Hermon currently prioritizes and plans for improvements and repairs to the Towns roads. The Road Commissioner utilizes the documentation and spreadsheets provided by the RSMS, but finds the software to be cumbersome and difficult to manage and navigate. Community officials at Town meeting regularly appropriate funds for the resurfacing and repairs of Town roads. The Town Manager/Road Commissioner, Public Works Director, and Town Council utilize a system which determines needs, cost estimates and other mitigating factors in determining the prioritization of its transportation system.

F.7 HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS

The Maine DOT rates accidents according to a Critical Rate Factor (CRF) which corresponds to the number of times the actual accident rate exceeds the expected accident rate. The crash rate at a given location is compared statistically to the statewide average. Maine uses the "Rate Quality Control Method" of statistical analysis. Generally, a CRF of 1.0 or more indicates a higher than usual number of accidents at that specific intersection or stretch of road. A High Crash Location (HCL) is a location that exhibits a CRF equal to or greater than 1.0 and that has experienced at least 8 crashes in the most recent complete 3-year period.

According to Maine DOT "High Crash Location Listing" for 2003-2005, there are five high crash locations in the Town of Hermon:

1. Intersection of Odlin Road, Emerson Road and Cold Brook Road,
2. Intersection of Route 222 (Union Street) and Billings Road,
3. Intersection of Route 2 and Billings Road,
4. Intersection of Fuller Road with Wind and Annis roads, and
5. Stretch of Route 2 before its intersection with North Street (Bangor to Hermon).

As traffic continues to increase, Hermon residents have observed that collectors and minor arterials are funneling traffic through the community in increasing numbers. Although the following locations do not meet Maine DOT's definition of HCL's, the residents believe that they require review due to histories of severe accidents.

1. Intersection of Annis Road, Route 2, and the Klatt Road
2. Intersection of Annis Road, Fuller Road, and Wing Road
3. Intersection of Bog Road and Route 2
4. Route 2 and entrance to Hermon High School

5. Railroad Crossing at Route 2 overpass
6. Intersection of Route 2 and New Boston Road
7. Intersection of Fuller Road and Billings Road

F.8 TRAFFIC SAFETY DEVICES

F.8.1 Traffic Lights

Currently Hermon has two traffic lights in the community. One is located on Route 2 at the intersection of Billings Road. The other is located at the Corner of Odlin Road, Coldbrook Road and Emerson Mill Road. The Community also feels that with development in the village the intersection at the High School with Route 2 should also have a traffic light.

There are no flashing lights located within the community. It is the opinion of the community that a flashing light be installed at the intersection of Fuller Road, Wing Road, and Annis Road.

F.8.2 Speed Limits

The Town of Hermon consults with the Maine DOT for the establishment of speed limits for its town roadways. Posted speed limits are utilized along Hermon's roads to maintain reasonable standards of safety throughout the community. Speed limits are enforced by the Penobscot County Sheriff through the community policing agreement, and by the State Police.

F.8.3 Street Lights

The Town of Hermon has an unwritten policy that all intersections and curves with poor visibility should have a street light. The business parks receive more lights as a security measure due to the reduced traffic after regular business hours. Lights are placed and monitored by the Town, and repaired by CMP and Bangor Hydro.

The Town is considering requiring that turnarounds or dead ends should also have lights.

F.8.4 Pedestrian Crossings and Sidewalks

Pedestrian crossings in residential areas and the downtown commercial area are maintained annually by the Department of Public Works. Presently, there is one sidewalk within the Town of Hermon: it connects Route 2 with the high school along the school's driveway.

There are plans to connect the high school along Route 2 to the intersection of Route 2 and Billings Road, and along Billings Road from the intersection of Route 2 to the elementary school.

Consideration should also be made for installing sidewalks along Route 2 towards Bangor, connecting the High School to New Boston Road or Bog Road. Within one-half mile of Hermon Corner there are three apartment/housing complexes, plus an elementary school and a high school. In efforts to create a safer more walkable community, the town is open to further investigation and investment in sidewalk facilities.

F.8.5 Posting of Local Roads

The Town of Hermon does post its road each season in accordance with State Law on postings. Town should develop and adopt its own road posting ordinance.

F.8.6 Turning Lanes and Paved Shoulders

The Town of Hermon has a desire to increase turning lanes and paved shoulders in specific areas. Turning lanes are desired along areas of Route 2, primarily in the village and the length between Freedom Park and Pine Wood Park. The addition of turning lanes would improve the flow of commercial traffic and allow through traffic to more safely navigate Route 2 along the currently under-designed and too narrow roadway. In the village, recent growth has been careful and well planned but there is overall recognition that Billings Road and Route 2 intersection needs more lanes. In 2003 MaineDOT placed a traffic light at this intersection to improve flow, but this effort has only served to mask the real problem of insufficient number of lanes.

Paved shoulders are desired along Route 2 in the areas not being improved with turning lanes. The primary goals are for a more solid road structure that will withstand the heavy trucks not allowed on I-95 and to improve safety for passenger cars that use this road. Paved shoulders are also desired on Billings Road to match the section from Union Street to Fuller Road. In addition, a wider shoulder is desired from the Elementary School to the Middle School to accommodate pedestrians and bikers without the larger cost of a sidewalk.

F.9 BRIDGE INVENTORY

The locations of bridges within the Town of Hermon can be found in the table below and on the Transportation Road Network Map in Appendix A.

BRIDGE #	BRIDGE NAME	OWNER	YEAR BUILT	LOCATION
5420	B&ARR/Hamond&MCR RR#29.64	Railroad	1905	Bangor & Aroostook RR at Rte. 100/US Rte. 2
5421	B&ARR/US 2 & R100RR#29.73	Railroad	1928	Bangor & Aroostook RR at Rte. 100/US Rte. 2
3786	Black Stream	ME DOT	1941	Fuller Road at Black Stream
6102	Bog Road	Town	1999	Bog Road at Patten Stream
2205	Cross	ME DOT	1930	US Rte. 2, Rte. 100 at Black Stream
3560	Goodspeed	ME DOT	2004	Black Stream Road at the Black Stream
5225	Hermon Pond	ME DOT	1950	Newburg Road at Souadabscook Stream
2368	Hermon Center	ME DOT	1999	Rte. 100/US Rte. 2 at Wheeler Stream
5968	Pond (Newburg) Road	ME DOT	1963	Pond (Newburg) Road at I-95
0845	Underpass	Railroad	1910	Maine Central RR at Newburg Road
6101	Ward Stream NB	ME DOT	1996	I-95 northbound at Ward Stream
1434	Ward Stream SB	ME DOT	1996	I-95 southbound at Ward Stream

F.10 PARKING

Public parking is maintained by the Department of Public Works. There are approximately 250 parking spaces in the community, with four primary public parking lots located at the High School, the Middle School, the Elementary School and the Town Office / Public Safety Building.

Land Use Ordinance standards require an area of not less than two hundred (200) square feet, no side of which shall be less than ten (10) feet, exclusive of access of maneuvering area, to be used for temporary parking for one motor vehicle. A loading space is not considered an off-street

parking space. Criteria for "Parking Lots" can be found in Article 8, Section 8.8

F.11 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Bus - Intercity transportation by Greyhound Lines which formerly operated to and from Bangor via Rte 2 has been diverted to Interstate 95 leaving Hermon without this service. This does not present an insurmountable problem to Hermon residents as most of Hermon is within 10 miles of Bangor and the following service from that point are available:

1. Greyhound Lines operates several trips daily to and from Bangor south to Portland, Boston and beyond.
2. Cyr Bus Lines operates one trip daily to and from Bangor north to Houlton, Presque Isle and Caribou.

3. Downeast Connections operates one trip daily between Bangor and Calais.
4. Concord Trailways operates express service to Portland and Logan Airport in Boston, Massachusetts. Greyhound Bus lines' closest terminal is in Bangor, sixty miles south with regular service to Portland, Boston, and the Maritime Provinces. Cyr Bus lines runs a daily bus from Bangor to Aroostook County and back which stops in Medway, ten miles from Hermon and one taxi service exists in Hermon.

"The Lynx" provides door-to-door on-demand transportation within Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties through the Penquis Community Action Program. Funding for this service is provided in part through the Maine Department of Transportation and the Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Medical Services. The Lynx serves the general public, special services for the elderly, Medicaid recipients, and other social service clients by agency contract.

Taxi - Hermon, due to its proximity to Bangor, although quite expensive, has excellent Taxi service available. There are a large number of taxi companies that are located in Bangor and all will service Hermon upon request.

F.12 AIRPORTS

Bangor International Airport is located on the west side of Bangor (adjacent to the Hermon town line) and offers air transportation via direct service and connecting carriers throughout the world. Several passenger, mail and freight carriers operate through there.

Public and private transportation services also reflect the number of social services and opportunities for mobility available to our citizens. Hermon residents rely primarily on personal autos for their transportation. The town is relatively compact and designed to be accessible by auto. Public transportation is an issue only in cases of those unable to drive.

The town council has been investigating the opportunity and has opened the dialogue with the Bangor Area Comprehensive Transportation System (BACTS) and the Bangor Area Transit (the BAT –local bus service) for the expansion of service into the community. Currently demands have not exceeded the presented costs for the establishment of bus routes into and out of the community. The council will continue to explore the options of expanding public transportation services in Hermon, but will not make the commitment until the time is right.

F.13 CORRIDOR PLANNING

The purpose of corridor planning is to supply a regional approach for corridor management. Corridor planning is necessary for the continued efficient movement of traffic. Corridor planning is directly related not only to mobility, but also to economic activity and regional mitigation efforts that are necessary for the vitality of the area. It is important for neighboring communities to recognize the importance of corridor planning and to work together to create a regional access management master plan.

In 2004, the work of the Regional Transportation Advisory Committees (RTAC) was suspended in favor of what the Maine DOT believes to be a more diversified and collaborative approach. Now, Regional Planning Councils, under the guidance of Maine DOT's Bureau of Planning, are formulating Regional Transportation Assessments (RTA's). These Assessments will examine demographic, economic and land-use trends across identified transportation corridors and make recommendations for improvements. The community feels that Maine DOT's abandonment of the RTAC approach has left smaller communities in the region without a voice in transportation planning.

Hermon's most valuable and most cumbersome corridor is Route 2. Route 2 reconstruction has been talked about for the past 20 years. Development pressures along the corridor have increased traffic flows, yet the Maine DOT continues to delay reconstruction and/or major repairs on the corridor. As the community continues to grow, and the degradation along the corridor continues, the town of Hermon should investigate the development of a Master Plan for the future development of the Route 2 corridor within the community and its importance to the region.

F.14 SIX-YEAR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Maine DOT *Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan* for Fiscal Years 2004-2009 (Six-Year Plan) lists the major transportation policy initiatives and capital improvement projects Maine DOT expects to include within the next three *Biennial Capital Work Plan.* In support of Maine DOT's biennial budget request, the Fiscal Years 2006-2007 BCWP was submitted to the Legislature and broadly distributed in early 2006. The Six-Year Plan links Maine DOT's policy based Twenty-Year Transportation Plan to the project based and fiscally constrained BTIP.

The Six-Year Plan allows Maine DOT to effectively manage its planning, project development and financial resources. Other state agencies and business interests may use it to assist in the development of public and private investment strategies. The Six-Year Plan also provides municipalities and utility companies with the opportunity to plan for anticipated improvements. Maine DOT updates the Six-Year Plan every two years to reflect the resources it expects to have available over the fiscal year period covered by each Six-Year Plan. A project's inclusion in a Six-Year Plan signifies Maine DOT's intention to fund it within a six-year time period. Due to factors associated with project development including public involvement, environmental analysis, preliminary and final design, in addition to actual funds available from federal and state sources, actual construction may not occur within this six-year period.

The 2004-2009 Maine DOT Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan includes the following projects that have already been completed within the town of Hermon:

1. Bridge Replacement on Goodspeed Bridge , Maine Bridge #3560 (Blackstream Road), crossing Black Stream
2. Highway Reconstruction on Route 222, Beginning at Route 11 in Corinna going East to the Bangor City Line, Length 23.2 miles

F.15 BIENNIAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Biennial Transportation Improvement Program is the Maine DOT's biennial capital improvement program. The BTIP consists of projects selected from the Six-Year Plan. The best way for the Town of Hermon to make priorities known is to communicate with Maine DOT, particularly when the Maine DOT solicits municipalities for transportation projects that should be considered for future funding.

The 2006-2007 Biennial Capital Work Program does not include any local program projects within the Town of Hermon.

F.16 STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Maine's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is prepared every two years as directed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The document is required for the expenditure of federal funds and follows development of the BTIP. The STIP provides delivery timeframes for all remaining BTIP projects using federal funding limitations established by Congress as a guideline. It must be approved by Federal Agencies before any project work can be started and it must demonstrate that delivery of the program will conform to federal clean air standards.

The 2006-2008 STIP includes one project within the town of Hermon. This project is a reclaim and repavement (known as "mill and fill") project for 7.27 miles of Interstate 95 including the 3.44 miles of Interstate 95 in From the Hampden town line to the Bangor city line. It is projected that the engineering work will be completed in FY 2007 and construction to commence in FY 2008.

F.17 ACCESS MANAGEMENT

Access Management is the planned location and design of driveways and entrances to public roads to help reduce accidents and prolong the useful life of an arterial. Arterial highways represent only 12% of the state-maintained highway system, but carry 62% of the statewide traffic volume. Maintaining posted speeds on this system means helping people and products move faster, which enhances productivity, reduces congestion-related delays and environmental degradation. By preserving the capacity of the system we have now, we reduce the need to build costly new highway capacity such as new travel lanes and bypasses in the future. It provides safe access for land development while conserving the ability of a highway to move traffic safely and efficiently through a corridor. The State's new access management program sets up a permit process for property owners for constructing driveways or entrances on the

state's collector and arterial highways.

The goals of access management are to increase the safety of highway and driveway users, to enhance productivity by moving people and products faster and to reduce congestion-related delays and environmental degradation and to avoid future construction costs by preserving the capacity of the current system. Minimum allowable site distances for driveways and entrances onto state and state aid highways are set as part of the Access Management Rule.

MDOT has established standards, including greater site distance requirements for the permitting of driveways and entrances for three categories of roadways: retrograde arterials, mobility arterial corridors, and all other state and state-aid roads.

There are 8 segments of roadway in Hermon that are currently mandated to follow Access Management regulations; they are:

- Route 2
- Route 222
- Cold Brook Road
- Annis Road
- Billings Road
- Fuller Road (portions)
- Newburgh Road
- Wing Road

The above list is intended to be a guide. The Access Management Rules apply, but are not limited to, all highways represented on this list. All rural State Highways and State Aid Roadways are subject to the Rules. If questions should arise as to the applicability of the Rules for any roadway in Hermon, contact the Maine DOT Division office in Bangor for a determination on the Highway section abutting the specific property and to determine which standards are applicable. Mobility Arterial Corridors, such as Route 2, must comply with additional standards.

In efforts to maintain and improve traffic flows within the community, any roads that qualify to meet the requirements of the State of Maine's access management program, the future Land Use Ordinance will include access management performance standards in consideration of Maine DOT access management rules. Development proposals under town review, which necessitate frontage, driveways and/or entrances along town roads, will be required to meet the performance standards set forth in the future Land Use Ordinance. If in the future, any road becomes a state or state aid highway, landowners will be required to obtain a Maine DOT permit in accordance with Maine DOT Access Management Administrative Rules.

F.18 HIGHWAY TRUCKING COMPANIES

There are several smaller intrastate and interstate trucking companies are located in Hermon for the transportation of freight. All trucking companies have easy access to Interstate 95 from either Rte 2 or the Coldbrook Road. Some of these larger intra and inter state trucking companies are:

- Dysart's Transportation located on the Coldbrook Road;
- McAvey's Transport and Pottle's Transportation located on Odlin Road;
- Currier Trucking and Maine Trailer Sales & Leasing located on Route #2;
- Patriot Trucking, Roadway Trucking and Ryder Truck located in Freedom Park.

At the intersection of I-95 and the Coldbrook Road is one of the largest truck stops in Maine. Dysart's provides a complete service for maintenance of trucks, gasoline and diesel fuel for all motor vehicles, and a modern restaurant for dining.

F.19 RAILROAD FACILITIES

Hermon is serviced by one railroad company, Montreal Maine and Atlantic, located at the Northern Maine Junction, in Hermon, just adjacent to US Route 2, across the Bangor city line. These rails primarily move freight, and have not provided passenger rail services since the late 1950s;

Because of the location of Northern Maine Junction, railroads have been and are an important factor in land use decisions in Hermon. Northern Maine Junction and the adjacent property has great development potential due it being accessible from Rte 2, Coldbrook Road, Diesel Road and Odlin Road. From these roads, it is a very short distance from Interstate 95 which is accessible from entrance/exit ramps from either Rte 2 or the Coldbrook Road.

In October 2001, Bangor and Aroostook Railroad, Hermon's largest single land owner at the time, was involuntarily placed in Chapter 11 Bankruptcy protection. In October of 2002, Rail World, Inc. formed a new company, called Montreal, Maine and Atlantic (MM&A) Railway and proposed the purchase of 835 miles of tracks, MM&A Railroad's facility at Northern Maine Junction with a car repair facility, an engine repair facility and an office building and additional real estate from the B&A System for $50 million. Around that same time they also concluded an agreement to buy two Canadian Pacific Railway lines, linking the MM&A System with two lines in northern Vermont. Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway has been authorized by the U.S. Surface Transportation Board and the Canadian Transportation Agency to operate over 745 route miles of track and associated track rights formerly operated as the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad, Canadian American Railroad, Northern Vermont Railroad, Quebec Southern Railway, and Van Buren Bridge Company.

MM&A track is in good condition and can accommodate fully loaded 100-ton cars. Approximately three-fourths of the MM&A system is laid with 100-lb. and 115-lb. rail and complies with Federal Railroad Administration standards for Class 3 track, permitting trains to operate at speeds up to 40 m.p.h. MM&A has budgeted funds to maintain the track at Class 3 standards, using the railroad's full-time engineering personnel.

Forest products generate approximately 60 percent of MM&A's business. Commodities handled by the railway include: automobiles, chemicals, clay, fertilizer, frozen food and food products, fuel oil, grain, gypsum wallboard, lumber, oriented strand board, paper, propane, round wood, scrap paper, stone and sand, starch, woodchips, wood pulp, and inter-modal shipments. The railroad handles an estimated 60,000 revenue units annually and serves approximately 400 customers.

MM&A owns and maintains 3.64 miles of rail which pass through the town of Hermon.

Springfield Terminal Railroad Company (Originally the Maine Central Railroad) is accessible from Route 2 and Coldbrook Road to its locations at Northern Maine Junction. It has other sidings suitable for commercial development located on the Bog Road, and the Creamery Road.

Railroads have played an important part in the history and development of Hermon. Not only has it been the largest land owner in Hermon, for many years railroads have been major employers of the residents of Hermon and surrounding communities.

F.20 LOCAL CODES AND ISSUES

Hermon's Town codes empower the Planning Board to require that new roads in subdivisions be constructed according to town-specified standards since they are typically given to the town after completion. Impact fees for transportation costs are not assessed of developers since they are expected to pay outright for the construction of roads.

The Land Use Ordinance requires any subdivision expected to generate average daily traffic of 400 trips per day or more to have at least two street connections with existing public streets, streets shown on an Official Map, or streets on an approved subdivision plan for which performance guarantees have been filed and accepted. Any street with an average daily traffic of 400 trips per day or more must have at least two street connections leading to existing public streets, streets shown on an Official Map, or streets on an approved subdivision plan for which performance guarantees have been filed and accepted.

Further, the Ordinance requires that, where topographic and other site conditions allow, provision shall be made for street connections to adjoining lots of similar existing or potential use within areas of the municipality designated as growth areas in the comprehensive plan; or in non-residential subdivisions when such access shall be provided if it will:

a) Facilitate fire protection services as approved by the fire chief; or
b) Enable the public to travel between two existing or potential uses, generally open to the public, without need to travel upon a public street.

In general, road-related noise is not an on-going concern for Hermon's residents.

There are two known areas where turtles commonly cross the road: 1) Billings Road in the area of the Hermon Meadows Golf Course; and 2) Outer Union Street / Route 222 near the bog area.

The proposed Village Master Plan identifies areas along Route 2 in the village for plantings of street trees to enhance the village character of the area.

F.21 PLANNING PERSPECTIVES

Understanding the transportation needs and planning within a community is important to a resident's quality of life, and the community's economic growth and prosperity. Hermon's transportation resources are a significant catalyst for continued growth in the community and the region. The town is fortunate to be centrally located and connected to major transportation amenities such as Interstate 95, US Route 2, Bangor International Airport, and major rail lines.

As the community moves forward with economic development initiatives, land use decisions, and infrastructure development, a constant understanding of the condition and needs of the transportation

system is necessary. State Aid, and State Maintained roadways are in dire need throughout the state and properly framing and expressing these objectives might be the best for the community. Future planning and economic development decisions surrounding the Route 2 corridor need not only a grass roots push, but regional and federal involvement as well. The importance of this transportation asset is pivotal to the future of the region and should be displayed to the appropriate parties. In this effort, the town should maintain an open dialogue with Maine DOT, Federal Highway Administration, and other regional stakeholders to maximize future planning efforts for the betterment of the community.

The town should undertake initiatives to better understand its transportation needs (both road and rail) as it continues to become a regional player. Transportation studies should be completed in an attempt to better understand the needs of the community. These studies will provide the basis for the reclassification of significant roadways within the community. These reclassifications should lead to further investment into the safety and well being of travelers along these roadways.

Hermon should continue to provide the safest, most cost effective transportation network to its residents and visitors. Increased focus on walking trails, sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities shall be explored. As the community grows around its core infrastructure providing safe, efficient roadways should become the focus of the community. In efforts to increase road safety, speed limits, weight limits and other mitigating factors should be addressed. To that effect, the town should coordinate efforts, locally, regionally and nationally to address the weight limit of Heavy Truck Traffic on our local roadways. Current weight limitations of interstate truck traffic has caused an increase in truck traffic through the community, further degradation of infrastructure and increased threats to safety in a densely populated area of the community.

G. RECREATION

STATE GOAL

To promote and protect the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities for all Maine citizens, including access to surface waters.

G.1 INTRODUCTION

By virtue of being adjacent to Bangor, Hermon realizes two sets of recreational assets: it has access to the offerings of a mid-Maine urban area, and it is still sufficiently rural to continue to supply many of its own outdoor recreation activities. As its population changes and demographics change, the Recreation Department will need to continue to provide opportunities appropriate to the Town in order to support a healthy population and to remain attractive to its residents. There are also many independent recreational organizations in Hermon that enhance Maine's tremendous outdoor opportunities.

G.2 TOWN-AFFILIATED RECREATION

Hermon's Recreation Department facilitates the provision of youth sports participation, school-age child care programs, town-wide special events, and recreational facilities maintenance for the Town's residents. The Department is staffed by a full-time director and a full-time recreational assistant. Part-time and seasonal employees work with a large number of community volunteers as needed to provide quality programs that also encourage a sense of community for the town. The director reports to the Town Manager, receiving guidance from the Recreation Committee.

G.2.1 Recreation Department Programs

The Town's recreational programming falls roughly into three categories: youth sports, special events, and school-age care programs. The Recreation Department plays a role in each of these, supplemented by volunteer and private efforts. Those that are largely coordinated by the Department are listed below.

<u>Youth Sports</u>

In 2007, Hermon's youth sports activities included:

- Little League for boys and girls
- Boys' and girls' basketball
- Boys' and girls' soccer
- Football and wrestling (available to both boys and girls)
- Summer camps for boys' and girls' basketball, cross-country and soccer

The success of these programs relies heavily upon the significant time contributions of volunteers, usually parents of the participants. In addition to encouraging young people to enjoy being active and learn to be team players, these activities also foster the connections between residents that form the fabric that holds a community together.

Town-Wide Special Events. Hermon's Recreation Department coordinates several popular events that provide affordable family-oriented fun for the town:

- Valentine Dance - the annual father/daughter dance
- Mother's Day Dance – the annual mother-son dance
- Easter and Halloween parties
- Christmas tree-lighting, Santa Saturdays and Holiday House Decorating Contest
- Summer Sizzle Community Fun Day
- 5K Road Race

Each of these popular events is annual, and widely supported by a wide range of volunteers. In addition, the Town and the Department support a wide range of activities sponsored by other organizations operating in Hermon.

Care Programs. Hermon's Recreation Department coordinates the provision of two types of care programs for grade-school aged children. Before- and after-school care comprised of homework help, arts and recreational activities are available at Hermon Elementary School during the school year. During the summer, day camp programs for these ages are also available.

G.2.2 Town-Maintained Recreational Facilities

Recreational facilities in Hermon are owned and maintained by a variety of entities: Town, State, and private. Those maintained by the Town are listed below. It should be noted that the Town makes multiple use of the facilities that has, efficiently allocating schools' recreational facilities to be used also for community-wide recreational purposes. Maintenance of these shared facilities is likewise shared by Recreation Department and school staffs.

Hermon Community Playground
Owner:Town of Hermon
Size: 3 acres
Location: Beside elementary school
Description: Creative playground with slides, swings, sandbox, above-ground pool, Little League ballfield, basketball court area.
Funding: Municipal

Hermon Elementary School
Owner: Town of Hermon
Size: n/a
Location: Hermon Elementary
Description: 1 gymnasiums; 4 ball field; 2 soccer fields; creative playground
Funding: Municipal

Hermon Middle School
Owner: Town of Hermon
Size: n/a
Location: Hermon Elementary
Description: 1 multi-use field

Funding: Municipal

Hermon High School Gymnasium
Owner:Hermon School Department
Size: n/a
Location: Hermon High School
Description: Gymnasium/weight room available for public use; field hockey field, softball field, baseball field
Funding: Hermon School Department

Hermon Recreation Area
Owner: Town of Hermon
Size: 25 ac
Location: adjacent to Hermon Elementary
Description: 2 ball field; 2 soccer fields; creative playground; one double, one single tennis court*; fitness trail; shuffleboard & horseshoe pit

*These courts are dilapidated, minimally suitable for recreational but not competitive use. The Town is considering its options of repair or replacement.

Funding: Municipal

Jackson Beach
Owner: State of Maine Department of Conservation
Size: 21 acres
Location: Hermon Pond
Description: 300 feet of beach and picnic tables
Funding: Maintained by the Town.

In addition, in the fall of 2007 the Town opened a 0.8 mile length of trail through the woods, connecting the elementary school and the high school.

G.3 OTHER RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE IN HERMON

The Town of Hermon benefits from several organizations whose functions in some ways parallel those of the Recreation Department: the promotion of community involvement and recreational opportunities. These organizations may be characterized as civic groups, youth groups, faith communities, or recreational clubs, but the functions that they fulfill cross lines in the benefits that they provide to Hermon.

Hermon's boys and girls have Scouting dens and troops from which to choose. Hermon's schools offer many sport sporting and other groups such as the Key Club for teenagers. While open to all ages, organizations such as Hermon's Historical Society, International Order of Odd Fellows, the Masonic Lodge, and the American Legion tend to attract older citizens. Hermon's churches support wide ranges of activities for all ages. These organizations differ in their focuses, but they all contribute to community richness in their programming and in encouraging residents to be actively involved in group projects.

In addition, Hermon has several recreation-oriented organizations. The Garden Club supports outdoor activities while helping to create a visually pleasing community landscape. Hermon's Skeet Club maintains 220 acres off of Black Stream Road for its members, and has been the site for statewide competitions.

Ecotat Gardens and Arboretum consists of 91 acres of land located on Route 2 at the intersection with Annis Road at the top of Miller Hill and is committed to preserving and expanding gardens and trails for public use. Fifty-five gardens and a nature library are located at the site which is open free of charge to the public. The facility also provides educational outreach to the community and area schools.

G.4 OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Hermon has many private "improved" outdoor recreational facilities that are availability to the public. Among them, as previously mentioned, are Ecotat Gardens, local snowmobile trails, and the skeet club's property. Several private campgrounds are also located in Hermon. And there is a 1/3-mile oval raceway in town.

Several of Hermon's outdoor recreational areas may be considered as open space. Among these are a par 72, 18-hole golf course and the local ski area located on Hermon Mountain. The Recreation Department will also be dragging loops of the Rec Area walking trails for use as a cross-country ski. This will comprise 1.4 and 1.8 mile loops.

G.4.1 Public Access to Surface Water

Because of the recreational opportunities offered by surface waters, including fishing, swimming and boating, it is important to ensure that the public continues to have access to these resources. Access to surface waters has been guaranteed by the State Legislature by stating that people have the right to cross unimproved land to get to a great pond (more than 10 acres natural surface area). However, this does not allow people the right to engage in activities on the shore without the permission of the landowner.

Although Jackson Beach on Hermon Pond is owned by the State, the Town of Hermon maintains the facilities there. The public has also traditionally enjoyed access on foot to the pond via Greek's Landing (Smith Road) and Vafiades Landing (Bog Road). Access is also available at Fowler's Landing in Hampden.

Additionally, Hermon has many ponds, streams and brooks for that are valued for fishing, water sports, and trapping. Most are accessible via Hermon Pond and Souadabscook Stream. There are also many unofficial points of entry "on foot" at bridge and railroad crossings. The streams also support snowmobile and ski traffic in the winter, with an economic windfall resulting for the town.

Lakes and swamps: Ben Annis Pond, Pug Pond, Tracy Pond, George Pond, Hermon Pond, Hermon Bog.
Streams, rivers, and creeks: Patten Stream, Souadabscook Stream, Wheeler Stream, Pug Brook, Black Stream.

G.4.2.Land Trusts

According to the Maine Land Trust Network, the following land trusts work in Penobscot County:

- Bangor Land Trust
- Brewer Land Trust
- Forest Society of Maine
- Holden Land Trust
- Landmark Heritage Trust
- Maine Audubon
- Maine Coast Heritage Trust
- Maine Farmland Trust
- New England Forestry Foundation, Inc.
- Northeast Wilderness Trust
- Orono Land Trust
- Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine
- The Nature Conservancy in Maine

G.6 SCENIC AREAS

The locations cited below have been identified as providing the most scenic views available in Hermon.

Hermon Mountain. View over Hermon Pond and towards Bangor. On clear days, both Cadillac Mountain and Mt. Katahdin are visible from here. This is on private property but the public has historically enjoyed access.

Pleasant Hill. Excellent day and night views of Bangor to south and the Garland hills to the north. The cemetery provides for public access.

Brainard Hill. From Bryant Road, the view of Bangor International Airport is unique, particularly on a rainy evening.

Hermon Pond. Jackson Beach, Town operated.

View of Black Forest area of Carmel. Heading west out of town on US Route 2, looking west from below the crest of Garland Hill.

Hermon Center. Viewed from part way down the east side of Miller Hill on US Rte 2.

Ecotat and the Crosby Gardens. Privately owned floral garden and trail system at the crest of Miller Hill.

Intersection of Newburgh Road and Pendleton Drive. Nice view of Hermon Pond.

G.7 HUNTING AND FISHING

Hunting and fishing are widely enjoyed around Hermon; very little of the town is posted against hunting. The Hermon Bog area is acknowledged as being well populated by deer, a situation that the Town would like to preserve.

G.8 SNOWMOBILING AND ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

During the winter, Hermon's fields and wooded areas provide the base for snowmobile trails that traverse the community and connect to trails providing access to the area's lakes and ponds. This access contributes significant outdoor recreation opportunities to the region, particularly through the linkages that it maintains to neighboring communities' trails and the State's larger Interconnected Trail System (ITS).

Hermon's Penobscot Snowmobile Club maintains several miles of trails for its members and the riding public. While this is a private organization, it enjoys broad popularity with Hermon residents in helping to continue the Maine tradition of providing public access to private lands.

In 2006, the Town Clerk reported that 378 resident and non-resident snowmobile registrations were processed, along with 202 resident and non-resident all-terrain vehicle (ATV) registrations.

Experience in Hermon has shown that ATV usage of snowmobile trails is not viable: frozen winter conditions allow snowmobiles to pass without damage, whereas ATV traffic in warmer conditions does sometimes tear up the land. The Town is mindful of a need to promote the organization of ATV riders, to secure areas for their recreation, and to educate the public on use and liability issues.

Similarly, experience has shown that trails are not well suited to being shared by cross-country skiers and snowmobilers. The Town continues to pursue additional opportunities for additional trails.

G.9 REGIONAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND COORDINATION

There are numerous recreational facilities within easy distance of Hermon. Bangor, Orono and Old Town all provide abundant riverfront activities and cultural opportunities in museums and the performing arts. The Atlantic coast and some of Maine's state parks are within an hour of town. In addition, local municipal recreation departments routinely consult with each other to provide and expand their complementary programming.

In 2006, three communities participated in facilitating flag football for 3rd and 4th grade players. In 2007, a youth football program for all 3rd through 6th grade residents of Hermon, Carmel, Levant and Glenburn will be offered, with the fifth and sixth graders playing tackle.

Hermon's Little League baseball teams currently play in a ten-team regional league. The league struggles with just one "major league" diamond in town. This site is also used for Little League play for a region from Bangor to Katahdin for 11- and 12-year-old players.

Hermon's middle and high school athletic teams share the use of the Town's soccer field system. Travel teams use this also with Hermon and Hampden players. The region's Blackbear United Football [soccer] Club also relies on the facilities for training and games on occasion.

Past attempts to coordinate the regional development of sports facilities have been unsuccessful. Although sites for soccer or tennis complexes could be identified, transportation and/or maintenance costs proved excessive for neighboring or distant towns. Generally, private efforts have spearheaded

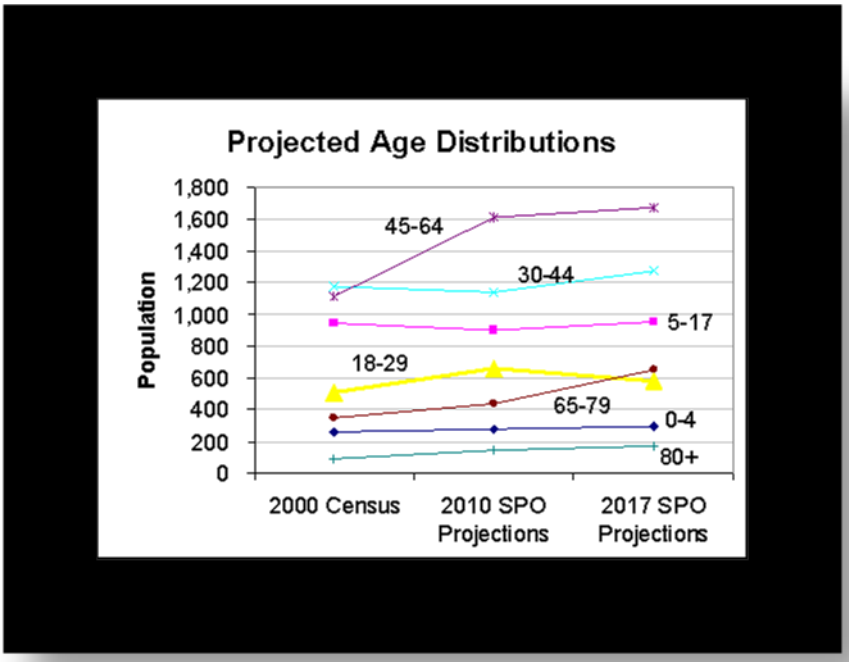
subsequent attempts to create new facilities for sports users, as opposed to those projects being supported by taxpayer dollars.

G.10 PLANNING PERSPECTIVES

As discussed throughout this section there are numerous recreational opportunities within the community and in the surrounding areas. Hermon relies on the combination of municipal and state-owned recreational facilities and the rural nature of the community with use of private land. Loss of traditional access caused by development will increasingly adversely affect outdoor recreational opportunities.

The mark of a livable community is the way it attracts newcomers to settle there. Hermon's attractiveness is borne out through the continuing arrival of newcomers. The graph below shows that anticipated breakdowns of its future populations by age.

[It is important to note that the age spreads in the graph below are not consistent. For example, one age group (ages 0 to 4 years) only covers four years, whereas another (ages 30 to 44) covers fourteen years. These categories are census dependent. For the purposes of this section, this graph shows the relative trends of the various age groups. The data show that Hermon can expect its pre-school and school aged populations to continue growing slowly over the next ten years, whereas is older populations, aged 30 and up, will grow more rapidly. In between, the young adults (18-29) are going elsewhere.]



The Town of Hermon will continue to support regional recreational opportunities with the recreation departments of adjacent towns. As communities grow and their populations expand to where

additional programming is desired, there will be continuing opportunities to supplement each others' team sports offerings. As numbers of participants grow, towns will grow through phases where:

- there is not enough interest for a team
- there is enough interest to form a team but not enough interest for competition
- there is enough interest for a team and part team
- there is enough interest for several teams within the community
- there is so much interest that the demand exceeds facilities capabilities

As Hermon and its neighbors – all (except Bangor) expected to continue growing - cycle through these phases, there will be repeated opportunities to share programs so that neighboring communities can provide ongoing recreational challenges. Until such times as communities reach the points where they decide to construct additional facilities, the coordination of these opportunities may lay in the creative development of information transportation systems to support rural sports programs.

Open spaces and parks serve a vital function in a community. They provide locations for residents to enjoy the outdoors and they contribute to the livability of the community. Hermon has no protected open spaces other than Ecotat. The Town will be considering policies to encourage protection of open spaces in locations all over the town.

The Town may also wish to consider additional facilities such as a picnic area, a public park, or an additional playground located in another area of town. A plan for the gradual addition of recreational facilities to the town may be linked with the residential growth areas. There has been expressed desire for an indoor pool facility and recreational center. An indoor pool and adjoining recreation center would offer year-round recreational activities and swimming for townspeople of all ages.

G.12 WHAT DOES THE SURVEY SAY?

With the construction of the new high school, consideration should be made to provide more space for town recreational activities, both indoor and outdoor. Guidelines need to be established for recreational program use of the school facilities.

While additional private exercise facilities would be desirable, there is a question as to whether or not there is sufficient demand to encourage their construction. Access to private fields and forests is relatively available, few landowners object to moderate levels of walking, skiing, or hunting on appropriate areas of their property.

Clearly there will more increasing opportunity and potential demand to provide more recreational facilities and opportunities appropriate for senior citizens as well as families. Fitness and Wellness programs would be a positive addition to the programs offered by Hermon and would reach out to all ages and to community members not involved in the existing programs.

Such possibilities will likely push the Town to further consider the construction of a community center that could house town-wide events, classes, workshops and sporting events. Additional programs and facilities should be considered in conjunction with the needs of neighboring towns. In

the interim, the Town should continue exploring coordinating with neighboring communities to share resources. Informal transportation systems would help facilitate this.

Because of the recreational opportunities offered by surface waters, including fishing, swimming, and boating, it is important to ensure that the public continues to have access to these resources. The town should consider obtaining public access to Black Stream for fishing and other forms of recreation. Continued access to Jackson's Beach should be maintained whether by the State of Maine, the Town of Hermon, or in partnership with neighboring communities.

Hermon is fortunate to have a private recreational facility such as **Crosby Gardens** and Ecotat Gardens. Consideration should be given to continuing to maintain the snowmobile trails and ensure that access is preserved.

The overall challenge to accomplishing the goal of additional recreational programs and facilities is achieving a balance between expanded recreational opportunities without significantly raising the tax rate. To assist in future development of recreational facilities, the recreation committee should develop a recreation plan to identify specific areas for improvement, expansion, and future facilities.

H. NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE GOALS

- *To protect the quality and manage the quantity of the State's water resources, including lakes, aquifers, great ponds, estuaries, rivers and coastal areas.*

- *To protect the State's other critical natural resources, including without limitation, wetlands, wildlife and fisheries habitat, sand dunes, shorelands, scenic vistas and unique natural areas.*

- *To protect the State's marine resources industry, ports and harbors from incompatible development to promote access to the shore for commercial fisherman and the public.*

- *To safeguard the State's agricultural and forest resources from development; which threatens those resources.*

H.1 INTRODUCTION

Natural resources information is useful in identifying opportunities and constraints for development and for protecting environmentally sensitive areas. The natural resources within Hermon also contribute greatly to the quality of life in the town. These resources provide open spaces that are valued for recreational opportunities such as fishing, boating, snowmobiling, hunting, canoeing, nature watching, hiking, and cross-country skiing, as well as many others.

To visually display the natural resources of the community and region the following maps are located in Appendix A.

Topography
Soils
Water Resources
Shared Natural Resources
Critical Habitat
Scenic Areas

H.2 LOCATION AND CONTEXT

The Town of Hermon (Penobscot County) is located in the Penobscot River Basin west of Bangor. The town is bordered on the north by Levant, on the east by Bangor, Hampden to the south, and on the west by Carmel. The land area of the town, based on current GIS information, is approximately 36.8 square miles. Hermon shares water resources Hermon Pond, Soudabscook Stream, Black Stream, Ben Annis Pond, and Hermon Bog with its Neighbors

Please see the Location in Penobscot County Map and the Topography Map in Appendix A titled for the general location, land cover and contour elevations.

H.3 CLIMATE

The Penobscot River Basin has a cool semi-humid climate which is characteristic of northern New England. The mean annual temperature is approximately 43 degrees Fahrenheit; average winter temperatures are 19 degrees Fahrenheit; and the average summer temperature is 61 degrees Fahrenheit. Extremes in temperature fluctuate from minus 30 degrees to 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

Average annual precipitation is approximately 40 inches which is uniformly spread out over the year. Low pressure systems moving up the East coast and frontal systems moving across the country from West to East create periods of moderate precipitation which usually do not last for more than two days. Storm events of 2 to 4 inches of rainfall are common but rarely does rainfall exceed 6 inches or more per storm.

Annual heating degree days are an average of 8650 with approximately fifty percent of the heating degree days occurring during the months of December, January, and February.

H.4 TOPOGRAPHY

Topography is the shape or form of the land. Topographic maps graphically represent the shape of the land by use of contour lines which indicate a specific height above sea level. These contour lines are similar to layers in a cake - horizontal layers representing vertical changes in height. The range of topography, sometimes called relief, demonstrates changes to the land form and highlights dominant physical features.

The most common source of topographical information is from maps produced by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). These maps or quadrangles are created from aerial photography having a contour interval of ten feet and scale of 1:24000 or one inch on the map equals two thousand feet on the ground. Hermon is represented by the Hermon and Bangor 7 1/2 minute quadrangles.

Elevation changes in Hermon range from over 500 feet at Hermon Mountain Ski Area to below 125 feet above sea level near Hermon Pond. Most elevation changes are gradual with gently rolling to undulating topography. The extensive wetlands within Hermon, especially in the southeast portion of town, create large expanses of relatively flat terrain.

H.4.1 Bedrock Geology

Bedrock geology is a result of geologic activity on the earth's crust which occurred hundreds of millions years ago. Bedrock units are formed by the erosion of the rock, creating sediments and the deposition of those sediments creating sedimentary rocks. Metamorphism is the changing of sedimentary rocks through heat and pressure. Since heat and pressure can vary, metamorphic rocks differ in composition and degree.

Geologic time is measured in units from the oldest to the youngest formations consisting respectively of: Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, to Devonian. Hermon is underlain by early Silurian formations. Area bedrock geology consists of calcareous sandstone, inter-bedded sandstone, and impure limestone. Greenshist, a metamorphic rock also occurs in Hermon.

H.4.2 Surficial Geology

Surficial geology is the deposit of the unconsolidated materials which overlie bedrock. Sediments deposited from wind, water and glacial action create surficial geology. Most of the surficial geology in Hermon is a result of glacial action.

As the ice margin receded, a large amount of water was released. Streams formed by this meltwater picked up and transported large amounts of sediment that were deposited downstream in areas of slower water velocity. These deposits accumulated in channels within or beneath the ice, between the ice and adjacent valley walls, and at or near the front of the glacier. Outwash plains were formed where sediments were deposited by streams at some distance from the ice margin. Some of these ice-contact and outwash deposits have sufficient areal extent and saturated thickness to be considered significant sand and gravel aquifers.

H.5 LAND SUITABILITY

Careful consideration needs to be given to the long term impacts of land development in areas with soils poorly suited for certain land uses. Development and use of poorly suited soils are the underlying cause of many environmental and economic problems. The general carrying capacity of soils is an important consideration in determining those land area within the community where growth is promoted or discouraged. Water pollution, high cost and maintenance of public services, and the destruction of existing wildlife and scenic values are just a few of the existing ways that a community ends up paying for improper land use.

Soil potential ratings reflect the potential of use rather than the limitations of use and are designated to meet local needs and conditions. Soil Potential for Low Density Development is broken down into four categories: Septics, Dwellings, Roads, and Development, please see the Soils Map in Appendix A. Agriculture, Farmland, Floodplain, and Sand and Gravel Aquifers are addressed further in this section. The remaining, Highly Erodible Soils, Soils on Steep Slopes, and Soil Potential for Low Density Development are presented below.

H.6 SOIL SURVEY

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Conservation Service (SCS) has prepared soil classification maps by county for each state (STATSGO). Soil maps for STATSGO are often compiled by generalizing more detailed (SSURGO) soil survey maps. Where more detailed soil survey maps are not available, as is the case in Penobscot County, data on geology, topography, vegetation, and climate are assembled, together with Land Remote Sensing Satellite (LANDSAT) images. Soils of like areas are studied, and the probable classification and extent of the soils are determined**.**

The Soils Map shows STATSGO Soils provided at this level of information for Hermon.

A soils map at 1:20,000 scale is useful in understanding and planning the soil resources of fields, farms, and communities, but it is not useful for planning small (less than 1 acre) plots. The pattern of soils is often very complex and, in some places, soils of one type grade imperceptibly into others. On-site investigations are needed to determine the suitability of a plot for a septic tank installation

for instance. Soils in Hermon are of several large tracts of numerous types: Bangor Very Stony Silt Loam, Bangor Silt Loam, Rock Land, Thorndike Material, and Thorndike very rocky silt loam, Buxton, Scantic and Biddeford Stony Silt Loam, and a wide variety of smaller tracts of soils.

The STATSGO and SSURGO soils map combinations are not the same map units as the paper copies of the soils maps that are available in the Bangor office of the Soil and Water Conservation Service. In addition the paper maps are not available in digital format. They are therefore not reproduced in this plan but they are housed in the Hermon town office as well as in Bangor at SCS.

H.6.1 Highly Erodible Soils

The removal of surface vegetation from large areas of land results in erosion, which is a major contributor of pollution to lakes and ponds. Highly erodible soils are those soils that have a potential to erode faster than normal. Rainfall and runoff, susceptibility to erosion, and the combined effects of slope length and steepness are taken into consideration when identifying these soils types.

H.6.2 Hydric Soils

Hydric soil is defined as soil that is saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions that favor the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation. A hydric soil may be either drained or undrained, and a drained hydric soil may not continue to support hydrophytic vegetation. Therefore, not all areas having hydric soils will qualify as wetlands. Only when a hydric soil supports hydrophytic vegetation and the area has indicators of wetland hydrology may the soil be referred to as a "wetland" soil.

Hermon has large tracts of hydric soils throughout the town as shown on the Soils Map.

H.7 STEEP SLOPES

Steep slope is one of the most noticeable of soil properties. Slope is a product of topography and refers to the steepness or gradient of the land. Slope is a function of change in elevation (vertical distance) and horizontal distance expressed as a percent. It is a major component of the landscape and is one of the most significant soil properties governing land use. Most land use and development takes place on the less sloping areas, areas with slopes of less than 15 percent (representing an average drop of 15 feet or less in 100 feet horizontal distance). On steep slopes, areas with slopes of 15 percent or more, soils present problems for buildings, roads, and septic systems. The costs of engineering foundations and installing septic or sewer and other utility systems increase.

Slopes are often divided into categories based on their impact on development. Common divisions are:

0-8 % = easily built upon
8-15% = moderately buildable
15-25% = somewhat buildable - severe limitations
25%+ = not buildable/potentially dangerous

The most immediate information on slope comes from the Penobscot County soil maps which have all soil types subcategorized by slopes. The other option is to utilize the USGS topographic maps and develop a slope map specific to Hermon. Generally the slopes in Hermon range from 0-15%. In several areas of town, slopes exceed 15% therefore limiting certain types of development.

Please see the Topography Map for the location of moderately steep slopes (15%-25%) and steep slopes (slopes greater than 25%) within Hermon.

H.8 SOIL POTENTIAL FOR LOW DENSITY DEVELOPMENT (LDD)

Soils that are wet, steep, subject to flooding, shallow to bedrock or restrictive layer, or have a coverage of stone or boulders are often more expensive to develop. To minimize these impacts, soil limitations need to be recognized and identified. A rating system called Soil Potential for Low Density Development (LDD) has been developed by the SCS to enable the rating of soils for this purpose. Soil potential has been developed by selecting the best suited soil county-wide for LDD. Low Density Development is defined as 3-bedroom single family unit residences with basement and comparable buildings covering 2,000 sq. ft. and subsurface wastewater disposal system, with or without on-site source of water. Paved roads in development are also included. Residences may be a single-unit or a cluster of units in a development. The subsurface wastewater disposal system would have the capacity of processing 270 gallons per day of effluent and would be installed according to the Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules, Chapter 241, of the Maine Department of Human Resources (MDHR), Division of Health Engineering. The soil potential index is a mathematical expression of a soil's position in the overall range of potentials, which is 100 to 0. Since the entire range is large, these numerical ratings are separated into soil potential rating classes of very low to very high.

The table below describes the soils types and Soil Potential Rating Class for soils found in Penobscot County, and verifies the soil suitability for classifications found within Penobscot County and the Town of Hermon. Please see US Department of Agriculture; Natural Resource Conservation Service Soil Survey maps for the town of Hermon for locations and further classifications of soils found in Hermon.

TABLE H.1 SOIL CLASSIFICATION RATINGS

Map Unit	Soil Name	Septics	Dwellings	Roads	Development
AaB	Adams Loamy Sand (0-8 %)	Low	Very High	Very High	Medium
AaC	Adams Loamy Sand (8-15%)	Very Low	High	High	Medium
AaE	Adams Loamy Sand (15-45%)	Very Low	Low	Low	Very Low
AgA	Allagash Fine sandy Loam (0-2%)	Low	Very High	High	Medium
AgB	Allagash Fine sandy Loam (2-8%)	Low	Very High	Very High	Medium
AgC	Allagash Fine sandy Loam (8-15%)	Very Low	High	High	Medium
AgD	Allagash Fine sandy Loam (15-25%)	Very Low	Medium	Medium	Very Low
BaA	Bangor Silt Loam (0-2%)	High	Very High	High	High
BaB	Bangor Silt Loam (2-8%)	High	Very High	Very High	High
BaC	Bangor Silt Loam (8-15%)	Medium	High	High	Medium
BaD	Bangor Silt Loam (15-25%)	Very Low	Medium	Medium	Low

BmB	Bangor Silt Loam, moderately deep (0-8%)	Medium	High	High	High
BmC	Bangor Silt Loam, moderately deep (8-15%)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
BmD	Bangor Silt Loam, moderately deep (15-35%)	Very Low	Low	Low	Very Low
BnB	Bangor Very Stony Silt Loam (0-8%)	High	High	High	High
BnC	Bangor Very Stony Silt Loam (8-15%)	Medium	High	Medium	Medium
BnD	Bangor Very Stony Silt Loam (15-35%)	Very Low	Medium	Medium	Low
BoA	Biddeford Silt Loam (0-3%)	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
BrA	Burnham Silt Loam (0-3%)	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
BuA	Buxton Silt Loam (0-2%)	Medium	High	Medium	Medium
BuB	Buxton Silt Loam (2-8%)	Medium	High	Medium	Medium
BuC	Buxton Silt Loam (8-15%)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
BxB	Buxton, Scantic and Biddeford Stony Silt Loam (0-8%)	Medium	High	Medium	Medium
BxB1	Buxton Part	Medium	High	Medium	Medium
BxB2	Scantic Part	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
BxB3	Biddeford Part	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
CaC	Canaan Extremely Rocky Sandy Loam, (5-15%)	Very Low	Very Low	Medium	Very Low
CaE	Canaan Extremely Rocky Sandy Loam, (15-45%)	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
CcB	Colton Cobbly Sandy Loam, dark material (0-8%)	Low	Very High	Very High	Medium
CcC	Colton Cobbly Sandy Loam, dark material (8-15%)	Very Low	High	High	Medium
CcD	Colton Cobbly Sandy Loam, dark materail (15-25%)	Very Low	Medium	Medium	Very Low
CcE	Colton Cobbly Sandy Loam, dark material (25-45%)	Very Low	Low	Low	Very Low
CnA	Colton gravelly sandy loam, dark material (0-2%)	Low	Very High	High	Medium
CnB	Colton gravelly sandy loam, dark material (2-8%)	Low	Very High	Very High	Medium
CnC	Colton gravelly sandy loam, dark material (8-15%)	Very Low	High	High	Medium
CnD	Colton gravelly sandy loam, dark material (15-25%)	Very Low	Medium	Medium	Very Low
CnE	Colton gravelly sandy loam, dark material (25-45%)	Very Low	Low	Low	Very Low
CsA	Colton Loamy Fine Sand, dark material (0-2%)	Low	Very High	High	Medium
CsB	Colton Loamy Fine Sand, dark material (2-8%)	Low	Very High	Very High	Medium
CsC	Colton Loamy Fine Sand, dark material (8-15%)	Very Low	High	High	Medium
CsD	Colton Loamy Fine Sand, dark material (15-25%)	Very Low	High	High	Medium
Daa	Daigle silt Loam (0-2%)	Very Low	Medium	Medium	Low
DaB	Daigle silt Loam (2-8%)	Very Low	Medium	Medium	Low
DaC	Daigle silt Loam (8-15%)	Very Low	Medium	Medium	Very Low
DgA	Daigle Stony Silt Loam (0-2%)	Very Low	Medium	Medium	Low
DgB	Daigle Stony Silt Loam (2-8%)	Very Low	Medium	Medium	Low
DgC	Daigle Stony Silt Loam (8-15%)	Very Low	Medium	Medium	Very Low
DxA	Dixmont Silt Loam (0-2%)	High	High	Medium	Medium
DxB	Dixmont Silt Loam (2-8%)	Medium	High	High	High
DxC	Dixmont Silt Loam (8-15%)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
DxA	Dixmont Very Stony Silt Loam (0-2%)	Medium	High	Medium	Medium
Dyb	Dixmont Very Stony Silt Loam (2-8%)	Medium	High	High	Medium
DyC	Dixmont Very Stony Silt Loam (8-15%)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
EwB	Elmwood Fine Sandy Loam	High	High	Medium	Medium

Ha	Hadley Silt Loam	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
HbB	Hermon Sandy Loam	Very High	Very High	Very High	Very High
BhC	Hermon Sandy Loam	High	High	High	High
HdB	Hermon Sandy Loam, moderately deep, (2-8%)	High	High	High	High
HdC	Hermon Sandy Loam, moderately deep, (8-15%)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
HeC	Hermon very stony sandy loam, (2-8%)	High	High	High	High
HeE	Hermon very stony sandy loam, (8-15%)	High	High	Medium	High
HhC	Hermon very stony sandy loam, (15-45%)	Very Low	Low	Low	Very Low
HeE	Hermon extremly stony sandy loam (5-15%)	High	High	Medium	High
HoB	Howland gravelly Loam (0-8%)	Medium	High	High	High
HoC	Howland gravelly Loam (8-15%)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
HvB	Howland Very stony loam (0-8%)	Medium	High	High	Medium
HvC	Howland Very stony loam (8-15%)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
HvD	Howland Very stony loam (15-25%)	Very Low	Low	Low	Very Low
Lk	Limerick Silt Loam	Very Low	very Low	Very Low	Very Low
MaB	Machias Fine Sandy Loam (0-8%)	Very Low	High	High	Medium
MbB	Madawaska Very Fine Sandy Loam (0-8%)	Very Low	High	High	Medium
MeA	Melrose Fine Sandy Loam (0-2%)	High	High	Medium	Medium
MeB	Melrose Fine Sandy Loam (2-8%)	High	High	Medium	Medium
MeC	Melrose Fine Sandy Loam (8-15%)	Very Low	Medium	Medium	Medium
Mn	Mixed Alluvial land	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
MoB	Monarda Silt Loam (0-8%)	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
MrB	Monarda and Burham Very stony silt Loam (0-8%)	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
MrB1	Monarda Part	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
MrB2	Burnham part	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
MsC	Monarda and Burnham extremely stony silt loams (0-15%)	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
MsC1	Monarda Part	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
MsC2	Burnham Part	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Mu	Much	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
On	Ondawa fine sandy loam	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Pa	Peat and Muck	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Pc	Peat, Coarsely Fibrous	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Pf	Peat, Moderately Fibrous	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
PgB	Plaisted Gravelly Loam (2-8%)	High	High	High	High
PgC	Plaisted Gravelly Loam (8-15%)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
PgD	Plaisted Gravelly Loam (15-25%)	Very Low	Medium	Low	Very Low
PgE	Plaisted Gravelly Loam (25-45%)	Very Low	Low	Low	Very Low
PhB	Perham Silt Loam (0-8%)	High	High	High	High
PhC	Perham Silt Loam (8-15%)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
PmB	Perham Stony Silt Loam (0-8%)	High	High	High	High
PmC	Perham Stony Silt Loam (8-15%)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
PrC	Plaisted very stony loam (5-15%)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
PrE	Plaisted very stony loam (15-45%)	Very Low	Low	Low	Very Low

Ps	Peat , Sphagnum	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
PxC	Plaisted extremely stony loam (5-15%)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
Py	Podunk fine sandy loam	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
RaB	Red Hook-Atherton Silt Loam (0-8%)	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
RaB1	Red Hook Part	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
RaB2	Atherton Part	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
SfE	Stetson-Suffield Complex (15-45%)	Very Low	Low	Low	Very Low
SfE1	Stetson Part +	Very Low	Low	Low	Very Low
SfE2	Suffield Part	Very Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low
ShD	Stony Land, Hermon Material, strongly sloping	Very Low	Medium	Low	Low
SpD	Stony Land, Plaisted Material, strongly sloping	Very Low	Low	Low	Very Low
SuA	Suffield Silt Loam (0-2%)	Medium	High	Medium	Medium
SuB	Suffield Silt Loam (2-8%)	Medium	High	Medium	Medium
SuC	Suffield Silt Loam (8-15%)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
SuC2	Suffield Silt Loam (8-15%), eroded	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
SuD	Suffield Silt Loam (15-25%)	Very Low	Medium	Low	Very Low
SuD2	Suffield Silt Loam (15-25%), eroded	Very Low	Medium	Low	Very Low
SuE	Suffield Silt Loam (25-45%)	Very Low	Low	Very Low	Very Low
SvA	Suffield very fine sandy Loam (0-2%)	Medium	High	Medium	Medium
SvB	Suffield very fine sandy Loam (2-8%)	Medium	High	Medium	Medium
SvC	Suffield very fine sandy loam (8-15%)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
SvD	Suffield very fine sandy loam (15-25%)	Very Low	Medium	Low	Very Low
ThB	Thorndike shaly silt loam (2-8%)	Low	Medium	High	Medium
ThC	Thorndike shaly silt loam (8-15%)	Very Low	Low	Medium	Low
Thd	Thorndike shaly silt loam (15-25%)	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
ThE	Thorndike shaly silt loam (25-45%)	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
TkB	Thorndike very rocky silt loam (2-8%)	Very Low	Very Low	Medium	Very Low
TkC	Thorndike very rocky silt loam (8-15%)	Very Low	Very Low	Medium	Very Low
TvB	Thorndike very stony silt loam (2-8%)	Low	Medium	High	Medium
TvC	Thorndike very stony silt loam (8-15%)	Very Low	Low	Medium	Low
TvD	Thorndike very stony silt loam (15-35%)	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
Wn	Winooski Silt Loam	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
RdB	Red Hook Atherton fine sandy loam (0-8%)	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
RdB1	Red Hook Part	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
RdB2	Atherton Part	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
Re	Riverwash	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
RkC	Rock Land, Canaan material, sloping land	Very Low	Very Low	Medium	Very Low
RkC1	Rock Land Part	Very Low	Very Low	Medium	Very Low
RkC2	Canaan Part	Low	Low	Medium	Low
RkD	Rock Land, Canaan material, strongly sloping land	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
RkD1	Rock Land Part	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
RkD2	Thorndike Part	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
RmC	Rock Land, Thorndike Material, strongly sloping land	Very Low	Very Low	Medium	Very Low

RmC1	Rockland Part	Very Low	Very Low	Medium	Very Low
RmC2	Thorndike Part	Very Low	Low	Medium	Low
RmD	Rock Land, Thorndike Material	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
RmD1	Rockland Part	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
RmD2	Thorndike Part	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
Ro	Rock Outcrop	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
Sa	Saco Silt Loam	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low	Very Low
ScB	Scantic Silt Loam (0-8%)	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Very Low
SeA	Stetson fine sandy loam (0-2%)	Low	Very High	High	Medium
SeB	Stetson fine sandy loam (2-8%)	Low	Very High	Very High	Medium
SeC	Stetson fine sandy loam (8-15%)	Very Low	Very Low	High	Medium
SeD	Stetson fine sandy loam (15-25%)	Very Low	Very Low	Medium	Very Low
SfC	Steston-Suffield complex (0-15%)	Very Low	High	High	Medium
SfC1	Stetson Part	Very Low	High	High	Medium
SfC2	Suffield Part	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium

The soils information and maps, in terms of soil potential versus land use, will provide valuable information for the development of the proposed land use plan.

H.9 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Concern for preservation and wise utilization of agricultural and forestry resources are important to all Maine people. To reduce environmental problems caused by farming and forestry activities, a municipality should ensure that shoreland zoning and other ordinances are properly enforced. Moreover, appropriate performance standards should be developed to minimize environmental contamination.

H.9.1 Prime Farmland

Prime farmland is one of several kinds of important farmlands defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Identification of prime farmland is a major step in continuing to meet the nation's needs for food and fiber. Development threatens the irreversible conversion of farmland to other uses. Recognizing that land use changes and that our state is becoming urbanized, it seems reasonable that conversion of agricultural land should be based on the quality of the soils. These soils can be rated in terms of their ability to grow agricultural crops. Obviously some soils are much more valuable for agriculture than others.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines prime farmland as the land that is best suited to producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce a sustained high yield of crops while using acceptable farming methods. Prime farmland produces the highest yields and requires minimal amounts of energy and economic resources, and farming it results in the least damage to the environment. Prime farmland is also often targeted as prime property for low-density residential development. For further reference on soil types in the community, consult the USDA Soil and Water Conservation District office in Bangor.

Currently only a few active farms exist in Hermon, none of which are enrolled in the Farm and Open Space Tax Law program. The following table lists the Prime Farmland Soils for Penobscot County according to the USDA SCS Soil Survey Data for Growth Management.

TABLE H-2. PRIME FARMLAND SOILS FOR PENOBSCOT COUNTY		
Map Symbols	**Code**	**Soil Map Unit Name**
AaB	4	Adams Loamy Sand, 0 to 8 percent slopes
AgA	1	Allagash Fine Sandy Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
AgB	1	Allagash Fine Sandy Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
BaB	1	Bangor Silt Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
BmB	1	Bangor Silt Loam, Moderately Deep, 2 to 8 percent slopes
BuB	1	Buxton Silt Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
CnA	4	Colton Gravelly Sandy Loam, Dark Materials, 0 to 2 percent slopes
CnB	4	Colton Gravelly Sandy Loam, Dark Materials, 2 to 8 percent slopes
CsA	4	Colton Loamy Fine Sand, Dark Materials, 0 to 2 percent slopes
DaA	2	Daigle Silt Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
DaB	1	Daigle Silt Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
DxA	1	Dixmont Silt Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
DxB	1	Dixmont Silt Loam, 2to 8 percent slopes
EwB	1	Elwood Fine Sandy Loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
Ha	1	Hadley Silt Loam
HbB	4	Hermon Sandy Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
HoB	1	Howland Gravelly Loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
Lk	5	Limerick and Rumney Soils,
MaB	1	Madawaska Fine Sandy Loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
MbB	1	Marlow Fine Sandy Loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
MeA	1	Melrose Fine Sandy Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
MeB	1	Melrose Fine Sandy Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
On	1	Ondawa Fine Sandy Loam
PgB	1	Plaisted Gravelly Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
PhB	1	Perham Silt Loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
Py	1	Podunk Fine Sandy Loam
RaB	2	Red Hook and Atherton Silt Loams, 0 to 8 percent slopes
RdB	2	Red Hook and Atherton Fine Sandy Loams, 0 to 8 percent slopes
SeA	1	Stetson Fine Sandy Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
SeB	1	Stetson Fine Sandy Loam, to 8 percent slopes
SuB	1	Suffield Silt Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
SvB	1	Suffield Very Fine Sandy Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
ThB	4	Thorndike Shaly Silt Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
Wn	1	Winooski Silt Loam
		Key To Prime Farmland Code
		1- All areas are prime farmland
		2- Only drained areas are prime farmland.
		4- Only irrigated areas are prime farmland.
		5- Only drained areas that are either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season are prime farmland.

H. 9.2 Farmland Protection Measures

State legislation provides environmental guidelines and mandates shoreland zoning and subdivision which consider agricultural issues. To reduce potential environmental problems resulting from farming activities, Hermon will ensure that shoreland zoning and other ordinances are properly enforced and do not conflict with Best Management Practices. Moreover, appropriate performance standards will be developed to minimize environmental contamination such as encouraging local farmers to work in close cooperation with NRCS to ensure appropriate farming practices.

Farmland is eligible for the Farm and Open Space Tax Law Program (Title 36, MRSA, Section 1101, et seq.), if that farm consists of at least five contiguous acres, is utilized for the production of farming, agriculture or horticulture activities and has shown gross earnings from agricultural production of at least $2,000 (which may include the value of commodities produced for consumption by the farm household) during one of the last two years or three of the last five years.

The open space portion of this program has no minimum lot size requirements and the tract must be preserved or restricted in use to provide a public benefit by conserving scenic resources; enhancing public recreation opportunities; promoting game management or preserving wildlife habitat.

The Farm and Open Space Tax Law encourages landowners to conserve farmland and open space by taxing the land at a rate based on its current use, rather than potential fair market value. The benefits of this program are: that it enables farmers to continue their way of life without being forced out of business by excessive property taxes due to rising land valuations and that it reduces sprawl by keeping the land in its traditional use verses being developed. If the property is removed from the program, a penalty is assessed against the property. This penalty is calculated based on the number of years the property was enrolled in the program and/or a percentage of fair market value upon the date of withdrawal.

The Town reports indicate that Hermon has 12 parcels consisting of 724.5 acres enrolled in the state's Farm and Open Space Tax Law program. Farming within the community has historically been limited to residential practices. Since the early 1900's these farms have slowly disappeared and forests now stand where these family once prospered.

The State of Maine has seen a steady thirty-year decline of agricultural production and in employment within that category. Concern for preservation and wise utilization of these farming resources is important. To reduce environmental problems caused by farming activities, a municipality should ensure that shoreland zoning and other ordinances are properly enforced. Moreover, appropriate performance standards should be developed to minimize environmental contamination and encourage farming uses while fostering stewardship of the environment.

The Farmland Registration Program is designed to protect a farmer's right to farm their land. Upon registration, a farmer is guaranteed a 100-foot buffer zone between the productive fields and new incompatible development, such as residential development. The Farmland Registration

Program also lets new and potential abutters know that a working farm is next door. This program is currently closed to new applications.

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, signed into law by President Bush on May 13, 2002, is landmark legislation for conservation funding and for focusing on environmental issues. The conservation provisions will assist farmers and ranchers in meeting environmental challenges on their land. This legislation simplifies existing programs and creates new programs to address high priority environmental and production goals. The 2002 Farm Bill enhances the long-term quality of the environment and conservation of natural resources. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the programs authorized or re-authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill.

The Farms for the Future Program is a two-phase business assistance program that helps Maine farmers plan for the future of their agricultural enterprise. Farmers who own and operate five or more acres of productive farmland and have an idea for change that will increase the long-term economic viability of their farm are eligible to participate in the program. In the first phase farmers receive a package of services to develop a detailed business plan with a team of skilled professionals. Farmers determine the membership of their farm's planning team. The business planning services provide the farmers with the opportunities to consult with other farmers who have made similar changes, take business planning courses, make use of specialists from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension and the Small Business Development Center, consult with market researchers, and work with accountants and financial advisors to assist in developing financial record keeping and tracking projections. In the second phase, farmers who have completed business plans during phase-1 are now eligible to apply for a competitive cash grant to implement the changes identified in their business plans. Farmers who are awarded Phase 2 cash grants are eligible to receive up to 25% of the implementation costs up to a maximum of $25,000. The remaining costs may include cash investments, low interest loans, other grants, or inkind services provided by the farmer himself. Upon the acceptance of the grant, the farmer agrees that they will not convert the farmland into non-agricultural uses for five years. The farmer can pay back the grant at anytime to buy out of this agreement.

The Conservation of Private Grazing Land Program (CPGL) is a voluntary program that helps owners and managers of private grazing land address natural resource concerns while enhancing the economic and social stability of grazing land enterprises and the rural communities that depend on them.

The Conservation Security Program is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance for the conservation, protection, and improvement of soil, water, and related resources on Tribal and private lands. The program provides payments for producers who historically have practiced good stewardship on their agricultural lands and incentives for those who want to do more.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible National goals. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers may receive financial and technical help to install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

The Farmland Protection Program is a voluntary program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. The program provides matching funds to State, Tribal, or local governments and nongovernmental organizations with existing farmland protection programs to purchase conservation easements or other interests in land.

The National Natural Resources Conservation Foundation (NNRCF) promotes innovative solutions to natural resource problems and conducts research and educational activities to support conservation on private land. The NNRCF is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation. The foundation builds partnerships among agencies and agricultural, public, and private constituencies interested in promoting voluntary conservation on private lands.

H.10 PRIME FORESTLAND

Maine's forests and forest industry still play a vital role in the local and state wide economy, especially in Northern and Central Maine; Forested areas have historically provided an abundant and diverse land area for wildlife population and for the use and enjoyment of all Maine citizens. Furthermore, the forest protects the soil and water and contributes to a wide variety of recreational and aesthetic experiences. In some cases, loss of forestland can be attributed to land development patterns and environmental problems can arise as a direct result of irresponsible harvesting techniques. Also, when forestland is fragmented, public access becomes more restricted due to increased land posting. To optimize continued forestland usage, it should be effectively managed and harvested.

Soils rated with a woodland productivity of medium or above are qualified as prime forestland soils. These soils are rated only for productivity and exclude management problems such as erosion hazard, equipment limitations or seedling mortality. Soils rates with a productivity level of medium, high or very high are prime forestland soils. Forests should be effectively managed and harvested so they can continue to be home to many unique habitats. Loss of forestland is attributed to fragmentation and development, land valuation/taxation, and productivity decrease.

Please see the Soils Map in Appendix A for the location of Hermon soils.

The following table lists the Prime Forestland Soils for Penobscot County according to the USDA SCS Soil Survey Data for Growth Management.

TABLE H-3. PRIME FORESTLAND SOILS IN PENOBSCOT COUNTY

Map Symbols	Code	Prime Forestland Soil Map Unit Name
AaB	8	Adams Loamy Sand, 0 to 8 percent slopes
AaC	8	Adams Loamy Sand, 8 to 15 percent slopes
AaE	8	Adams Loamy Sand, 15 to 45 percent slopes
AgA	9	Allagash Fine Sandy Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
AgB	9	Allagash Fine Sandy Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
AgC	9	Allagash Fine Sandy Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
AgD	10	Allagash Fine Sandy Loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes
BaA	10	Bangor Silt Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
BaB	10	Bangor Silt Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
BaC	10	Bangor Silt Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
BaD	10	Bangor Silt Loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes
BmB	8	Bangor Silt Loam, Moderately Deep, 2 to 8 percent slopes

BmC	8	Bangor Silt Loam, Moderately Deep, 8 to 15 percent slopes
BmD	8	Bangor Silt Loam, Moderately Deep, 15 to 35 percent slopes
BnB	10	Bangor Very Stony Silt Loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
BnC	10	Bangor Very Stony Silt Loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
BnD	10	Bangor Very Stony Silt Loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
BoA	5	Biddeford Silt Loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
BrA	4	Burham Silt Loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
BuA	8	Buxton Silt Loam, 2 to 2 percent slopes
BuB	8	Buxton Silt Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
BuC	8	Buxton Silt Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
BxB	8	Buxton, Scantic, and Biddeford Stony Silt Loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
CaC	6	Canaan Extremely Rocky sandy Loam, Dark Materials, 5 to 15 percent slopes
CaE	6	Canaan Extremely Rocky sandy Loam, Dark Materials, 15 to 45 percent slopes
CcB	7	Colton Cobbly Sandy Loam, Dark Materials, 0 to 8 percent slopes
CcC	7	Colton Cobbly Sandy Loam, Dark Materials, 8 to 15 percent slopes
CcD	7	Colton Cobbly Sandy Loam, Dark Materials, 15 to 25 percent slopes
CcE	7	Colton Cobbly Sandy Loam, Dark Materials, 25 to 45 percent slopes
CnA	7	Colton Gravelly Sandy Loam, Dark Materials, 0 to 2 percent slopes
CnB	7	Colton Gravelly Sandy Loam, Dark Materials, 2 to 8 percent slopes
CnC	7	Colton Gravelly Sandy Loam, Dark Materials, 8 to 15 percent slopes
CnD	7	Colton Gravelly Sandy Loam, Dark Materials, 15 to 25 percent slopes
CnE	7	Colton Gravelly Sandy Loam, Dark Materials, 25 to 45 percent slopes
CsA	7	Colton Loamy Fine Sand, Dark Materials, 0 to 2 percent slopes
CsB	7	Colton Loamy Fine Sand, Dark Materials, 2 to 8 percent slopes
CsC	7	Colton Loamy Fine Sand, Dark Materials, 8 to 15 percent slopes
CsD	7	Colton Loamy Fine Sand, Dark Materials, 15 to 25 percent slopes
DaA	7	Daigle Silt Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
DaB	7	Daigle Silt Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
DaC	7	Daigle Silt Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
DgA	7	Daigle Stony Silt Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
DgB	7	Daigle Stony Silt Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
DgC	7	Daigle Stony Silt Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
DxA	10	Dixmont Silt Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
DxB	10	Dixmont Silt Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
DxC	10	Dixmont Silt Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
DyA	10	Dixmont Very Stony Silt Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
DyB	10	Dixmont Very Stony Silt Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
DyC	10	Dixmont Very Stony Silt Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
EwB	8	Elwood Fine Sandy Loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
Ha	9	Hadley Silt Loam
HbB	7	Hermon Sandy Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
HbC	7	Hermon Sandy Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
HdB	7	Hermon Sandy Loam, Moderately Deep, 2 to 8 percent slopes
HdC	7	Hermon Sandy Loam, Moderately Deep, 8 to 15 percent slopes
HeB	7	Hermon Very Stony Sandy Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
HeC	7	Hermon Very Stony Sandy Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
HeE	7	Hermon Very Stony Sandy Loam, 15 to 45 percent slopes
HhC	7	Hermon Extremely Stony Sandy Loam, 5 to 15 percent slopes
HoB	8	Howland Gravelly Loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
HoC	8	Howland Gravelly Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
HvB	8	Howland Very Stony Loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
HvC	8	Howland Very Stony Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
HvD	8	Howland Very Stony Loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes
Lk	7	Limerick Silt Loam
MaB	8	Machias Fine Sandy Loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
MbB	8	Madawaska Very Fine Sandy Loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
MeA	8	Melrose Fine Sandy Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
MeB	8	Melrose Fine Sandy Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
MeC	8	Melrose Fine Sandy Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
MoB	8	Monarda Silt Loam, 0 to 8 persent slopes
MrB	8	Monarda and Burham Very Stony Silt Loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes

MsC	8	Monarda and Burham Extremely Stony Silt Loam, 0 to 15 percent slopes
On	7	Ondawa Fine Sandy Loam
PgB	8	Plaisted Gravelly Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
PgC	8	Plaisted Gravelly Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
PgD	8	Plaisted Gravelly Loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes
PgE	8	Plaisted Gravelly Loam, 25 to 45 percent slopes
PhB	8	Perham Silt Loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
PhC	8	Perham Silt Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
PmB	8	Perham Stony Silt Loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
PmC	8	Perham Stony Silt Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
PrC	8	Plaisted Very Stony Loam, 5 to 15 percent slopes
PrE	8	Plaisted Very Stony Loam, 15 to 45 percent slopes
PxC	8	Plaisted Extremely Stony Loam, 5 to 15 percent slopes
Py	9	Podunk Fine Sandy Loam
RaB	8	Red Hook and Atherton Silt Loams, 0 to 8 percent slopes
RdB	8	Red Hook and Atherton Fine Sandy Loams, 0 to 8 percent slopes
Sa	6	Saco Silt Loam
ScB	7	Scantic Silt Loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
SeA	8	Stetson Fine Sandy Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
SeB	8	Stetson Fine Sandy Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
SeC	8	Stetson Fine Sandy Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
SeD	8	Stetson Fine Sandy Loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes
SfC	8	Stetson-Suffield Complex, 0 to 15 percent slopes
SfE	6	Stetson-Suffield Complex, 15 to 45 percent slopes
ShD	6	Stony Land, Hermon Material, Strongly Sloping
SpD	8	Stony Land, Plaisted Material, Strongly Sloping
SuA	8	Suffield Silt Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
SuB	8	Suffield Silt Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
SuC	8	Suffield Silt Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
SuC2	8	Suffield Silt Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes, Eroded
SuD	8	Suffield Silt Loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes
SuD2	8	Suffield Silt Loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, Eroded
SuE	8	Suffield Silt Loam, 25 to 45 percent slopes
SvA	8	Suffield Very Fine Sandy Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes
SvB	8	Suffield Very Fine Sandy Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
SvC	8	Suffield Very Fine Sandy Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
SvD	8	Suffield Very Fine Sandy Loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes
ThB	8	Thorndike Shaly Silt Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
ThC	8	Thorndike Shaly Silt Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
ThD	8	Thorndike Shaly Silt Loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes
ThE	8	Thorndike Shaly Silt Loam, 25 to 45 percent slopes
TkB	8	Thorndike Very Rocky Silt Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
TkC	8	Thorndike Very Rocky Silt Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
TvB	8	Thorndike Very Stony Silt Loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes
TvC	8	Thorndike Very Stony Silt Loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
TvD	8	Thorndike Very Stony Silt Loam, 15 to 35 percent slopes
Wn	9	Winooski Silt Loam

H.10.1 Woodland Productivity

The following table depicts the timber harvest activity within the town from 2002 to 2006.

TABLE H-4. Summary of Timber Harvest Information for the Town of Hermon

Year	Selection Harvest	Shelterwood Harvest	Clearcut Harvest	Total Harvest	Change of Land Use	Number of Timber Harvests
	acres	acres	acres	acres	acres	
2002	145	0	0	145	0	2

2003	240	0	0	240	0	5
2004	584	0	0	584	2	12
2005	474	0	0	474	2	12
2006	433	0	0	433	2	13
Totals					6	44

Source: Department of Conservation, Maine Forest Service

H.10.2 Existing Woodland Protection Measures

State legislation provides environmental guidelines and mandates shoreland zoning and subdivision which consider forestry issues. To reduce potential environmental problems resulting from woodlot and harvesting activities, Hermon will ensure that shoreland zoning and other ordinances are properly enforced and do not conflict with Best Management Practices. Moreover, appropriate performance standards will be developed to minimize environmental contamination such as encouraging local foresters to work in close cooperation with NRCS to ensure appropriate harvesting practices.

H.10.3 Tree Growth Tax Law

This program encourages landowners to retain and manage their woodlands, thus controlling sprawl. When managed properly, forested areas can be utilized for production and still provide wildlife habitats.

In addition to the Farm and Open Space Tax Program, the state also has a similar program for forestland. The Tree Growth Tax Law (Title 36, MRSA, Section 571, et seq.) provides for the valuation of land which has been classified as forestland on the basis of productivity value, rather than on fair market value. The tree growth program requires that the parcels be at least 10 acres and that the land is held for commercial use. If the property is removed from the program, a penalty is assessed against the property. This penalty is calculated based on the number of years the property was enrolled in the program and/or a percentage of fair market value upon the date of withdrawal. According to municipal records for fiscal year 2008**,** Hermon has 14 parcels of land classified under the state's Tree Growth program, consisting of 704 acres in total. These parcels were owned by 11 different landowners.

H.10.4 The Forest Practices Act

The State Forest Practices Act regulates timber-harvesting activities in forests that give protection to land by allowing tax incentives to owners of those lands who meet the appropriate definitions. However, forest resources adjacent to residential development will need to be protected (in order to preserve the residential character) with additional timber harvesting standards and at the discretion and application of the owners of parcels less than 500 acres but more than 10 acres in size. The Act

taxes forestland on the basis of its potential for annual wood production as opposed to an added value basis.

H.10.5 Project Canopy

Project Canopy is a cooperative effort of the Maine Forest Service and the Pine Tree State Arboretum. The program educates people about the benefits trees provide, and how trees make people's lives better. It connects people who have a particular expertise to people who need that expertise. Project Canopy also helps people talk about success stories, so that they can find the motivation and inspiration that is crucial for developing creative, long-term community forestry programs. Some examples of assistance available from the program include: helping recruit and organize volunteers; model community tree ordinances; assisting in fund-raising efforts; training tree stewards; providing street tree inventory software; helping communities appoint/elect a community tree warden; linking communities to other Maine communities with successful tree programs; providing lists of local foresters and arborists; building bridges to national community tree organizations; and assisting in development of a long-term community tree plan.

H.11 THREATS TO AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

With the combination of participation in tax shelters as previously described, designed to protect forest and agricultural resources along with the future zoning regulations will direct development away from these areas. Therefore properly directed future growth and development will not negatively affect any commercial farm and forestlands in the town of Hermon, as these activities within the community are located primarily in the rural areas.

H.12 WATER RESOURCES

H.12.1 Watersheds

The watershed is defined as a geographic region within which water drains into a particular river, stream or body of water and includes hills, lowlands, and the body of water into which the land drains. Approximately 50% of the land area in the State of Maine is located in a lake watershed.

All waters are connected. Unchecked pollution to one source will eventually affect all others within the watershed. It is important to remember that everything occurring in a watershed and everything that can be transported by water will eventually reach and impact the water quality of each water body. Development activities, such as construction (structures or roads) and timber harvesting disturb the land to some degree and can drain into a lake through streams and groundwater. These activities that may appear trivial at a first glance can impact the entire watershed. Disturbed or developed land can contribute non-point pollutants and other substances to water bodies and can degrade its water quality. Activity anywhere in the watershed, even several miles away, has the potential to impact water quality.

Please see the Water Resources Map in Appendix A.

H.12.2 Surface Water

Standing water or water running off or on the earth's surface - watersheds, floodplains, ponds, streams, and lakes - constitutes surface water resources. Runoff from precipitation is directed by topography which channels water - surface water flows perpendicular to contour lines - into brooks and streams which flow to lower elevations eventually collecting in small ponds, wetlands, and lakes who in turn drain into larger streams and rivers who return the water to the ocean. The area above a point on the land from where the water flows is called a watershed. Watersheds are drainage areas bounded by ridge lines. All surface waters have watersheds. Because of the cumulative effect of watersheds (smaller watersheds constituting a part of a larger watershed) alteration in any watershed, regardless of size, will affect the larger watershed of which it is part.

Hermon's watersheds are part of the Penobscot River watershed. More immediately, surface waters of Hermon flow either into the Souadabscook Stream, Wheeler Stream, or into the Black Stream (all which eventually flow into the Penobscot River).

H.12.3 Lakes and Ponds

Among Maine's most significant natural resources are its lakes and ponds. Fisheries, wildlife, recreation, scenic views and water supply are all benefits that the citizens of Maine and its visitors derive from the 5,779 lakes and ponds here. Development activities, such as house and road construction, timber harvesting and agricultural practices, disturb the land that is drained to a lake by streams and ground water (the watershed**).** It is important to minimize non-point source pollutions risks to protect water quality.

Water quality ratings developed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection are designed to be used in watershed planning to control the cumulative impact of runoff (Phosphorus) into waterbodies. While lakeside development has an impact on water quality, activities throughout the watershed ultimately impact water quality. The watershed boundaries extend beyond the shoreland zone and often extend beyond town boundaries. In 1992, the State Subdivision Law added criteria to require Planning Boards to review the long term, cumulative impact of phosphorus on lake water quality.

The system developed to manage phosphorus loading was designed with the assistance of the Maine DEP and requires modeling of the watershed. Water quality protection levels are set and new development must fall within its allocation or provide mitigation measures. By far the best solution is limiting development, as any mitigation measure has the potential to fail or be compromised over time.

Historically, the primary means of protecting lake water quality has been through phosphorus control planning. In this methodology, the lake watershed is modeled and anticipated development is calculated based on that development. The development has a specified phosphorous impact on the water body and therefore mitigation measures can be applied as development occurs. This scheme offers an equitable means of sharing the mitigation burden among multiple owners. The system's drawbacks are in: creation of the model and setting development forecasts which may be unrealistic; and the implementation and enforcement of the mitigation techniques. There following is a list of lakes and ponds fully or even partially located within the town of Hermon.

TABLE H-6. MAINE DEP PHOSPHORUS ALLOCATIONS FOR HERMON'S LAKES

LAKE	TOWN	DDA	ANAD	AAD	GF	D	F	WQC	LOP	C	FC	P	SWT
Ben Annis Pond	Hermon	202	70	132	0.25	33	1.23	mod-sensitive	m	1.00	1.23	0.037	8
George Pond	Hermon	7724	3000	4724	0.25	1181	37.22	mod-sensitive	m	1.00	37.22	0.032	295
Hermon Pond	Hermon	4329	600	3729	0.3	1119	24.91	poor-natural	m	2.00	49.82	0.045	280
Pug Pond	Hermon	56	28	28	0.25	7	0.37	mod-sensitive	m	1.00	0.37	0.053	2
Tracy Pond	Hermon	2238	1130	1108	0.25	277	12.92	mod-sensitive	m	1.00	12.92	0.047	69

Key:

DDA	Direct land drainage area in Township in acres
ANAD	Area not available for development in acres
AAD	Area available for development in acres (DDA - ANAD)
GF	Growth Factor
D	Area likely to be developed in acres (GF x AAD)
F	lbs. phosphorus allocated to towns share of watershed per ppb in lake
WQC	Water quality category
LOP	Level of Protection (h=high(coldwater fishery);m=medium)
C	Acceptable increase in lake's phosphorus concentration in ppb
FC	Allowable increase in annual phosphorus load to the lake (lb/year)
P	Per acre phosphorus allocation (FC/D) (lb/acre/year)
SWT	Small Watershed Threshold in acres

Hermon Pond is the largest and most developed pond in this area, and has been identified by the Maine DEP as a "Lake Most at Risk from New Development". Hermon Pond's shore frontage and watershed is shared by Hermon and Hampden. Hermon Pond has an approximate acreage of 442 acres, most of which is in Hermon. Please see the Water Resources Map in Appendix A for the locations of Hermon's water bodies.

H.12.4 Rivers, Streams, and Brooks

According to the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA), a river, stream, or brook is a channel that has defined banks (including a floodway and associated floodplain wetlands) created by the action of the surface water. Some water resources meeting this description may not be mapped.

Throughout Maine, these waters have been harnessed to produce electricity, benefiting all Maine citizens. Our rivers have also been used as dumping sites for the refuse of industry and waterfront communities, taking a heavy toll on water quality. Over the years, extensive efforts have been made to clean up Maine Rivers. Sewage treatment plants have been installed and upgraded. The amount of industrial wastewater has been reduced and is monitored. Businesses like canoeing and sport fishing have created a stream of tourist dollars to interior Maine. Maine Rivers are cleaner now than they have been in generations; however, there is still work to be done in protecting these resources.

To determine what portion of Maine's rivers, streams, brooks meet the goal of the Federal Clean Waters Act; MDEP uses bacteriological, dissolved oxygen, and aquatic life criteria. All river waters are classified into one of four categories: Class AA, A, B, and C. These classification are defined by legislation, with Class AA being the highest classification with outstanding quality and high levels of protection. Class C, on the other end of the spectrum, is suitable for recreation and fishing, yet has higher levels of bacteria and lower levels of oxygen. Below are the designate uses ascribed to Maine's water quality classifications:

> **Class AA:** Drinking water supply, recreation in and on the water, fishing, navigation and a natural and free flowing habitat for fish and other aquatic life.
>
> **Class A:** Drinking water supply, recreation in and on the water, fishing, industrial process and cooling water supply; hydroelectric power generation, navigation, and unimpaired habitat for fish and other aquatic life.
>
> **Class B:** Drinking water supply, recreation in and on the water, fishing, industrial process, and cooling water supply; hydroelectric power generation, navigation and unimpaired habitat for fish and other aquatic life.
>
> **Class C:** Drinking water supply, recreation in and on the water, fishing industrial process and cooling water supply; hydroelectric power generation, navigation, and a habitat for fish and other aquatic life.

There are many streams that flow within and through the town of Hermon. According to DEP Classifications, there are only class A streams in Hermon.

The following is a listing of the Rivers, Streams, and Brooks in Hermon:

- Souadabscook Stream
- Shaw Brook
- Wheeler Stream
- Tracy Pond Outlet
- Patten Stream
- Osgood Brook
- Black Stream

Please see the Water Resources Map in Appendix A for the locations of Hermon's larger rivers, streams and brooks.

H.12.5 Freshwater Wetlands

The term "wetlands" is defined under both state and federal laws as "those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils." Wetlands include freshwater swamps, bogs, marshes, heaths, swales, and meadows.

Wetlands are valuable not only for their beauty and their recreation opportunities they support, but also for critically important functions they perform in our environment. Wetlands are important to natural systems including water storage, flood conveyance, groundwater recharge and discharge, shoreline erosion control and water quality improvement. Wetlands are important to the public health, safety and welfare because they act as a filter, absorb excess water, serve as aquifer discharge areas, and provide critical habitats for a wide range of fish and wildlife. Wetlands are fragile natural resources. Even building on the edge of a wetland can have significant environmental consequences. Some wetlands have important recreational and educational value providing opportunities for fishing, boating, hunting, and environmental education. Planning efforts should take into account the constraints of these areas.

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) has identified wetlands located within Hermon, as illustrated on the Water Resources Map in Appendix A. The following is a list of the identified wetlands located within Hermon:

- Hermon Bog
- Land Surrounding Wheeler Stream
- Land Surrounding Black Stream
- Land Around Ben Annis Pond
- Land Around Georges Pond
- Land Around Pug Pond
- Outlet of Soudabscook Stream
- Land around Tracy Pond
- Land adjacent to Union Street

These wetlands were identified by aerial photo interpretation. Interpretations were confirmed by soil mapping and other wetland inventories. Field verification of the location and boundaries of the wetlands should be undertaken prior to development. The MDEP has jurisdiction over freshwater wetlands and floodplain wetlands under the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA)/Wetland Protection Rules and Site Location of Development Act. Finally, the Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Law provides protection to mapped non-forested wetlands, there is no longer a ten acre threshold associated with regulated freshwater wetlands.

Wetland alterations can contribute to wetland loss. The most common sources of alterations include commercial, residential and urban development; transportation and roads; floodplain development; pollution; peat mining; timber harvesting and agriculture.

H.12.6 Surface Water Protection

Protection of Hermon's surface water takes place at the local, state, and federal levels, and sometimes at more than one level simultaneously. At the local level, Hermon's surface water is protected through extensive local shore land zoning. Land use standards address erosion and sedimentation controls for all phases of development construction and refer to Best Management Practices for agricultural activities.

Surface water protection at the state level occurs through: Site Law, Public Water Supply Regulation, the Natural Resource Protection Act, Solid and Hazardous Waste Law, and Underground Storage Tank Regulation. Finally, protection at the federal level consists of: Wetlands Protection, the Clean Water Act, the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act.

H.12.7 Floodplains and Flood Protection Measures

Floodplains are defined as areas adjacent to a river, stream, lake, or pond, which can reasonably be expected to be covered at some time by floodwater. The primary function of floodplains is their ability to accommodate large volumes of water from nearby overflowing channels and dissipate the force of flow by reducing the rate of flow through a widening of the channel. A floodplain may also absorb and store a large amount of water, later becoming a source of aquifer recharge. Floodplains are a valuable resource for wildlife habitat, open space, outdoor recreation, and agriculture (highly fertile soils).

Flood prone areas are defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and represented by maps which indicate areas which are most likely to be flooded on an statistical average of once every one hundred years or once every five hundred years. Floodplains are the usual component of flood hazard areas and generally are gently sloping areas bordering water courses which accommodate large volumes of water during flood stages. Floodplains dissipate the energy of flowing water by widening the channel.

Development in flood hazard areas can increase the intensity of flooding by raising the level of flood waters through the reduction of floodplain area, obstructing the natural flow of flood water, and accelerating the speed of runoff. Furthermore, development in flood hazard areas exposes property to damage and in some cases destruction from the flooding. Under the National Flood Insurance Program, providing the municipality adopts an approved Flood Hazard Ordinance, existing properties within the flood hazard zone are eligible for insurance coverage. As a general rule, most flood prone areas in Hermon are adjacent to the Souadabscook Stream.

Development in floodplains, floodprone areas, and "special flood hazard areas" should be avoided. In addition, existing development and incompatible land use activities should not be permitted to expand and should be amortized for their eventual elimination, to the maximum extent possible. Both the State of Maine mandated Flood Hazard Ordinance and Shoreland Zoning are designed to discourage development within the designated 100 year floodplains. The purpose of such regulation is to reduce the potential loss of life and property which accompanies catastrophic flooding. In addition, the regulations reduce the potential for destruction of the associated floodplain wetlands.

The Town of Hermon has adopted minimum shore land standards, as required by the State Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act. This ordinance serves to protect the lakeshores, and non-tidal waters, by restricting building to reduce flood damage and problems. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Study, there are no major flooding problems in Hermon. The Future Land Use Map in Book 1 indicates the minimum 250 foot setback requirements for minimum Shoreland Zoning standards.

The Town of Hermon has adopted both a Flood Hazard Ordinance and Shoreland Zoning Ordinance which meet the state minimum guidelines.

H.12.8 Groundwater

Water which saturates the soil and bedrock is called ground water. Precipitation which hits the ground infiltrates the soil and slowly moves downward to the open spaces in both soil and rock. The rate at which water percolates into the ground depends on the porosity of both soil and bedrock. The upper area of where ground water occurs is called the water table. Water tables fluctuate depending on the season and amount of water in the ground. Ground water also flows in a fashion similar to surface water. Flowage of ground water is influenced by the types of material through which it flows.

Of more immediate importance to the planning process is the demand for ground water resources. The majority of Hermon residents gain their water from individual wells. The amount of water which a well yields is dependent on the material in which the well is located and the depth of the well. The average well yield for homes with one or two bathrooms is approximately 5 gallons per minute based on a well drilled to a depth of 150 feet with a six inch diameter casing. A typical bedrock well depth is in the range of 100 to 300 feet. Most well drillers in the State of Maine consider a depth of 300 feet to be the point to stop however, geologic information indicates only about 50% of the areas containing water occur in the upper 300 feet. However, drilling beyond 500 feet is unlikely to produce a successful well.

H.12.9 Aquifers

An aquifer is a geological unit capable of containing a usable amount of ground water. A significant ground water aquifer, as defined by the Maine State Legislature (38MRSA Chapter 3, Section 482, 4-D) an significant groundwater aquifer is "….a porous formation of ice-contact and glacial-outwash sand and gravel or bedrock that contains significant recoverable quantities of water which is likely to provide drinking water supplies." Aquifers are subsurface water supplies that yield useful quantities of ground water to wells and springs. Aquifers may be of two types: bedrock aquifers and sand and gravel aquifers.

A bedrock aquifer is adequate for small yields and a sand and gravel aquifer is a deposit of coarse-grained surface materials that, in all probability, can supply large volumes of groundwater. Boundaries are based on the best-known information and encompass areas that tend to be the principal groundwater recharge sites. Recharge to these specific aquifers, however, is likely to occur over a more extensive area than the aquifer itself.

In a bedrock aquifer, ground water is stored in fractures in the rock and areas with a large number of fractures may contain significant amounts of water. A bedrock aquifer is adequate for small yields.

These bedrock fractures are sufficiently abundant to provide enough water for a single-family home most everywhere in Maine, and most domestic water supplies are wells drilled in bedrock. Recent information on wells in Hermon indicate the average depth is 100-150 feet with a yield of 2 to 5 gallons per minute.

A sand and gravel aquifer is a deposit of coarse-grained surface materials that, in all probability, can supply large volumes of groundwater. The sand and gravel deposits of Maine result from the action of glacial ice and melt water. Boundaries are based on the best-known information and encompass areas that tend to be the principal groundwater recharge sites. Recharge to these specific aquifers, however, is likely to occur over a more extensive area than the aquifer itself.
The knowledge of locations for aquifers can be used to identify areas that are unfavorable for storage, disposal of wastes, toxic hazardous materials, or other land use activities. Sand and gravel aquifers generally store and yield a higher quantity and quality of groundwater than do bedrock wells. However, sand and gravel aquifers usually have a more permeable recharge area that is located closer to the ground surface than bedrock wells. As a result, wells drilled into sand and gravel aquifers can become contaminated more easily and impact a greater volume of water than bedrock wells.

The Maine Geological Survey identified sand and gravel aquifers within the town of Hermon, as shown on the Water Resources Map in Appendix A.
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H.12.10 Surface Water Quality

Surface water quality is usually a direct reflection of land use activities within its watershed. Land use (man-made) activities usually alter runoff characteristics, create additional erosion and sedimentation, and add phosphorous all which can affect the water quality (usually degrade) of surface waters. Runoff is influenced by the amount of rainfall, land form, and land cover. Erosion and sedimentation is influenced by the type of soil, topography and land cover. Phosphorous is a function of runoff, erosion and sedimentation, and human activity.

Specific information concerning the water quality of the various waterbodies in Hermon can be found below. This information is assembled from Maine's Department of Environmental Protection through the lake water quality monitoring program.

H.12.11 Water Pollution Sources

Water pollutants come in many forms. From dumping the simplest chemical down the drain to more serious commercial discharge of chemicals or pollutants into the water system, extensive mitigation actions to correct any damages done to a viable water source are extremely costly both in dollar amount and health to the community. Protection of our water resources is pivotal to the sustainability of any community. Monitoring and evaluating pollution sources both known and unknown are vital to the overall health and welfare of a community's water supply.

Surface water quality can be affected by point and non-point sources of pollution. Point sources of pollution are readily identifiable "points" on the land such as a pipe discharging effluent into a waterbody. Non-point sources generate pollutants over a wide area on the ground and pollute

surface waterbodies via runoff such as pesticide application to a large area and runoff introduces the chemicals into the drainage system.

Point Source discharges of pollution originate from municipal and industrial facilities, bypasses and overflow from municipal sewage systems, non-permitted and illegal dischargers, and produced water from oil and gas operations. Potential sources of ground water contamination are identified below.

Toxic Chemicals and Materials. Many chemicals and materials utilized for manufacturing or agricultural purposes, if stored in sufficient quantities, can represent a threat to ground water resources. Improper storage or a spill event can allow these toxic substances to enter the ground water system. Identification of concentrations of such materials and the development of proper storage systems can reduce the chance of ground water pollution resulting from a spill.

Salt and Sand Stock Piles. In recent years, the State of Maine has pursued the containment of road salt used by the state and municipalities. Careful location of road salt stockpiles and containment of all runoff from the stockpile is usually a successful method of reducing potential ground water contamination. Hermon is fortunate in having recently constructed a sand and salt storage facility which is in conformance with current state regulations.

Landfills. Solid waste disposal sites are often potential sources of ground water pollution. Leachate from operating or closed landfills often percolates through to pollute ground water supplies. Because leachate from landfills is often extremely toxic, this is of particular concern. The State of Maine has adopted an aggressive program of closing landfills which are improperly sited and monitoring existing landfills to provide early detection of potential ground water pollution. As of this date, Hermon's closed landfill is functioning properly and is not known to be releasing leachate into the ground water.

Underground Storage Tanks. Underground storage tanks are potential sources of ground water pollution due to the deterioration of the tanks. Many underground storage tanks are known to have rusted and subsequently leaked allowing their product to leach into the surrounding soil and into ground water supplies. An aggressive program undertaken by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection requires the registration of all underground storage tanks and the removal of discontinued or old tanks. New underground storage tanks are regulated as to their construction, monitoring, and installation by the DEP. To a lesser extent, above-ground storage tanks are also a threat if they leak. Their installation is regulated by the Department of Public Safety, Office of State Fire Marshall.

The following table provides information regarding registered underground storage tanks in Hermon.

TABLE H-7. KNOWN UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS IN HERMON

OWNER	LOCATION	TANK SIZE	PRODUCT STORED	YEAR INSTALLED
Applebee, Harold	Kelly Road	550	Regular Gasoline	1975

Bangor Drive-In	US Rte 2	1000	#2 Fuel Oil	1970
C. B. Kenworth	Odlin Rd	4000	Waste Oil	1988
Dysart's Service Inc.	Coldbrook Rd & Emerson Mill Rd and Coldbrook Rd & Odlin Rd	1. 20000 2. 4000 3. 20000 4. 20000 5. 10000 6. 5000 7. 5000 8. 4000 9. 1000 10. 10000 11. 10000 12. 15000	Diesel #2 Fuel Oil Diesel Diesel Un-leaded Prem. UnLd. Un-leaded+ Kerosene Lube Oil Lube Oil Lube Oil Waste Oil	1984 1988 1989 1989 1989 1989 1989 1989 1990 1990 1990 1990
Hermon High School	Billings Rd	1. 550 2. 600 3. 10000 4. 4000	#2 Fuel Oil Diesel #2 Fuel Oil UnLeaded	1955(1993) 1991 1989 1979
Hermon Elementary School	Billings Rd	10000	#2 Fuel Oil	1989
Hermon Exxon	US Rte 2	1. 8000 2. 8000 3. 8000	Un-Leaded Un-Leaded+ Prem. UnLd.	1987 1987 1987
Maine Propane	Coldbrook	4000	Diesel	1992
Northern ME Jct Mkt	US Rte 2	1. 6000 2. 6000	Un-Leaded Prem. Unld.	1987 1987
Plaisted Realty Tr.	2001 Hammond St	500	#2 Fuel Oil	1900(?)
Ryder Truck Rental	10 Freedom Parkway	1. 10000 2. 10000 3. 10000 4. 6000 5. 6000 6. 8000 7. 10000	Un-Leaded Diesel Diesel Waste Oil Waste Oil Lube Oil Diesel	1978 1978 1978 1978 1978 1978 1978
Country Market Inc	US Rte 2	1. 8000 2. 8000 3. 4000	Prem. UnLd. Un-Leaded Diesel	1983 1983 1983
VIP Waterbeds	Freedom Pk	1000	#2 Fuel Oil	1984
Clean Harbors	Freedom Pk	6000	Diesel	1989

Source: MeDEP Master List - Underground Tanks 03/09/93

Non-Point Source Pollution

Threats to water bodies include non-point source pollution through erosion and sedimentation resulting in an increase in phosphorus level. Erosion often occurs because of soil disturbances by people. Water-generated erosion causes the most severe damage when a site is undergoing

development. A serious consequence of erosion is sedimentation; sedimentation of water bodies can cause "algal blooms". Blooms occur when a water body has high concentrations of phosphorus attached to soil particles. All water bodies have the ability to absorb some phosphorus before there is an adverse impact on the quality of the water. However, when the phosphorus load to a lake becomes too great, the phosphorus acts as a fertilizer and causes algae to flourish.

Pollution from non-point source include agricultural run-off, both animal wastes and fertilizers, landfills, waste lagoons, roadside erosion, overly hard cutting of forestry resources, improper erosion control measures, leaking underground storage tanks, and hazardous substances. Identification and regulation of these sites are important in safeguarding both surface and ground waters.

Existing runoff characteristics can be changed, through land use activities, in several ways. The rate of runoff can be increased as a result of changing the natural vegetative cover from forest to grass or even pavement. By decreasing the amount of time it takes a drop of rain to flow over the land (changing land cover from forest to lawn or pavement increases the speed at which a rain drop will flow) creates an increase in the amount of water reaching the stream or river in a watershed. This increased amount of water arriving sooner than when the watershed was undeveloped can result in flooding due to the greater amount of water at a given point in time in the drainage system. Not only can flooding result but also the destruction of wildlife habitats.

Erosion and sedimentation is generally a result of land clearing and earth moving activities. Disturbance to the vegetative cover exposes the soil which in turn is eroded from runoff. Runoff carries the sediments eventually depositing them off site. Unurbanized drainage areas can produce an average of 200 to 500 tons of sediment per square mile per year, depending on the soil type - urbanized drainage areas can produce significantly higher amounts of sediment. Erosion and sedimentation results in the loss of soil from the site and deposition of sediment in an area which may be severely impacted by the sedimentation.

Sewage Contamination

Most of Hermon's residents obtain their water supply from individual wells and likewise dispose of their sewage through in ground septic systems. Septic systems utilize the natural filtering action of soil to treat sewage effluent. Improperly installed or malfunctioning septic systems can allow leachate to enter ground water before being treated by the soil. This can be especially true of porous soils and shallow to bedrock soils. Nitrogen and phosphorous are two nutrients commonly found in domestic sewage effluent. In highly porous soils only 20% to 30% of these compounds are removed. High nitrate concentrations in ground water can cause increased infant mortality. Phosphorous concentrations can increase algae in waterbodies.

Agricultural Wastes

Several instances of well contamination from agricultural wastes have occurred in Maine. Contamination by bacteria, nitrate, chloride and turbidity are often a result of a well located down slope from a barn and feedlot. Pollutants from these areas are successful in infiltrating the soil and fractured bedrock without being absorbed by the soil prior to permeating the well casing.

Herbicides and Pesticides
In some cases the application of herbicides or pesticides has been known to enter the ground water sooner than anticipated. Areas with highly permeable soils are particularly susceptible to this type of ground water pollution.

Natural Contaminants
Naturally occurring compounds found in groundwater can often, if found in sufficient concentrations, degrade the drinking water quality of ground water. Examples of these are: high iron content is often a result of iron-sulfide compounds; hard water is a result of excessive calcium carbonate in bedrock; radon gas is often found in granite bedrock; hydrogen sulfide gas is a result of rotting vegetation and can be found in wells drilled adjacent to wetlands; and some wells drilled inland are contaminated by high concentrations of sodium chloride which is believed to be a result of sea water trapped in rocks following the retreat of the last glacier (this is assuming the concentration of salt is not the result of human activities). Natural contaminants are not reported to be a problem with ground water in Hermon.

Excessive Ground Water Withdrawal
If extraction of water from a well is excessive this can cause the ground water level to change and actually create a cone around the well. It also creates a situation which would allow faster pollution to ground water as a result of the depression. While this is not currently a problem in Hermon, excessive development or the location of a heavy water user could deplete ground water resources.

Injection Wells
Injection wells are used to dispose of liquids through injection of the wells into the subsurface soil rather than through leaching from a field. Injection wells are governed by both state and federal regulations. The only know injection wells in Hermon are those termed Class V. Class V wells include: septic systems serving more than 20 person per day; floor drains discharging to soils, groundwater, or septic systems; cesspools; drainage or dry wells; abandoned wells not properly capped; and wells such as heat pumps with recirculating fluids entering the ground. To be approved for underground injection by the Maine DEP the discharge cannot cause ground water to become unfit for human consumption.

H.12.12 Groundwater Protection

It is important to protect groundwater from pollution and depletion. Once groundwater is contaminated, it is difficult, if not impossible, to clean. Contamination can eventually spread from groundwater to surface water and vice versa. Thus, it is important to take measures to prevent contamination before it occurs. Possible causes of aquifer and surface water contamination include faulty septic systems, road salt leaching into the ground, leaking above-ground or underground storage tanks, agricultural run-off of animal waste, auto salvage yards, and landfills. Protecting a groundwater resource and preventing contamination are the most effective and least expensive techniques for preserving a clean water supply for current and future uses.

Almost all groundwater contamination in Maine originates from non-point source pollution, rather than point source pollution. Most important non-point contamination sources include: agriculture, hazardous waste spill sites, landfills, petroleum products and leaking underground storage tanks, road-salt storage and application, septic systems, saltwater intrusion, shallow well injection, and

waste lagoons. In addition to these major sources, things as diverse as golf courses, cemeteries, dry cleaners, burned buildings, and automobile service stations are potential threats to groundwater.

Groundwater flows according to geology, not municipal boundaries. Consequently, it is essential that all communities sharing groundwater resources and their recharge zones should work together to protect them. This regional cooperation includes coordination between towns to ensure consistent regulations and enforcement regarding this resource and development of regional water quality protection plan, as appropriate.

Public drinking water consists of residential and commercial connections to the Bangor Water District and series of community and individual dug or drilled home or business wells.

Hermon has adopted State standard Shoreland Zoning regulations to protect the water resources of the community by placing these regulations upon development. The following is an abbreviated listing of water protection funding and assistance programs and descriptions of those programs.

The Small Community Grant Program provides grants to towns to help replace malfunctioning septic systems that are polluting a waterbody or causing a public nuisance. Grants can be used to fund from 25% to 100% of the design and construction costs, depending upon the income of the owners of the property, and the property's use.

The Maine Overboard Discharge Program was initiated by the Legislature (38 M.R.S.A. Section 411-A) to help fund replacement systems that would eliminate licensed overboard discharges in certain areas. Licensed overboard discharges are treated discharges, to surface bodies of water, of domestic pollutants not conveyed to a municipal or quasi-municipal wastewater treatment facility. A year-round residential overboard discharge will receive a grant of 90% of the project costs, a commercial overboard discharge will receive a grant of 50%, and a seasonal residential overboard discharge will receive a grant for 25% of the project costs. Project costs include engineering and construction costs.

The Maine State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF). The SRF provides low interest loans to municipalities and quasi-municipal corporations such as sanitary districts for construction of wastewater facilities. The SRF is funded by a combination of federal capitalization grant and state bond issue funds equal to 20% of the federal grant. State bond issues are approved by the voters in the State of Maine. The Maine Municipal Bond Bank (MMBB) is the financial manager for the SRF program. The primary purpose of the fund is to acquire, plan, design, construct, enlarge, repair and/or improve publicly-owned sewage collection systems, intercepting sewers, pumping stations, and wastewater treatment plants. State participation is limited to 80% of the project costs for wastewater treatment facilities, interceptor systems and outfalls. The word "expense" does not include costs relating to land acquisition or debt service, unless allowed under federal statutes and regulations. The commissioner is also authorized to grant an amount not to exceed 25% for preliminary planning or design of a pollution abatement program.

Surface Water Protection Projects. Maine has thousands of surface water bodies such as lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and coastal waters within its boundaries. Many of them are adjacent to or near highways. To help reduce pollution and other damage from those highways, the Maine

Department of Transportation has created a Surface Water Quality Protection Program (SWQPP). This program is funded under the Surface Transportation Program (STP), which is part of the federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) of 1998.

The funding can be used on what MaineDOT refers to as arterial, major and minor collector highways, which include most of the major highways in Maine. The SWQPP has two purposes. First, to identify potential project locations where surface water quality is being adversely impacted by runoff from highways, and, second, to select and prioritize potential pollution elimination projects for funding under this program.

Non-point Source Water Pollution Control Grants ("319"). The primary objective of NPS projects is to prevent or reduce nonpoint source pollutant loadings entering water resources so that beneficial uses of the water resources are maintained or restored. Maine public organizations such as state agencies, soil and water conservation districts, regional planning agencies, watershed districts, municipalities, and nonprofit (501(c)(3)) organizations are eligible to receive NPS grants.

This program invites proposals for the following three types of NPS projects:

- *NPS Watershed Project*: This project is designed so that Best Managing Practices (BMPs) are implemented in a manner that leads to a significant reduction in NPS pollutant load to a waterbody. The load reduction is intended to restore or protect water quality.
- *NPS Watershed Survey:* This project focuses on finding, describing, and prioritizing NPS pollution sources in a watershed, and recommends BMPs for correcting identified pollution sources.
- *Watershed Management Plan Development:* This project is to develop and produce a locally supported "Watershed Management Plan." The plan is intended to be a comprehensive plan of action to prompt use of BMPs to prevent or abate NPS pollution sources within a watershed or sub-watershed.

H.13 WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES HABITATS

The many habitats provided by Hermon's forests, fields, and wetlands create a wide diversity of wildlife and fisheries habitat. Wildlife is considered to be those species of birds, fish, mammals, etc. which naturally occur in a given area or environment and do not include domesticated animals or farm animals. Fisheries are considered to be those species of fish which naturally occur in the streams and ponds.

Conserving an array of habitats and their associated wildlife species helps in maintaining biological diversity and ensuring that wildlife and human populations remain healthy. To feed and reproduce, wildlife relies on a variety of food, cover, water and space. Development often has a negative impact, resulting in the loss of habitats and diversity, habitat fragmentation and loss of open space, and the loss of travel corridor.

Land use planning decisions in the context of wildlife and fisheries are generally structured to provide suitable habitats for production and maintenance of wildlife and fisheries as well as allow

for activities of man. There are two types of approaches to managing or protecting habitats one which is for the production of wildlife and fisheries for the subsequent hunting or harvesting by man; and the second which is for preservation or protection from man's intervention.

The Growth Management Act encourages municipalities to develop a comprehensive growth management plan to guide their future development and specifically requires that each plan address important wildlife habitats. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) has identified, evaluated and mapped habitats of endangered or threatened wildlife species; which include deer wintering areas (DWAs) and waterfowl and wading bird habitats. The Growth Management Act encourages municipalities to consider critical natural resource locations in their comprehensive plans.

Please see the Critical Habitat Map in Appendix A for the location of Hermon's Critical Wildlife Habitats.

H.13.1 Essential Wildlife Habitats

Essential Wildlife Habitats are defined under the Maine Endangered Species Act as a habitat "currently or historically providing physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species" as identified by Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. (MDIFW). The Maine Endangered Species Act is designed to protect threatened and endangered species.

Bald Eagle Nest Sites

Historically, Maine was home to hundreds of pairs of bald eagles nesting along undisturbed shorelines of the coast, lakes, and major rivers. However, largely due to DDT contamination, eagle populations declined so drastically that they were listed as an Endangered Species in 1978. As DDT residues in the environment dropped, bald eagles began to recover in Maine. Increasing losses of undisturbed nesting sites during the late 1980s, however, threatened further population growth and recovery of the species. Adequate numbers of young eagles must be produced from Maine's traditional eagle nesting sites if the population is to achieve a lasting recovery from Endangered or Threatened status. Loss of undisturbed nesting sites is now the greatest danger to Maine's eagle population. For this reason, designation of nest sites as essential habitat plays an important role in the recovery of Maine's bald eagle population.

State agencies and municipalities cannot permit, license, fund, or carry out projects which will significantly alter an Essential Habitat or violate protection guidelines adopted for the habitat. Concerns for Endangered and Threatened Species should be addressed during preliminary planning and existing municipal review procedures. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife offers guidance to municipalities when wildlife concerns are being addressed in comprehensive plans and town ordinances.

There is currently one Bald Eagle Nest site identified by IF&W within the Town of Hermon.

H.13.2 Rare and Exemplary Natural Communities

The Natural Areas Program is administered by the State Department of Conservation (DOC). The program includes Rare and Unique Botanical Features and Registered Critical Areas. Rare and

unique botanical features include the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered plant species and unique or exemplary natural communities. These features are ranged in four different ways: State Rarity (determined by the Maine Natural Areas Program), Global Rarity (determined by The Nature Conservancy), State Legal Status (according to 5 M.R.S.A. § 13076-13079) and Federal Status.

Features that have been identified in the past, but have not been seen, or field-verified, within the past 20 years are considered as historic rare, threatened or endangered plants. Because these areas have not been field verified there is no information available by which to map these areas. According to Maine Department of Conservation, Hermon Bog is listed as a Rare or Exemplary Natural Community (see Critical Habitat).

H.13.3 Significant Wildlife Habitat

Significant Wildlife habitats, as defined in the Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA), are illustrated on the Critical Habitat Map in Appendix A.

Deer Wintering Areas

In early winter, deer normally migrate to preferred wintering habitat, in some cases more than 20 miles from summer range. Without the protection of wintering habitat, deer are particularly vulnerable to severe winter weather and predators. It is essential to maintain sufficient amounts of high-quality wintering habitat in order to minimize the effects of severe winters, reduce deer losses during normal winters, and provide for a more sustainable population of deer to be enjoyed by all of Maine's people.

Because deer in Maine exist near the northern limit of the species' range, abnormally severe winters will inevitably cause periodic declines in deer abundance. In nearly all parts of Maine, deer populations are normally kept well below the capacity of the habitat to support deer. This ensures that deer remain productive, that they have access to high quality forages, and that they achieve near-optimum body size and condition prior to winter. MDIFW encourages landowners to develop a management plan for their lands to provide optimal winter and summer habitat for deer. MDIFW's has identified DWAs to ensure that town governments adequately address the protection of special habitats, such as deer wintering areas, at the town-level during the comprehensive planning process. Hermon has a number of MDIFW identified deer wintering areas that are shown on Critical Habitat Map in Appendix A. The value of Hermon's two large deer wintering areas are indeterminate.

Waterfowl and Wading Bird Habitat

Waterfowl and wading birds occupy areas of Maine for all or a portion of the year so it is necessary that efforts be taken to conserve their habitats. Populations of migratory waterfowl and wading birds in tidal habitats are surveyed annually by MDIFW biologists for various purposes. Nesting colonies are visited to determine presence or absence of birds, estimate numbers of breeding pairs, and evaluate condition of habitat. Populations for most species are either increasing or within the range of recently observed estimates. Nationwide waterfowl harvests have been declining since 1978, this has been partly by design as regulations have become more restrictive, but it also reflects declining hunter numbers and lower populations of some species.

Within Hermon there are multiple waterfowl and wading bird habitats (WWH), including nesting and feeding areas. The WWH in Hermon are value is indeterminate, and they are scattered throughout the community. The Critical Habitat Map in Appendix A shows the locations of Hermon's wading birds and waterfowl habitat.

Large Habitat Blocks

For the purposes of comprehensive planning, large habitat blocks are defined as "contiguous, undeveloped areas of 150 acres or more" and are relatively unbroken areas of habitat that include forest, grassland/agricultural land, and wetlands. "Unbroken" means that the habitat is crossed by few roads, and has relatively little development and human habitation. Some large habitat blocks are owned by a single landowner, but more typically several or many landowners' properties combine to create a single large undeveloped block. Because development quickly fragments these multi-owner blocks of habitat, it is important that the most critical of these areas are identified and adequately protected. Hermon's large habitat blocks are shown on the Critical Habitat Map in Appendix A.

H.13. 4 Fisheries

The following table lists the fishery habitat ratings for Hermon's water bodies.

H-8. Fisheries Ratings of Waterbodies in Hermon

Fisheries Ratings of Ponds in Hermon

Waterbody Name	Type	Management	Habitat Rating	Comments
Hermon Pond	Pond	WW	Moderate	Smelt are known to occur occasionally. All other species have natural repro- duction around shore. Brook trout occur sporadically.
Ben Annis Pond	Pond	WW	Moderate	Warm water species, nat. reproduction.
Tracy Pond	Pond	WW	Moderate	Warm water species, nat. reproduction.
George Pond	Pond	WW	Moderate	Warm water species, nat. reproduction.
Pug Pond	Pond	WW	Moderate	Indeterminate status
Souadabscook	Stream	WW	Moderate	Alewive run occurs in this watershed
Shaw Brook	Brook	WW	Low	
Wheeler Stream	Stream	WW	Moderate	This watershed has laminar flow through Hermon Bog
Tracy Pond Outlet	Stream	WW	Low	
Patten Stream	Stream	WW	Low	
Osgood Brook	Brook	WW/CW	Low	Tributary to Kenduskeag Stream and has Atlantic Salmon Possibilities.
Black Stream	Stream	WW/CW	High	Brook trout know to occur occasionally in this stream

Source - Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.
NOTES:

#1 CW = Coldwater fisheries management (salmonid species);
WW = Warmwater fisheries management (black bass, chain pickerel, perch, etc.)

#2 No specific spawning grounds are known, but because all warm water species, Smelt, and Alewives use these waters any one site has the potential for providing spawning capabilities.

H.14 MARINE RESOURCES

Hermon is not a coastal community and does not contain any marine resources.

H.15 UNIQUE NATURAL AREAS

Unique natural areas are specific places within Hermon which acknowledged by the State as representing special, unique or endangered animal, natural, or rare plant communities. As of July 31, 1989 the Maine Natural Heritage Program identified only one plant of importance in Hermon - the rare Mountain Laurel rarely found north of Lewiston. The location of the Mountain Laurel is known by the state and the land owner, however, the state does not release information on the location of rare plants and features in order to prevent possible loss of the resource.

H.16 SCENIC AREAS

Locating and identifying unique scenic areas is a difficult chore. Discussing scenic areas within Hermon yielded the concern for the disappearance of many scenic views as a result of the transition of open/farmland to woodland. In addition, most development has occurred along town roads which reduce the number of opportunities for preserving scenic vistas.

The town has determined the following areas to be Scenic areas of significance to the community:

1. Hermon Mountain - view over Hermon Pond and towards Bangor
2. Pleasant Hill - excellent day and night views to Bangor
3. Brainard Hill - enchanting night views of BIA, Bangor & Brewer
4. Hermon Pond - Jackson Beach
5. Crosby Gardens - Privately owned floral garden at the crest of Miller Hill
6. Ecotat Gardens
7. Garland Hill - looking ENE towards Carmel & Stetson
8. Newburgh Road - view of Hermon Pond looking south towards Fowler's Landing over & beside the Oxley's house.

H. 17 NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION MEASURES

H.17.1 The Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA)

The Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA) establishes a permit review process designed to provide protection of natural resources of statewide importance. The Act applies to the following protected natural resources: coastal wetlands and sand dunes; freshwater wetlands; great ponds; rivers, streams and brooks; fragile mountain areas, and significant wildlife habitat. The NRPA recognizes the significance of these natural resources to the State, in terms of their recreational, historical, and environmental value to present and future generations. The NRPA's intent is to prevent any unreasonable impact to, degradation of or destruction of the resources and to encourage their protection or enhancement.

H.17.2 Resource Conservation and Development Program

The Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D) encourages and improves the capability of civic leaders in designated RC&D areas to plan and carry out projects for resource conservation and community development. Program objectives focus on "quality of life" improvements achieved through natural resources conservation and community development. Such activities lead to sustainable communities, prudent land use, and the sound management and conservation of natural resources.

H.17.3 Wetlands Reserve Program

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private land in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring marginal land from agriculture.

H.17.4 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property.

H.17.5 The Mandatory Shoreland Zoning, Subdivision Control Law

State legislation sets forth certain land use criteria for agricultural and forestry activities in shore land areas and proposed subdivisions.

H.18 PLANNING PERSPECTIVES

Hermon has been participating in the regional Greenprinting effort to identify significant regional natural resources and ways to protect them, and should continue to participate in this important effort.

H.18.1 Geology

Bedrock geology is important in the planning process for identifying bedrock aquifers and the potential for seismic faults. Hermon does not have any known fault lines therefore it is not subject to immediate seismic activity. Bedrock aquifers while important to the town are not as easily identifiable as sand and gravel aquifers. Because of the predominant reliance on individual wells for water supplies in Hermon, potential pollution of bedrock aquifers is a concern. Identification of potential sources of pollutants should be made to reduce possible pollution of groundwater supplies.

Surficial geology has considerable significance for both the economy and ecology of Hermon. The competing values surficial geology play in the economy and the environment is why Hermon's surficial geology resources must be carefully considered in the planning process.

Surficial geology is important to Hermon's economy due to the value of the materials available for extraction. These four materials are sand, gravel, clay, and peat which are used primarily for construction with the exception of peat.

1. Sand and gravel is used in bituminous paving, fill, road base, and concrete aggregate. Sand and gravel is excavated from glacial-stream deposits- kames, eskers, deltas, and outwash plains.

   Sand and gravel is usually processed before use in the construction process. Processing includes screening, washing, crushing, and classification of the various particle sizes. It is estimated that a minimum of 600 gallons of water is necessary to remove the unwanted materials from a ton of sand and gravel. Of importance to a community hosting sand and gravel processing operations is the source of the processing water and the subsequent discharge of the sediment ladened water.

2. Clay is much smaller in particle size than sand or gravel and also consists of glacial-marine origins. Clay is used primarily for production of bricks, cement and pottery. Iron-oxide and organic impurities of the clay impart colors on the material causing it to be unacceptable for use in the paper making process. Clay deposits in Hermon are not currently being utilized on a commercial basis.

3. Peat consists of partially decayed plant material that accumulates in wetlands. It is used principally for as a soil conditioner for agricultural and horticultural purposes and is being dried and burned as a fuel source. The economic value of peat is determined by its ability to hold water, ash content, fiber content, and acidity

The most important ecological aspect of surficial geology is the susceptibility of surface and ground water pollution as a result of porous surficial deposits. Surface and ground water pollution is usually a result of land use activities such as mineral extraction or land development.

Mineral Extraction can affect both surface and ground water resources. Ground water resources are impacted by how deep sand and gravel extraction activities go into the ground. Exposing ground water through extraction activities can lead to pollutants gaining easy access to the ground water. Surface water is often affected during mineral extraction as a result of siltation and sedimentation caused during the processing of the materials and subsequent discharge of the sediment rich water.

Sand and gravel deposits often are aquifers or aquifer recharge areas which are particularly susceptible to pollutants from the surface. Considerable effort is underway statewide to identify significant sand and gravel aquifers in order to encourage development of protection techniques which would reduce exposing these areas to land use activities that potentially could discharge toxic pollutants into the aquifer. Pollution of the aquifer will directly effect those who draw their water from the aquifer. It is generally agreed that once an aquifer is polluted it is extremely difficult to clean it up.

Contamination by human activities of groundwater can often introduce high concentrations of pollutants and are indicated by raised levels of: nitrate- derived from sewage, animal wastes, fertilizers, and landfills; chloride- introduced from road salt, fertilizers, and landfill wastes; and specific conductance- which indicates the presence of dissolved, ionized contaminants.

Activities which can lead to groundwater pollution, if not properly conducted or sited, via the input of pollutants through sand and gravel deposits include:

b. Improper disposal of household and industrial wastes;
c. Improper storage and spreading of road salt;
d. Faulty septic systems or improper spreading of municipal wastewater sludge;
e. Stockpiling of animal wastes and spreading of animal wastes, fertilizers, and pesticides;
f. Leaching of waste-disposal lagoons;
g. Leaking fuel storage tanks;
h. Spills of toxic or hazardous materials; and
h. Over withdrawal of ground water near contaminated surface water.

Peat mining is another area of potential damage to ground and surface water resources as well as destruction of important ecological habitats in wetland areas. Although peat mining is not a wide spread activity in the State of Maine, the significant areas of wetlands and bogs within Hermon represent a possibility for future mining.

H.18.2 Soils

The extent of soils which have the natural restrictions of Hermon's soils are unusual for a Maine community. Concern raised about the soils in town is how much development can they handle before the soils no longer process on-site wastewater disposal. The methods proposed in the Soil Potential Ratings for Low Density Urban Development in Penobscot County for evaluating the capacity of soils to support onsite sewage disposal are extremely valuable as a planning tool. Developing density calculations based on soils and lot size may be a possible approach to this concern.

The other concern relative to soil is the potential loss of prime agricultural soils as a result of development and increased erosion and sedimentation as a result of development.

H.18.3 Wetlands

Wetlands are an important element in the environment for the functions and values they provide Hermon. Their attributes are:

1. Important for maintaining environmental quality;
2. Provide forage and shelter for migrating waterfowl and other types of animals;
3. Afford nesting areas for various types of birds;
4. Sustain habitats for beaver, muskrat, mink, and various fish and other animals;
5. Furnish habitats for aquatic life forms;
6. Absorb flood overflow;
7. Filter sediment and organic debris;
8. Purify chemical and biological elements;
9. Serve as recreational and educational resources; and
10. Act as recharge areas for ground water, streams, and ponds.

Increased awareness of the ecological value of wetlands in the environment and the attention wetlands are receiving on the national and state level is leading to protection of these resources being sought at all levels. As development pressure continues and land availability decreases, pressure to develop adjacent to or in a wetland will increase. Development adjacent to a wetland which negatively effects the wetland, such as through sedimentation, is often as detrimental as the actual direct filling of the wetland.

It should be noted that wetlands are afforded several levels of regulation by state and federal agencies.

1. State: Natural Resources Protection Act - The Natural Resources Protection Act regulates activities within or adjacent to wetlands which are ten acres or more in size or wetlands which are contiguous with a stream. The act requires a permit be issued for activities in a wetland and activities adjacent to a wetland which could cause soil to be washed into the wetland.

2. State & Town: Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act - The Shoreland Zoning Act was changed recently. It requires that appropriate zones be placed around wetlands which meet a definition specific to Shoreland Zoning. These zones will regulate the types and extent of activities within 250 feet of the upland edge of a freshwater wetland. An option in Maine law allows only zoning 75' upland from non-critical wetlands if the outlet stream is zoned Streamland protection for 75'. Given the amount of non-critical wetlands, serious consideration should be given to changing the zone of eleigible wetlands to reduce the impact upon property owners.

2. Federal: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act - The Army Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction over the discharge of fill materials into a wetland of **any** size. Permits must be obtained for any activities in a wetland from the Corps prior to commencement of the activity.

The extensive wetlands in Hermon are of both local and regional significance. Because of this their protection from improper development is important.

H.18.4 Water Resources

Ground and surface water resources of Hermon are extremely important for the future of the town. Besides the importance of maintaining high quality water resources for wildlife and environmental quality, human activity is reliant on obtaining drinkable water and disposing of effluent. Since the town is primarily rural and cannot support a community water supply or sewage disposal system in most parts of town it must rely on individual wells and septic systems.

Ground Water:

a. Increases in population and its subsequent development can adversely affect the quality of ground water through improper development and over withdrawal of ground water supplies;

b. Septic system failure and improperly installed systems can lead to increased nitrates;
c. Highly porous soils are the most likely to transmit pollutants to ground water;
d. Ground water should be checked for the presence of radon and other contaminants;
e. Spillage or improper discharge of stored chemicals can adversely affect ground water;
f. Improper siting of wells can lead to their pollution from surface sources;
g. Malfunctioning underground storage tanks are potential causes for ground water pollution;
h. Unsealed abandoned drilled wells are potential sources of ground water contamination;
i. Sand and gravel aquifers are sensitive to pollution; and
j. Close proximity of wells to septic leach fields can lead to pollution of wells.

Surface Water:

a. Surface water is susceptible to adverse impacts from development;
b. Pollutants discharged on the ground can make their way into surface water resources;
c. Changes in land cover will change the amount of time precipitation takes to flow through the drainage system;
d. Enlargement of areas covered by impermeable surfaces expands the amount of runoff and can increase the chance of flooding;
e. Changes in runoff characteristics within drainage areas alters natural flood control;
f. Agriculture and Forestry practices can result in creation of sedimentation and discharge of herbicides and pesticides;
g. Non-point and point discharges can add potential pollutants to surface waters; and
h. Development activities within a watershed can increase phosphorous loading.

Incorporation of erosion and sedimentation prevention measures as standard practice for all activities which disturb the soil should be a feature of any new land use and development standards adopted by the town. Phosphorous prevention and abatement measures should be a feature of subdivision and site plan review of any project proposed within the watersheds of the Great Ponds of the community.

H.18.5 Flood Hazard Areas

Hermon's flood hazard areas are located adjacent to the low lying areas of ponds, streams and wetlands. Development in these flood prone areas is not beneficial to the community for the following reasons:

1. Development in flood prone areas can subject land owners to periodic flooding and possible loss of property;

2. Flood hazard areas function as areas which dissipate hydraulic energy created during flooding. Development of such areas necessitates the release of the flood energy downstream often causing additional damage;

3. Development in flood hazard areas, if allowed, can be designed so as to minimize flood damage; and

4. Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program allows existing residents of flood hazard areas to obtain low cost flood insurance.

H.18.6 Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat

Planning for and managing wildlife habitats is a complex problem and challenge for the residents of Hermon. Due to the town's predominantly rural nature, wildlife is in relative abundance. The close proximity of Hermon to the more urban areas around and in Bangor makes the town's wildlife habitats much more important. Wildlife habitats are extremely sensitive to development. It is interesting to note that while human activity can destroy wildlife habitats so can it enhance them through the creation of a diverse landscape.

Potential impacts which can occur to wildlife habitats in Hermon include:

1. Decline in surface water quality can adversely impact both aquatic species and terrestrial species. Water quality can deteriorate as a result of pollution and sedimentation;
2. Removal of vegetation can eliminate cover and nesting/breeding areas;
3. Excessive timber harvesting activities can result in destruction of deer wintering yards;
4. Development activity planned for areas in or adjacent to identified significant wildlife habitats needs to be reviewed relative to its impact to the habitats;
5. The riparian zone (the area adjacent to wetlands and streams) is as important as the actual wildlife habitat;
6. Activities which fragment or divide wildlife habitats should be avoided;
7. Human activities during nesting or breeding times of certain wildlife can disrupt the natural cycle;
8. Loss of wetlands and other migratory bird stopover points can significantly disrupt natural migration patterns; and
9. Proper wildlife management can allow for the cohabitation of both man and animal.

Incorporation of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's guidelines for the protection of wildlife habitats into Hermon's development review process would assist the town in preventing destruction of existing significant wildlife habitats.

H.18.7 Unique Natural and Scenic Areas

Protection of unique natural and scenic areas is important to the community for the purpose of preserving these special resources for future generations. Current protection from destruction is either from Federal or State law. Local emphasis on preserving these resources as identified would increase public awareness of their value to residents of Hermon.

I. PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

STATE GOAL
To plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development.

I. 1 INTRODUCTION

Public facilities and services are provided by the municipality for the purposes of protecting the health, safety and welfare of its residents. The adequacy of these facilities and services directly affects the quality of life and the economic well-being of the community. Just as a business has capital investments, employees, and offers services, so do municipalities.

Public facilities and services have a direct relationship with property tax rates as services and facilities are usually funded through local tax revenues. Recent growth within the community has increased the demand for services and facilities typically extended by larger communities. Within the context of a community like Hermon, most residents do not expect the full range of services but must still be cognizant of increased expectations and plan for the provision of services to meet the growing needs of the community.

Among the challenges facing Hermon is the reconciling of the expectations of long-term residents as opposed to those of newcomers. The mindset of Hermon being a sleepy rural town of modest needs is inconsistent with its population being among the largest in the state. The Town's preference is to depend upon a business tax base to help keep property taxes down. That reliance in turn requires the public services and facilities to support those businesses and the public they attract. This has, in part, driven the development of the Hermon.net internet service for the whole town. It is anticipated that this will, in turn, be expanded to broadband capacity, and possibly phone service. While traditionally such services would have been left to the private sector, this provision is part of a strategy to support the Town's overall infrastructure.

This section reviews the existing public facilities and services provided by and available to the citizens and businesses of the community. Focused on estimating future needs based on anticipated growth and economic development, current facilities and services will be analyzed to determine if those facilities and services will adequately serve the needs of the town over the next ten years.

I. 2 TOWN GOVERNMENT

Hermon is part of State Senate District #32, State House District #23 and US Congressional District #2. For local governance, Hermon has a Manager/Council/Town Meeting form of government.

The Town's Charter (effective March 12, 1974; amended March 8, 1976, December 5, 1977, November 7, 1989, November 8, 1994, November 2, 1999, and November 8, 2005) changed the Town's administrative structure from a Board of Selectmen/Town Manager/Town Meeting style of organization to a Town Council/Town Manager type of governmental structure. The Charter retained Hermon's tradition of Annual and Special Town Meetings.

A town meeting is required for approval of:

1) the Annual Budget,
2) any appropriation of $25,000 or more over, or supplementary to the annual budget appropriation if designated to be drawn from Unrestricted Net Assets (fund balance),
3) the issuance of bonds or notes (except note in anticipation of taxes to be paid),
4) funding of a reserve account, or
5) the spending of more than $25,000 from a reserve account.

More information regarding financial operations of the town can be found in the following chapter of this Plan, Section J - Fiscal Capacity.

The annual town meeting is held on the Thursday following the 2nd Tuesday in June. At that time, the town budget which has been developed by the town administration is presented for a public hearing. If the Council subsequently adopts the budget, it is then put to the town meeting vote. The town's fiscal year ends on June 30.

The Town Charter also delineates the powers extended to the municipality for intergovernmental relations. Article I, Section 1.03 reads:

> "The Town may exercise any of its powers or perform any of its functions and may participate in the financing thereof, jointly or in cooperation, by contract or otherwise, with any one or more states or civil divisions or agencies thereof, or with the U.S. or any agency thereof."

This authority will be important in planning to meet some of the State of Maine growth management guidelines.

I.2.1 Establishment of Town Council

Section 2.13 of Hermon's Town Charter (as amended 11/8/94, effective 7/1/95) describes the powers entrusted to the Town Council. The Council's responsibilities include the appointment and removal of certain Town personnel, including the Town Manager. The Council is responsible for making, altering and repealing Town ordinances. Additional duties can be found in the Charter.

The Town Council is comprised of seven members, with the Chair and Vice Chairperson being elected by the Council. Each member serves a staggered three-year term with elections held on the second Tuesday in June. Council meetings are traditionally held on the first and third Thursday of each month, or as needed.

I.2.3 General Municipal Administration

Hermon's day-to-day municipal management is handled by the Town Manager and the municipal staff. The Town's administrative staff is housed at Town Hall. The Town office is in excellent condition but is quickly running out of room to efficiently deliver services to Town residents. At this time, the following full-time positions work at Town Hall: Town Manager, Town Clerk, three

Deputy Clerks, Finance Director, Tax Assessor, Code Enforcement Officer, Police Chief, Public Works foreman, and Recreation Director.

The Town Manager is responsible for administering the Town's routine business. Each department head reports directly to the Manager. The Town Manager also acts as the Tax Collector, Treasurer, General Assistance Director, and Road Commissioner.

The Town Clerk oversees the Town's daily administrative functioning, also acting as the Assistant Town Manager. The Town Clerk has historically been the registrar of voters as well, responsible for election information. Three Deputy Clerks assist the Town Clerk and are responsible for the recording of important information such as vital statistics and minutes from Town Council meetings. They also issue hunting and fishing licenses.

The Finance Director is responsible for payroll and oversight of town finances. The Finance Director administers health and other insurances, worker's compensation claims, and assists with routine personnel matters in a non-disciplinary role.

The Tax Assessor is responsible for appraising and assessing real and personal property for taxation within the Town, and for the administration and maintenance of all records necessary to the assessment program.

The Code Enforcement Officer is responsible for administration and technical oversight to ensure enforcement of all municipal codes, zoning ordinances and other related regulatory compliance issues.

The Recreation Director oversees the recreation programs for the Town. This function is carried out with a part-time assistant. Their work is further discussed in the Recreation section of this plan.

In all, there are approximately 198 full-time town employees, including 184 within the school department and 14 for the municipal side. The municipal budget, which includes the costs of administration and other assorted programs, is discussed in more depth in the Fiscal Capacity section of this plan.

I.2.4 Boards and Committees

The Town Council also makes annual appointments for local offices and appointments to short and long term local boards and project committees as needed. Many municipal appointments are filled on a volunteer service basis. The countless hours devoted by civic-minded volunteers are an integral element of the town's ability to maintain quality local services while striving to minimize local tax burden. The Town Council adopted a policy for setting up committees which is working well.

In addition to the election of persons to the Town Council, appointments and elections are held each year for various positions, Boards and Committees, with varying terms for each position.

The Town Council is responsible for appointing people to the following positions:

- Clerk of the Council is the Town Clerk or Deputy
- Town Treasurer
- Tax Collector
- Road Commissioner
- General Assistance Director
- Town Attorney

In addition, the Council appoints members of the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Board of Assessment Review.

The Town Manager is hired by the Town Council. The Town Manager is then responsible for appointing individuals to provide the services of the following positions.

- Town Clerk
- Tax Assessor
- department heads

The above positions/Boards are required by the Town Charter. The School Committee established by the Charter requires that five member be nominated and elected by the registered voters of the Town.

The Town Council has created following positions/Boards by ordinance.

a) Registrar of Voters
b) Code Enforcement Officer
c) Plumbing Inspector
d) Cemetery Sexton
e) Health Officer
f) Recreation Director
g) Fire Chief
h) Civil Emergency Preparedness Director
i) Public Works Department
j) Fire Department
k) Town Forest Fire Warden

I.2.5 Planning Board

The Town's Planning Board consists of five members and two alternate members. It meets the first and third Tuesdays of the month to review and decide upon any development proposals which require their review pursuant to state and/or local law.

The majority of local land use ordinance administration is carried out under Hermon's Land Use Ordinance and zoning map, approved in March 2000, with amendments approved by public hearing and Council vote. Hermon also adopted the State's shoreland zoning ordinance, uses the 1992 CABO (Council of American Building Officials) building code for 1- and 2-family residences, and the 1993 BOCA (Building Officials and Code Administrators) building code for commercial buildings.

I.2.6 Zoning Board of Appeals

The Local Zoning Appeals Board has powers over local review and decision making responsibilities pursuant to state and local law. The appeals board role plays an important function in the defensible administration of locally adopted land use ordinances. Continued appeals are handled under state law.

I.2.7 School Committee

The Hermon School Committee is elected by Hermon's registered voters. It has been responsible for the setting and deciding of policy to govern the administration of local education in accordance with local preference and applicable federal and state law.

At the time of writing this Plan, the Hermon School Department has been working with the Maine School Administrative District (MSAD) # 23, which includes Carmel and Levant, to comply with State statute LD 2323, the school administrative reorganization laws. Their proposal to create Regional School Unit (RSU 14) would include the creation of a 12-member RSU Board for RSU governance, with six members representing Hermon, and three each from Carmel and Levant.

As of January 2009, Hermon, Carmel, and Levant all voted not to consolidate. Options are being researched but in November 2009 the State will vote to repeal the consolidation law by citizen initiative.

I.2.8 Recreation Steering Committee

The mission of the Recreation Steering Committee is to identify and recommend improvements to the Recreation Director concerning Hermon's Recreational facilities and programs. It also has taken upon itself the role of promoting volunteerism in the community and laying the foundation for a community recreation center.

I.2.9 Building Committee

The Building Committee is a 'shared' Standing Committee reporting to the Town Council and/or the School Committee depending on the project being reviewed.

I.2.10 Other Council Committees

The Town Council creates and appoints members to other committees as it deems necessary to support the work of the Town. Some committees are ad hoc, others standing, each with members appointed by the Council. Among such committees are the following:

- Cemetery Committee
- Investment Committee
- Policy Review Committee
- Comprehensive Planning Committee
- Veteran's Memorial Committee
- Village Planning Committee.

I.3 MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS/FACILITIES

1.3.1 Hermon Town Office (333 Billings Road)

The Hermon Town Hall is located at 333 Billings Road. The building was originally constructed as a fire station but was converted to the Town Office in the early 1970's. The building was significantly remodeled and enlarged in 1990. The approximately 3000 square foot building added space for a council room and additional office space. In 2002 a minor renovation was completed with new flooring, paint, and a reoriented the front office, with a new computer system, server, and fiber optic cable installed. A new roof was installed in 2006.
The Town Hall currently houses the offices of the Town's administrative staff and records.

1.3.2 Fire Station (327 Billings Road)

The Hermon Fire and Rescue Department is located in the new safety building, incorporating police, fire, and rescue services. It is a 9,800-square-foot public safety building.

1.3.3 Public Works Garage (333 Billings Road)

The Town of Hermon Public Works garage is located adjacent to the town office and fire department. The 26' x 28' building, built in 1990, houses minimal equipment and storage space for the community. In 2003, a salt shed was built at same location.

Hermon is exploring the possibility of developing a full scale public works department; a needs assessment for such a department is being completed. As of July 2009, there will be three full-time public works employees, including a department head other than the Town Manager.

The Town continues to evaluate the costs and benefits of taking over snow removal operations. It remains a contracted service at this time.

1.3.4 Hermon Pond

Hermon Pond is a 462 acre freshwater lake, located primarily in the Hermon. The Town has discussed a land swap with neighboring town of Hampden to bring the pond's entire 25,791 foot circumference entirely within Hermon's town line. It appears that both Towns are agreeable in theory to the transaction, but definite discussions between the town governments have not taken place.

Hermon Pond is in the Souadabscook Stream Watershed. Its average depth is 10 feet, with a maximum depth of 17 feet. It is a recreational town gem, and home of the Town maintained Jackson Beach. In addition, it serves vital ecosystem functions for the Town.

1.3.5 Town Owned Land

There are 34 parcels of property owned by the town. Most are tax-acquired parcels of little or no value. The rest are the existing municipal and school lots and cemeteries. The following Table lists the developed or underdeveloped land owned by the town.

TABLE I-1. TOWN-OWNED PROPERTIES		
DEVELOPED		

Location	Acreage	Use
1621 Hammond Street	0.05	Pump Station
29 Billings Road	14.2	Middle School
2415 Route 2	40	High School
235 Billings Road	25	Elementary School
333 Billings Road	7	Town Office/Fire
262 Billings Road	1.13	Rescue **
Transfer Station	15	
UNDEVELOPED		
Location	Acreage	Use
Wheeler Road	7	
Freedom Parkway	9.25	Drainage
Lexington Drive	1.25	
Creamery Road	0.5	
Newburgh Road	0.64	
Off Ash Lane	21	
Off Route 2	16.5	
Off Klatte Road	13	Bog
New Boston Road	3	
2091 Route 2	0.2	Near end of
200 New Boston Rd	63	Transfer Station
Blackstream Road	0.6	
Blackstream Road	6	
231 Billings Road	39	Elementary School
466 Billings Road	1.1	Old Pit on Brainard Hill
Route 2	14.39	Water Shed
Fuller Road	6.34	Snow's Corner
Odlin Road	0.17	Pump Station
Route 2	6.08	By H.S. Fields
Concord Drive	1.31	
White Pine Drive/Rte2	5.28	
Timberview Drive	1.55	Stormwater Drainage
Pine Tree Road	1.07	Cemetery
Diesel Shop Road	5.16	Evergreen Cemetery

Union Street	4.59	Pleasant Hill Cemetery
Hopkins Road	0.87	Hermon Pond Cemetery
Billings Road	5.2	Hermon Rec. Fields**

I.4 MUNICIPAL SERVICES

1.4.1 Public Safety

Public safety services for the Town of Hermon include police protection, fire protection, and rescue coverage. The operations of these services will all be conducted under one roof, pursuant to public vote June 14, 2007 which approved the construction of a new Public Safety Building. However, day-to-day operations will remain unchanged for the immediate future.

1.4.2 Police Protection

The Town of Hermon, in cooperation with the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office, provides police protection services to the community. The funds the community policing program and receives support from Penobscot County in the form of detective, administrative, court officer, record-keeping and communication services. In addition, when a Hermon Deputy is not on duty, the Sheriff's Department provides zone deputy coverage. The contract between the Town and the County was updated in 2005, and is auto-renewing with Town Council oversight.

Presently the town employs three full-time deputies and several reserve deputies. The three full-time deputies provide 120 hours of weekly police coverage while there is an average of 64 hours per week available for reserve deputies to cover.

As the town grows, so does the need for additional police coverage. Calls for service continue to increase every year as well as the town's and general area's population. As the increased demand for services continues to expand, needs and capacity of the program will need to be addressed. Furthermore, with the concern for safety in schools and programs that are provided by police organizations, there is a growing need for a school resource police officer. This will need to be further examined by the town and the school system for the expanding responsibility for providing a deputy within the school system.

The Town and Penobscot County have worked cooperatively to develop a cost effective professional program. The Penobscot County Sheriffs Office commissions the qualified deputies after interviews, background checks, and oral boards as Deputy Sheriffs. The town provides the deputies for commission who have participated in the Maine Criminal Justice Academy's 100 hour reserve officer training course. All full time officers must have, or will have attended within one full year of full time employment, the Maine Criminal Justice Academy's Basic Law Enforcement Training Program. The Penobscot County Sheriffs Office is responsible for the on-going training

and certification of Deputies. The Sheriff's Office also helps in providing supervision when needed.

Through contractual agreement, Hermon provides all equipment, uniforms, insurance, vehicles, salaries, and benefits to the Deputies. The Town manager works closely with the Deputy Supervisor to assure that the program delivers the appropriate protection and services. When the Deputy Supervisor is not on duty, supervision is then the responsibility of the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office.

The Deputies assigned to the Town of Hermon utilize an office space within the Town Hall for its administrative purposes. Space within the town office is limited for expansion of the administrative services of the program. Future building and facilities needs for police protection within the town should be addressed on a town wide basis, and should involve the building and budget committees.

Hermon provides and maintains the following vehicles and equipment for the utilization of the Penobscot County Sheriffs Office:

Year	Make	Model/Type	Life Expectancy
2006	Ford	Crown Victoria	5 Years
2006	Ford	Crown Victoria	5 Years
2003	Ford	Crown Victoria	5 Years

As of 2006, the annual Hermon budget for services for police protection is $192,026. This amount continues to increase as the needs for police protection and coverage and the associated costs continue to increase.

The State Police are also called in and hold jurisdiction over the municipality and provide assistance to the residents of Hermon when necessary. Penobscot County Sheriff's Office provides E911 and the dispatching services for Police, Fire and Ambulance.

I.4.3 Fire Protection

The Town of Hermon is served by a Municipal Fire Department staffed by one full time chief, 30 "call" firefighters (6 officers, 25 firefighters) and one part-time firefighter/secretary position. In July 2007 a second full time position was authorized to provide a fire officer to handle day-to-day operations and assume the primary responsibility for the Department's training program.

Over 20 of the "Call" officers are certified Interior Firefighters. Hourly pay has been instituted for all "call" firefighters, with incentives for training, rank, and response to calls. This has aided the community in its efforts to provide excellent coverage to the community, while maintaining a stable recruitment and retention tool.

The Hermon Fire Department operates from a station located on Billings Road adjacent to the Town Office. The Town of Hermon owns and maintains five pieces of motorized fire apparatus:

Year	Make	Model/Type	Life Expectancy
1975		1000 gpm Pumper, 750 gal capacity	
1980		1250gpm Pumper, 750 gal capacity	
1989		500 gpm Tanker, 3000 gal capacity	
1996		1250 gpm Pumper, 1000 gal capacity	
1996		100 gpm Brush Truck, 50 gal capacity	

The Fire Department responds to more than 200 emergency calls per year. In addition the Department conducts scheduled training for its personnel a minimum of 24 times per year. Department members also participate in various community and regional events such as parades, musters, regional fire schools, etc.

The following table provides a break down of incidents responded to in 2006 and is indicative of the level of activity in recent years.

Structure Fires	6	Report of smoke	21
Auto accidents	61	False alarms	35
Grass/brush fires	17	Fuel spills	5
Vehicle fires	8	Service calls	21
Chimney fires	8	Miscellaneous	8
Electrical fires	19		
Mutual Aid rendered	23	Mutual Aid received	127

Water supply for firefighting is primarily from the stored quantities onboard the apparatus and from extraction from local water bodies. Water mains provided by the Bangor Water District serves the Southeast corner of Hermon along U.S. Route 2, including Freedom Park and the offices of the B & A Railroad and about half of the Northern Maine Junction neighborhood. This main has 43 pressurized hydrants in this area. There are also 20 Dry Hydrants located throughout the community to serve as additional water sources for fire suppression. The land use ordinance has development provisions that require developers to install fire ponds with dry hydrants for substantial developments.

The presence of a full time Chief within the department has allowed for extensive training for department members. Classes are held for both daytime and evening sessions to accommodate multiple work schedules to provide the broadest base for inclusion within the programs. These training opportunities have provided the Town of Hermon with one of the best "day crew" responses from any department within the area.

Although training for department members has allowed for increased weekday response and actions, the Chief identified that a majority of the towns call firefighters live or work outside of

Hermon; this raises the concern for increased response times. The new full-time fire officer will work primarily weekdays to help address this challenge

In addition, two Fire Science students now live at the fire station during the school year. They are full-time students at EMCC in the fire science program. They use the fire station as a dormitory, saving money. In return for the Town providing them with training and experience, they provide the Town with additional station coverage, responding immediately to emergency calls.

The Fire Department has a Junior Firefighters division which assists in providing response during the daytime. However, due to Maine labor law and OSHA standards, the Junior Firefighter program has become severely limited. The program still serves and provides an important support and safety role within the community, and many members stay active after they turn 18. Strong support for the Junior Firefighter program continues through municipal cooperation between the fire department and Hermon High School.

In addition to maintenance of equipment, responding to fires / incidents, and training every two weeks, a fire safety education program is conducted annually in classes K-5. Firefighters teach the "Learn Not To Burn" and NFPA/NEA other educational programs. The Department also conducts regular fire safety inspections of properties, particularly the commercial and industrial structures during the permitting process.

As the Town of Hermon's commercial and industrial base grows, provision must be made for its protection by monitoring the capacity of the water supply system to the Freedom Park area and Coldbrook Road/Odlin Road area, into the Industrial Park. Fully automatic fire suppression systems are now required in new commercial and industrial structures. Daytime coverage for the Coldbrook/Odlin Road and Freedom Park areas is supplemented by the Hampden and Bangor Fire Departments respectively. Hermon may with to consider other arrangements in the future. As growth continues along the Route 2 corridor, the community should consider the construction of a substation in the vicinity of Route 2 and Coldbrook Road to provide for an adequate response time and delivery of service.

I.4.4 Ambulance/Emergency Services

With its headquarters located on the Billings Road in Hermon, Hermon Rescue operates a independent volunteer ambulance crew. These 20 volunteers assist with day to day rescue operations on a call out basis within the community. Each member has varying degrees of certification, with their mission to provide 24 hour on-call services to the residents and visitors to the community. Supplemental Assistance is provided from the Hermon Fire Department, Bangor Fire Department, and Capital Ambulance.

Hermon Rescue owns and maintains the following vehicles and equipment for Rescue and Ambulatory services in the Town of Hermon.

Year	Make	Model/Type	Life Expectancy

1998	FORD	ROAD RESCUE	10 YRS
1998	FORD	ROAD RESCUE	10 YRS
2008	FORD	WHEEL COACH	20 YRS
1998	FORD	ROAD RESCUE	10 YRS

I.4.5 Enhanced 9-1-1

Hermon has renamed its road and physical addressing system in order for the town to realize the public safety benefit of the implementation of the Enhanced 9-1-1 (E 9-1-1) system. E9-1-1 service automatically displays a caller's address on a computer screen at a call-answering center. Also, the caller's telephone number will be displayed on screen and can automatically be redialed if the line is disconnected.

I.5 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

One of the most direct services the Town provides its residents is collection and disposal of municipal solid waste. Municipal solid waste (MSW) is trash, garbage or refuse and other discarded solid materials. The three main types of solid waste that Hermon manages are:

1) non-bulky weekly trash,
2) bulky wastes, and
3) hazardous household wastes.

The most cost effective and environmentally safe disposal of these potentially hazardous materials has become a significant issue for Hermon during the last decade. The management of this service has numerous challenges for the Town in required administrative time, and logistics of dealing with continuously changing regulations and marketing variables. According to municipal reports, the total expenditures for all solid waste disposal were $424,287 in 2003. Hermon appropriates tax revenue to pay for this service although surrounding towns have initiated 'user fees' such as pay-per-bag which pass major costs of collection and disposal along to the generator of the waste.

The Town of Hermon is a charter member of the Municipal Review Committee (MRC). MRC was organized in 1991 to ensure the continuing availability of long-term, reliable, safe and environmentally sound methods of solid waste disposal at stable and reasonable costs. In 2002, the Town of Hermon paid $5,818.00 in dues to MRC and received $66,368 in cash distributions. The MRC's waste disposal agreement with the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company's (PERC) facility in Orrington continues until March 31, 2018 and ensures stability for disposal costs. The MRC allows member communities to pay a net disposal cost of $45 per ton even when the actual tipping costs exceed that amount. In 2005, the actual tipping fees for the town of Hermon were calculated at $64.94 per ton.

I.5.1 Weekly Trash Collection and Disposal

The Town of Hermon currently contracts with a private hauler for weekly roadside trash collection of its municipal solid waste. Acceptable refuse includes items such as paper, wood, metal, paper materials that can be bundled, boxed, or contained, as well as small securely wrapped garbage,

flattened cardboard, and tires without rims. The Town expended $128,644 for trash collection and $258,335 for trash disposal at PERC in 2008.

The following table shows Hermon's historical tonnage from 2000 to 2005.

Year	Delivered Tonnage	Weekly Average	Percentage Change from previous year
2000	2744.9	52.7865385	-
2001	2690	51.7307692	-2%
2002	3109.3	59.7942308	13%
2003	3502.6	67.3576923	11%
2004	3552	68.3076923	1%
2005	3608	69.3846154	2%

Source: Municipal Review Committee and Town Records

I.5.2 Bulky Waste Collection and Disposal

Bulky wastes, commonly referred to as 'white goods' and 'brown goods', are made up of items too large for curbside pick up and materials that are unacceptable for PERC disposal. Items determined to be unacceptable for roadside collection may be taken to the transfer station (the former town landfill) on the New Boston Road.

I.5.3 Household Hazardous Waste and Universal Waste Collection and Disposal

Household hazardous wastes (HHW) are items generated by households that are corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive, and as such are hazardous to humans and/or the environment if disposed of improperly. Because these wastes are generated by households they have been exempt from hazardous waste regulation under state and federal hazardous waste management rules.

The town of Hermon participates in the regional HHW and Universal Disposal in the city of Bangor during the spring and fall.

I.5.4 Recycling and Composting Program

Throughout the early 1990s, the State increased its efforts to promote recycling through the Waste Management Act in an attempt to decrease both waste tonnage and disposal costs, to clean up landfill sites and to preserve and protect natural resources.

Each community in Maine is required to submit an annual report regarding its solid waste management practices. The State's objective is for all towns to achieve a 50% recycling rate. The following table shows Hermon's historical recycling rates.

TABLE I-2. TOWN OF HERMON RECYCLING RATES	
Year	**Rate**
2000	23.2
2001	23.7

2002	18.2
2003	13.8
2004	
2005	

Source: State Planning Office

Note: as of 2007 Hermon has chosen to go with the City of Bangor for single source recycling.

Recycling rates are provided from the State Planning Office, and are not considered by the community to be accurate and do not normally rely upon the variability of the numbers. The town recognizes that although they did not agree with the numbers provided by SPO, recycling efforts within the community can and should be increased. With the increased expenses associated with recycling and declining revenues from the sale of recyclable materials, the cost/benefit analysis for the recycling budget and program promises to be a continuing issue for the town.

I.6 STREET LIGHTING

Street lighting for Hermon is provided by both Central Maine Power and Bangor Hydro-Electric Company. Currently there are 115 street lights under the Central Maine Power and 35 under Bangor Hydro. It is an unwritten policy to provide street lights at intersections and blind corners.

I.7 ROAD MAINTENANCE

Road Maintenance is provided by municipal contract awarded annually for snowplowing, salt and sanding, as well as paving, and summer maintenance. Further information regarding road maintenance and transportation can be found in the transportation section of this plan.

I.8 WATER SUPPLY

For the most part Hermon does not have a municipal water supply. A portion of the community, from the Bangor/Hermon line to Northern Maine Junction, is currently served by the Bangor Water District, primarily along Route 2. The remaining portion of residences and businesses in Hermon obtain potable water from individual wells. Due to widely dispersed settlement patterns throughout town, a public water system throughout the community is not yet considered to be feasible.

Hermon currently services approximately 30% of the land area with water, with some need for expansion of the service area from Route 2 from Bangor to Coldbrook Road and Coldbrook Road back to I-95. In order to prepare for future needs Hermon has spent the past 10 years working with Bangor Water District to secure a well-head identified on the Carmel Town line along Route 2. Bangor Water District is currently doing tests to determine the actual capacity and needs if or when the well-head is developed.

The only local complaint in recent years is associated with road salt contamination of private wells. Most of these have been delt with through testing and installation of reverse osmosis water systems. The Town is aware of the issue and continues to work with residents to determine if road salt did contribute to the issue. Most times it is almost impossible to determine the cause without significant testing.

Presently there are no known significant ground water problems which would create the need for a community water system with the exception of Hermon Corner, where some concern has been raised regarding the density of wells and septic systems as well as possible ground water pollution resulting from underground petroleum storage tanks. In addition, the area east of the Montreal Maine and Atlantic Railroad line from Searsport on the MM&A RR property south of US Route 2 has had industrial pollution resulting in contaminated groundwater and surface water. This area will need to have water supplied if any significant change in the development pattern occurs in the future.

There are, however, several "public" water supplies which serve various developments. As defined by the Maine Department of Human Services, Division of Health Engineering a public water supply is a water distribution system that has at least 15 service connections or serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 30 days out of the year.

The following is a list of current facilities that are served by a public water supply:

- Big Hammond Street Campground (closed 1991)
- Pleasant Hill Campground
- Wheeler Stream Campground
- Pumpkin Patch Campground
- Hermon High School
- Hermon Elementary School

A community water system is a water distribution system that serves water to 25 people and/or 15 connections on a year-round basis or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents.

The following is a list of current facilities that are served by a community water system:

- Fuller Road Trailer Park
- Boulier Place (apartments)
- Ridgewood Apartments
- Dysart's Restaurant & Truck Stop

I.9 SEWAGE AND SEPTAGE

Northern Maine Junction, along Route 2 is served by an extension of the City of Bangor sewage collection system, however, a majority of the sewage disposal in the town of Hermon is in the form of individual septic systems or community systems. There are also several developments which have common on-site sewage disposal systems. As with a community water system, developing a community sewage collection and treatment system for the entire remaining portion of town would be prohibitively expensive because of the distances between dwelling units.

It is anticipated in the near future that growth will continue in the vicinity of the Odlin Road and the Coldbrook Road to the MM&A RR crossing. As increased development and lack of available

septics, this continued development will necessitate the need for developing a community sewage system or an extension of the City of Bangor collection system to that area. A significant wastewater problem area is the southeast shore of Hermon Pond (so-called Greek's Landing & Anna Baby Camps Landing) where provisions must be made to address malfunctioning, inadequate or non-existent disposal systems.

Septage from treatment tanks and residential septic tanks can be disposed of at local and regional disposal facilities.

Currently the Town Council is waiting on any extension of water or sewer but is aware that this will be a conversation for years to come.

I.10 EDUCATION

I.10.1 Recent History

In 1964-65 the school had a superintendent of schools who reported to a 5 member board which was called The Superintending School Committee. There was also another board which consisted of 5 members which was called The Hermon School District Directors.

About 1962, SAD 23 (Carmel-Levant) decided to sign a contract with the Hermon School Department to send their secondary students to Hermon High School. They were allowed to send two members to serve on the School Board to vote on Hermon High School articles.

Hermon School Department was a member of School Union 34 which consisted of Hermon and Glenburn.

I.10.2 School Budget

The Budget is first reviewed by the School Committee and voted on. Around the month of April each year the Committee and the Superintendent present the Budget to the Town Council. The Town Council reviews and votes to approve the amount of the School Budget. The School Budget is then brought to the annual Town Meeting in June. At the Town Meeting, the School Budget is voted on under a separate article from the Town Budget.

I.10.3 Schools

Hermon Elementary School (to be named the Patricia A. Duran Elementary School upon her retirement) was upgraded in 2003. It was originally built in 1951.

Hermon Middle School was built in 1952, and renovated in 2006.

Hermon High School was built in 1995.

I.10.4 Regional Educational Opportunities

Regional educational options include:

- University of Maine
- Eastern Maine Community College
- Husson College
- New England School of Communications
- Bangor Theological Seminary

I.11 HEALTH CARE

Within Hermon there are no hospitals or nursing homes. Town residents depend primarily on Bangor for health care needs. Some other health care options are available in Carmel and Hampden. Regional healthcare facilities are listed below.

1. **1. Sunbury Medical Associates**
2370 Route 2
Hermon, ME 04401
Telephone 848-9084
Day Clinic

2. **Eastern Maine Medical Center**
489 State Street, Bangor
telephone - 945-7000
425 beds

3. **St. Joseph Hospital**
360 Broadway, Bangor
telephone - 947-8311
97 beds

4. **MEDNOW - Urgent Care/Diagnostic Center**
303 Main Street, Orono
telephone - 866-5561 or 1-800-439-5561

5. **New England Home Health Care**
412 State Street, Bangor
telephone - 945-3374 or 1-800-287-0338

6. **Carmel Health Center**
Main Rd., Carmel
telephone - 848-7501

7. **Bangor Women's Health Center**
700 Mt. Hope Avenue, Bangor
telephone - 942-9660

8. Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center
6 State Street, Bangor
telephone - 947-5337

9. Dorothy Dix Mental Health Institute
State Street, Bangor
telephone - 941-4000

I.12 CEMETERIES

Hermon has the following five cemeteries that are maintained by the town. There is a need for additional cemetery space in Hermon.

	SIZE in ACRES	Available Space in Acres	Space Needed	PLOTS	CAPACITY	Additional Grave sites Available
Snow Corner	6.34					35
Pine Tree Road	1.07				FULL	Closed
Diesel Shop (Evergreen Cemetery)	5.16					200
Pleasant Hill North Hermon	4.**59**					0 potential lots available in extension at west boundary line
Hermon Pond	.87				FULL	Closed
				Total		

I.13 MAIL DELIVERY

Hermon (04401 and 04402) receives its mail delivery through the United States Post Office. Rural Delivery routes deliver mail town wide. Residents may also receive mail through Post Office Boxes located at C&K Variety Store on the corner of the Billings Road and Route 2 or at other local communities Post Offices. We still want our own real post office.

I.14 PUBLIC UTILITIES AND SERVICES

I.14.1 Electrical Service

Electrical Service in Hermon is provided by Central Maine Power and Bangor Hydro-Electric Company Bangor Hydro electric provides service to customers on Union Street from the Bangor line to a point .1 mile south of the junction with Valley Avenue; to all customers along

Outer Hammond Street as far as Bog Road, and along Bog Road from the Hampden boundary to a point .2 miles west of Treadwell Acres. All other Hermon consumers are served by Central Maine Power Company.

I.14.2 Communications

Communication systems are especially important for a diverse community such as Hermon. The ability to distribute community information and news efficiently and timely is the mainstay of keeping residents informed about town events and issues.

1. **Telephone Service -** Service is available throughout the community through a wide variety of local and long distance hard line, cellular, and VoIP carriers and companies. Residents are free to choose their telephone services.

2. **Print Media**

Bangor Daily News (daily)	Portland Sunday Telegram (Sunday)
Bangor Metro Magazine	Maine Biz Magazine
Hermon Connection	

3. **Internet Providers -** There are a number of local Internet providers in the area that provide dialup, broadband, cable and satellite internet services to the community. The Town of Hermon, through its contractual arrangement with Hermon Wireless with Redzone, provides dial-up internet service to all town residents free of charge and is expanding the service by providing wireless internet service .

4. **Television and Cable -** The following is a list of local area television stations along with National Affiliations; these channels are available from antenna.

   WLBZ Channel 2; BANGOR, ME; (NBC Affiliate)
   WABI-TV Channel 5; BANGOR, ME; (CBS Affiliate)
   WVII-TV Channel 7; BANGOR, ME; (ABC Affiliate)
   WMEB-TV Channel 12; ORONO, ME; (Maine Public Broadcasting)
   WCKD-LP Channel 30; BANGOR, ME;
   WBGR-LP Channel 33; BANGOR, ME;
   W36CK Channel 36; BANGOR, ME;

   Cable access is available throughout a majority of the community, and provided through a franchise agreement with Time/Warner Cable Corporation. Channel line up is subject to change and a wide variety of additional pay-per-view channels, movies and other services are available

5. **Radio Stations** - Hermon does not have any radio stations broadcasting or based within the confines of the Town, yet is served by these local AM and FM stations, and various satellite radio services:

A. AM Stations (news/talk, 50&60's album oriented rock, easy listening, and jazz)

WZON 620 AM; 5 kW; BANGOR, ME;
WABI 910 AM; 5 kW; BANGOR, ME;
WSKW 1160 AM; 10 kW; SKOWHEGAN, ME;
WNZS 1340 AM; 1 kW; VEAZIE, ME;
WDEA 1370 AM; 5 kW; ELLSWORTH, ME;
WRKO 680 AM; 50 kW; BOSTON, MA;
WEEI 850 AM; 50 kW; BOSTON, MA;
WBZ 1030 AM; 50 kW; BOSTON, MA;
WTME 780 AM; 10 kW; RUMFORD, ME;
WCRN 830 AM; 50 kW; WORCESTER, MA;
WFAU 1280 AM; 5 kW; GARDINER, ME;
WNNZ 640 AM; 50 kW; WESTFIELD, MA;
WKOX 1200 AM; 50 kW; FRAMINGHAM, MA;

B. FM Stations (inspirational, gospel, general music, public radio, contemporary, oldies, country, rock, classic rock, rap, hip/hop

WWBX 97.1 FM; BANGOR, ME;
WBFB 104.7 FM; BELFAST, ME;
WKIT-FM 100.3 FM; BREWER, ME;
WWMJ 95.7 FM; ELLSWORTH, ME;
WQCB 106.5 FM; BREWER, ME;
WVOM 103.9 FM; HOWLAND,
MEWFZX 101.7 FM; SEARSPORT, ME;
WMEH 90.9 FM; BANGOR, ME;
WBZN 107.3 FM; OLD TOWN, ME;
WEZQ 92.9 FM; BANGOR, ME;
WHCF 88.5 FM; BANGOR, ME;
WERU-FM(89.9 FM; BLUE HILL, ME;
WMEP 90.5 FM; CAMDEN, ME;
WQSS 102.5 FM; CAMDEN, ME;
WGUY 102.1 FM; DEXTER, ME;
WHSN 89.3 FM; BANGOR, ME;
W275AE 102.9 FM; BANGOR, ME;
W218BJ 91.5 FM; BANGOR, ME;

I. 15 PLANNING PERSPECTIVES

Achieving a balance between the levels of public services desired in the community and the ability to fund the facility or service through tax revenues is usually difficult at best. As a diverse community, Hermon struggles to maintain a low tax rate, as desired by the community, with the conflicting desire by the community for expanded services.

New public utilities, in the form of sewer and water, must be installed or expanded in the Coldbrook Road & Odlin Road areas if the new industrial park area is to be developed. Extension of utility services from Bangor may be difficult as both the sewer and water systems are facing capacity problems due to a variety of reasons.

Solid waste disposal represents a more complex issue. The search for a regional demolition/construction debris site is of considerable importance as there are few alternatives available for disposal of such materials. The beginnings of a recycling program are an important step toward reducing the amount of solid waste which needs to be disposed of and increasing the amounts of available recycled materials.

Public safety offers other challenges to the community. While the residents of Hermon are generally satisfied with the level of service provided by the volunteer fire department, consolidation with rescue is still a high priority from some residents, increased training mandates by the State are pushing the department into examining the need for providing some form of compensation to its members. As Hermon continues to grow, establishing a full-time/part-time fire department may be an option to contemplate. This concept utilizes a skeleton crew of full-time fire fighters who staff the station while volunteers make up the full manpower complement. In the short term, the addition of a full-time fire chief or public safety director appears in order (See Appendices I & J for the reports of the Town Council appointed committees which have studied the issue. As with fire protection, full-time police protection also carries a high price tag. Establishing a full-time police department is an expensive undertaking considering training, manpower, and equipment needs. The new Community Policing Contract bridges the gap at a somewhat higher cost level without requiring the high expense of an independent municipal police force.

Communication is important as a means of disseminating information. As a town with two postal addresses and zip codes, both out of town, a common means of communication is not easily obtainable. With the advent of cable television, utilization of the public access channel will facilitate direct communication about town activities, programs, and events.

Education and the Hermon School system is an important issue in town. There is considerable pride in the effort made by residents of Hermon in support of the School Department. As Hermon continues to grow the new High School will act as a symbol of Hermon's progress into the twenty-first century. While the state pays for a substantial part of the cost of the school construction, Hermon will also need to repay the long term debt.

Although there is adequate space in the various cemeteries about town for the immediate future, efforts should be made to examine potential sites for either expansion of the existing cemeteries and/or acquisition of new sites.

Town buildings are currently adequate for existing uses. As Hermon continues to grow the need for additional town office space, additional public works space and other space needs will also increase. Planning and predicting when the need for additional space will become critical is important.

Expanding and Improving the capital improvement budget would assist the town manager, town council and budget committee in determining needed capital expenditures on a yearly basis as well as funding the improvements within municipal budgetary constraints.

Use of committees established for specific projects has proven very effective in dealing with various municipal problems and issues. Because of the demands placed on the town manager, staff, and town council, continued use of committees to assist in management of the town is recommended. As long as the current process to develop a policy for creating committees is implemented.

As municipal government becomes more complex, the level of expertise demanded of the town staff increases. As new programs, regulations, and services are either adopted or imposed upon the town, care should be taken to insure there are adequate experienced staff and the infrastructure to handle the increased workload. In addition, the town should identify opportunities to work with neighboring communities to find ways to save money by sharing services and partnering where possible.

J. FISCAL CAPACITY AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN

J.1 ANALYSIS AND KEY ISSUES

(Note: The questions in italics are from Chapter 208: Comprehensive Plan Review Criteria Rule, Section 4.11)

1. *Are tax revenues from new development offsetting the cost of needed additional services and capital investments?*

Two areas that the Town tracks could answer this question. First, LD1:

- In its first year the levy limit for Hermon was $508,299. Hermon only used $289,080.
- In its second year the levy limit for Hermon was $547,590. Hermon only used $173,466.
- Last year or the third the limit was $599,987. Hermon only used $492,588, however, it should be noted that through consensus of the Town Council and School Department the Town budget carried $315,500 more for school related items. Since Schools are a municipal department the town carried these cost to lower the schools spending. This is viewed as one time item and to create a better comparison the town's used amount of levy is more comparable at $177,088.

Second, is the Town's use of the residential tax bill. This table shows the percent change by year in residential bills, averaging all residences in Hermon. There are ups and downs but overall the 2003 average residential tax bill was higher than in 2007 projected bills. Overall, this shows that Hermon can keep a stable residential tax bill while providing for increased demands on services.

YEAR	TOTAL #	TOTAL VALUE	VALUE PER PROP.	MILL RATE	TAX BILL	% CHANGE
2003	1656	$ 68,199,200.00	$ 101,569.57	15.25	$ 1,548.94	
2004	1694	$ 82,143,900.00	$ 107,522.96	15.65	$ 1,682.73	7.95
2005	1751	$ 97,783,200.00	$ 112,954.43	14.25	$ 1,609.60	-4.54
2006	1775	$ 35,059,400.00	$ 132,427.83	12.4	$ 1,642.11	1.98
2007	*1775*	*$ 35,059,400.00*	*$ 132,427.83*	*11.4*	*$ 1,509.68*	*-8.77*

Overall, it must be noted that in growth such as Hermon is experiencing that increasing services are constant burden on taxes. They must me monitored and very proactively dealt with or the impacts can get out of hand quickly. The recent efforts by staff and council have created a very intricate but common sense approach to monitor these costs.

2. *What are the capital investment and budgeting priorities identified in other sections of the plan?*

1. The Town has scene a need for more administrative office space but the reserve plan is based upon $10,000 a year for ten years and at the current rate there will not be any money in this account in 10 years because it is being spent on current needs.
2. Recreation or Community Center. A committee is working on this and it could have significant impact. No budget or financing plan at this time.
3. Increased funding for rescue services. The manner or desire has not been solidified but there are decades worth of minutes on the issue. It seems like something may be coming.
4. Public Works is under lots of strain. How this evolves is under review but we may need to invest in a building and a substantial amount of equipment. There is a few hundred thousand in reserves.
5. The recent success of trails is creating a swell for doing more. At current there is no significant reserve.
6. A Committee is reviewing the need and costs for new Veteran's Memorial.
7. Another committee is considering a plan for a village master plan that will have capital costs.
8. Recent year's researched water and sewer expansion but last spring the cost was considered too high, but conversations and research continue. Cost is estimated around $5,000,000.
9. Road projects continue and the Billings road and Route 2 continue to be high priorities that may have more need for local contributions if the town wants the project they desire in a timely fashion.

3. *What changes in the Town's tax base are anticipated and how will it affect the community? What impact do tax-exempt properties and tax incentive programs have on taxes?*

First, the Town should anticipate slowed, on a Hermon scale, growth but regional and state wide will continue to grow residentially and commercially. First, new subdivisions have been added at the same rate for many years. Business park space is adequate and expanding so commercial growth should continue. Also the village is seeing commercial growth too which is new to Hermon. Grocery stores, Dunkin Donuts, gas stations, medical clinics, credit unions, etc. Space is limited at Coldbrook Business Park and Freedom Park at this time. There is expansion potential at the Coldbrook location; however, wetlands, permitting and utility extension costs pose constraints. Pinewood Business Park has much undeveloped commercially zoned land. The initial Pinewood subdivision plan provided seven lots, all of which are sold and/or under construction. A subdivision expansion plan is planned for 2007. Buildings in this park are built and owned by the park developer. The Town may want to consider ways to work more aggressively with business park developers to share infrastructure costs and to encourage specific types of business development such as a professional office park.

There is minimal impact in Hermon from tax exempt properties.

TIF's are working well in Hermon. The sheltered funds in business parks are contributing to the debt service for expanded water and sewer lines. However, the Village has had few projects now and the Council recently requested a committee to develop a master plan. These costs will be paid by the sheltered funds. How these projects develop in the next few years will be crucial. Hermon has been aggressive in its use of Tax Increment Financing for new businesses and expansions. This business incentive tool has helped encourage commercial growth and job creation in Hermon and has assisted developers with revenue to offset capital costs. Over the term of the TIF programs, this sheltering of new value will save the community millions of dollars to be used on development related activities such as debt service for the water and sewer extensions.

4. *How do we fund capital investments? How will future investments identified in the plan be funded? Does Hermon have impact fee ordinances?*

Capital Investments are funded through reserves. Traditionally this is a budgeted amount in the annual budget that is funded through taxes. Also, Hermon has strong fiscal rules that create high fund balance amounts that on occasion are transferred to specific investments. Recently the town adopted a fund balance policy that is much more structured and clear on funding projects through excess fund balances. Also, the Town typically bonds larger projects such as water and sewer infrastructure.

Future investments at this time would be funded the same way as above. The most challenging aspect of long-term planning is consistently between council and community. In a small-growing town it is hard to balance capital projects and responsible fiscal goals when many concentrate on the short-term impacts to taxes. The biggest area is a project the Council identifies it wants to save for still needs town approval for spending. Even in the event that bonding a project results in better financial outcomes, Hermon in many cases prefers to have the resources before they are spent.

Hermon does not have an impact fee ordinance.
In order for Hermon to enact an impact fee ordinance we must first consider:

- Identify capital improvements such as wastewater collection, water facilities, fire protection, roads and traffic control or even parks and recreational space.
- A capital investment plan should prioritize these future needs.
- Must determine the cost of the proposed improvements
- Determine benefit zones and boundaries
- What type of development should be assessed a fee
- Are there alternative funding sources and will an impact fee be a disincentive to development
- What will be the impact on Hermon's economic development goals

5. *Does the Town have sufficient borrowing capacity?*

Yes.

6. *How do school and county administrative assessments affect local ability to finance?*

Minimal actual impact but indirectly huge. A large portion of property taxes goes to school and taxes. In 2006 it was 90.1 School, 7.9 County, and 2.0 town. In 2007 this will change but of the $492,588 needed from taxes for Town $315,500 were supplemental capital costs to schools carried by the Town.

J.2 CONDITIONS AND TRENDS

(Note: The items in italics are from Chapter 208: Comprehensive Plan Review Criteria Rule, Section 4.11)

1. *Identify community revenues and expenditures by category for the last 5 years and explain trends.*

EXPENSES					
Account	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
10 - GENERAL GOV	$470,352.12	$494,734.84	$527,083.80	$589,065.57	$601,509.21
11 - ECON DEVEL	$55,300.91	$51,851.34	$52,792.80	$57,549.58	$319,030.90
12 - PUBLIC SAFE	$343,552.04	$338,202.58	$428,348.82	$437,528.35	$528,917.83
13 - PUBLIC WKS	$563,993.57	$548,023.60	$580,382.67	$676,319.94	$765,622.45
14 - SOLID WASTE	$342,256.44	$347,640.45	$395,956.19	$438,838.96	$465,234.17
15 - REC/SOC SER	$67,413.81	$81,477.60	$82,642.71	$86,133.20	$145,809.84
16 - DEBT SERV	$151,543.10	$147,832.93	$144,077.80	$140,277.72	$136,477.65
17 - CAP IMPROVE	$311,925.00	$416,225.00	$416,225.00	$1,928,567.00	$457,100.00
18 - DEPRECIATION	$61,474.39	$67,535.15	$61,511.76	$61,757.81	$62,147.88
19 - SPEC ASSESS	$327,104.50	$348,723.48	$362,345.51	$433,565.52	$714,952.76
20 - SCHOOL	$9,117,503.89	$10,405,788.50	$10,854,269.52	$11,588,577.74	$11,526,554.96
25 - GEN ASSIST	$22,332.35	$14,599.62	$13,677.72	$17,382.80	$17,935.02
Final Totals	$11,834,752.12	$13,262,635.09	$13,919,314.30	$16,455,564.19	$15,741,292.67

Growth in General Government has been more to increased staffing and costs for personnel. It is expected the leveling off in the last two years to be the norm after a three year period of growth.

Economic Development is very steady and the increase in the last year is only due and accounting change with how the School and Town share IT costs.

Public Safety has added three new full-time positions over the past three years and some cost increases for new facilities. It is anticipated that these budgets have plateaued.

Public Works has had the most increases from oil costs. Fuel and pavement costs have more than tripled. In 2008-09 the budget was revamped with more priority to in house services. Over the next five years the department is positioned to operate with minimal increases, unless oil costs begin to increase.

The only other items or trends that are noteworthy are continued costs for county taxes that far outpace normal increases and costs for education. The School Department is very concerned with decreased funding and the loss of a healthy carry forward. Due the large percentage of the budget that goes to education, increases to education are hard to manage or mitigate.

Account	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
10 - GENERAL GOV					
110 - AUTO EXCISE	$1,616,131.91	$1,890,223.31	$2,101,416.80	$2,184,300.28	$2,175,348.36
500 - RE TAX	$3,818,305.26	$4,206,701.15	$4,066,046.47	$4,076,953.71	$4,130,509.06
510 - PP TAX	$434,980.42	$421,476.33	$358,880.24	$310,169.35	$298,600.22
ALL OTHER INCOME	$817,139.39	$888,635.12	$1,049,304.76	$1,156,297.12	$1,089,877.05
20 - SCHOOL	$5,622,046.55	$5,957,530.67	$7,196,453.59	$7,933,554.61	$8,211,339.67
Final Totals	$12,308,603.53	$13,364,566.58	$14,772,101.86	$15,661,275.07	$15,905,674.36

Excise Tax has leveled in recent years. It is expected to remain in this area unless the citizens' initiative to cut excise tax passes. If this occurs revenues will decline by $800,000 per year. The overall effect from this could result in a 20% increase to property taxes.

As mentioned the only other revenue concern is continued cuts from the state to education funding. Hermon School Department has experienced recent growth that resulted in level local funding, but this was also during a time of rapid increases to education costs. Without increases state funding education costs will increase.

2. *Describe means of fund capital items and identify any outside funding sources.*

Hermon uses a capital plan that looks out over 10 years. Annually the minimal contribution is calculated to meet our goals and funded through taxes. This levels the cost to taxes by spreading it out over many years. Also the Town does utilize grants in as much as possible, but due the high median income level in Hermon many opportunities are unavailable.

3. *Describe the community's tax base, its degree of stability and any anticipated changes during the planning period. Include local and state valuations and local mill rates for the last 5 years.*

YEAR	STATE VALUATION	MILL RATE	TOWN VALUATION
2008	$400,600,000.00	11	$419,653,060.00
2007	$346,700,000.00	11	$418,860,260.00
2006	$324,400,000.00	12.4	$365,989,500.00
2005	$290,050,000.00	14.25	$317,097,300.00
2004	$275,200,000.00	15.7	$297,710,000.00
2003	$261,750,000.00	15.25	$278,486,300.00

Stability is very good. Commitments have leveled off in the past 5 years based upon no longer budgeting "surplus" in conjunction with a responsible and proactive reserve plan based upon increases in fund balance. (See new policies).

Hermon is experiencing continued growth even when others are predicting or experience down turns. Continuing to monitor these items is imperative, and developing our fund balance and reserves in accordance with our new policies is a necessity.

The recent changes in the economy nationally have resulted in a slowing of development and growth in Hermon. Due to long-term capital planning the Town is positioned well to deal with decreased revenues for a short period of time, no more than five years. The largest concerns with funding come from reduced funding from the State of Maine. Education funding, state-revenue sharing to Towns, and State road funding support are contually being cut to balance state shortfalls. Due to Hermon's frugal budgeting and services that are very cost-effective already, reduced funding means either increasing property taxes or cutting services that are already stretched thin.

A last concern is a citizen initiative to excise taxes. The impact on Hermon could mean a more than $800,000 per year reduction in revenue that again will have to be reached through cuts to services or increased property taxes.

4. *Indentify any significant tax-exempt properties.*

BUSINESS	**EXEMPT VALUE**
Bangor Water District	$441,300.
Child Evangelism Fellowship	$236,400.
Ecotat	$212,600.
Hermon Elderly Project	$1,125,700.
Hermon Free Will Baptist Church	$1,214,100.
Hermon Voluntary Rescue	$73,200.
Lynde Lodge F & AM #174	$242,500.
Maine Conference of Association of Seventh Day Adventist	$440,300.

Opportunity Housing Inc	$581,100.
State of Maine	$223,800.
Triumph Lodge #119	$269,600.
United States Government	$117,900.

5. *Calculate current revenue dedicated to tax incentive programs, districts, tree growth, farmland and open space.*

Hermon has instituted many efforts to dedicate land in tree growth, farmland, and open space. Landowner's are reluctant due to long-term consequences for removing them from these designations. As such Hermon has minimal land value entered into these programs.

Hermon has adopted Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program guidelines and has established TIF districts that have "captured" new commercial value to be used to complete community and economic development related improvements. This program is a critical business attraction tool and has resulted in significant savings to the community. In 2008, TIF programs captured approximately $150,000.

6. *Identify LD 1 limits and when it was surpassed.*

See above, 5 years not available, and we never have surpassed.

K. LAND USE

STATE GOAL

To encourage orderly growth and development in appropriate areas of each community, while protecting the State's rural character, making efficient use of public services and preventing development sprawl.

K.1 INTRODUCTION

Land use directly affects a town's character. Patterns of land use within the community and how these change over time impact the community's future. The importance of prudent land use and the relative irreversibility of land use decisions are not concepts customarily understood. The common quote of "This is my land and I should be able to do with it as I want" gets harder to protect for a property owner when a community is trying to maintain a balance of rural and growth areas while preparing for its future.

Land use regulation and decisions have traditionally permitted economic factors to drive development patterns and location rather than following sound land use principles and priorities. Although the land use plan is shaped by the policies developed in each section, consideration is given to the existing land use patterns and the expected future land use needs. Existing land use patterns are reviewed and efforts are made to minimize non-conforming uses within each proposed zone.

Growth management legislation requires the creation of growth and rural zones. The designation of growth zones is intended to direct development to areas most suitable for such growth and away from areas where growth and development would be incompatible with the protection of rural resources. Based on growth management, growth areas are to be located close to municipal services to minimize the cost to the municipality for the delivery and maintenance of these services. The designation of rural zones is intended to protect agricultural, forest, scenic areas, and other open space land areas from incompatible development and uses.

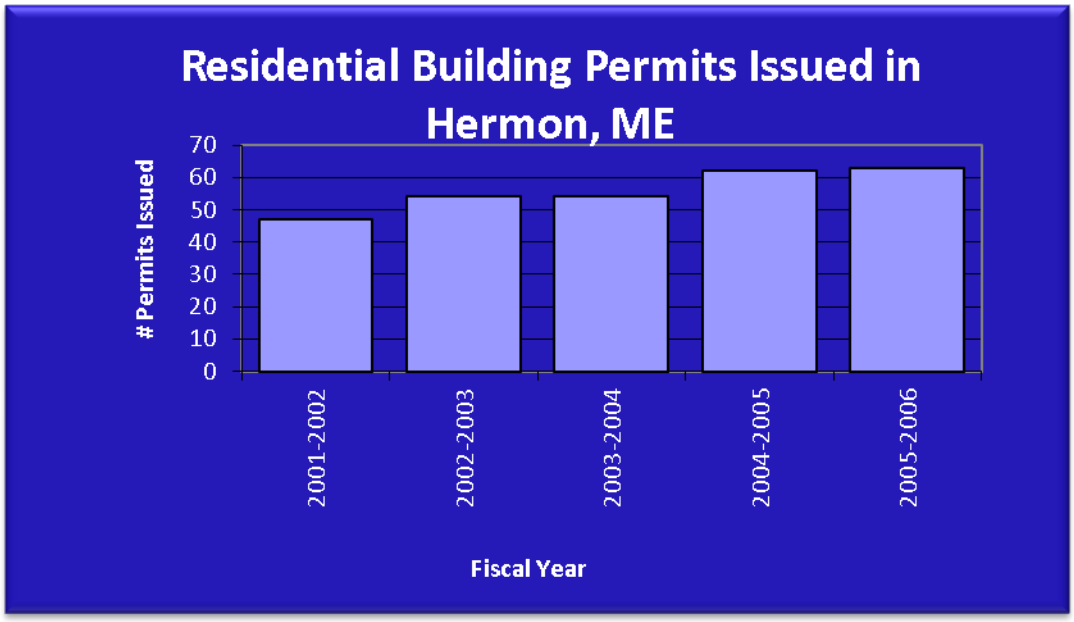
K.2 EXISTING LAND USE PATTERNS

From historical records and knowledge of existing citizens, Hermon was primarily an agricultural community and suburb of Bangor. Settlement occurred along the major regional routes: Carmel-Bangor Road (now Rt. #2); Bangor-Damascus Road (now Fuller Road); and the Levant-Bangor Road (Union Street or Rt. 222). These roads, in existence by 1880, form the frontage for most residential development and farm lands. This traditional development is more representational of a rural community than a suburban community.

Northern Maine Junction was established around 1904 and occupies approximately 700 acres**.** The area developed as a linkage between the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad (BAR) and the Maine Central Railroad. The land was acquired for the purpose of constructing a round house and switching tracks. In January of 2003, the BAR assets were acquired by Rail World, Inc. and the name was changed to the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway (MMA). The assets, which included the roundhouse and office complex the roundhouse with 32 acres and one office

complex with 10 acres, were sold to private developers and to date are being used as commercial entities.

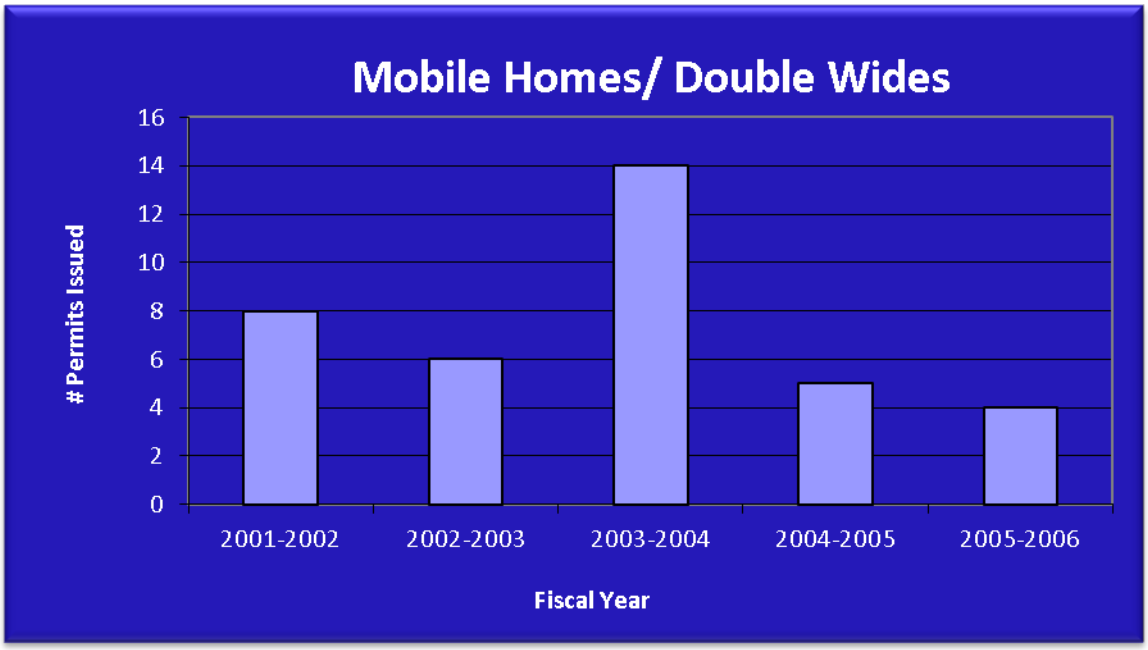
The records of building permits issues over the last several years describe where and how development pressures are taking place. The chart below showing the number of permits issued for new residential buildings has been steadily increasing. While this does not predict future growth, it is an indicator of the current trend.



Source: Town of Hermon

For the most part, new home construction has been taking place within approved subdivisions versus individual lots, with most of the activity occurring in designated growth areas. Subdivisions from 2001 to 2007 are shown on the map titled Subdivision Growth in the Past 5 Years in Appendix A. However, when looking at the number of subdivisions approved in the last few years, it is apparent that larger parcels are being infringed upon, and care needs to be taken to assure that Hermon deliberately prioritizes its available open spaces. The average lot size created over the last ten years, both in subdivisions and non-subdivision splits, is 1.5 acres.

By comparison, the issuance of permits for the location of mobile homes has generally been decreasing, despite a spike in the 2003-2004 year.



Source: Town of Hermon

The issuance of commercial building permits has also been generally increasing. This has coincided with Hermon bordering the City of Bangor and I-95 it has made it attractive for private investors to develop business, commercial and industrial parks without the Town of Hermon having to make that type of investment. Hermon's mill rate, Pine Tree Zone, and Tax Increment Financing program also help to draw new businesses to town.

Source: Town of Hermon

K.3 ANTICIPATED FUTURE DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

Local residents cite Hermon's traditionally low mil rate as a very attractive reason for living here.Coupled with being adjacent to Bangor, the local urban area offering a myriad of conveniences, there is significant development pressure upon the Town.

The Population Change Map in Appendix A graphically illustrates the historic and predicted trends in population among Hermon and its neighbors.

General land use goals include expansion of the existing commercial and industrial parks, filtering smaller commercial and retail services throughout the Village Commercial District, and putting an emphasis on open space planning and larger lot sizes in the rural areas.

K.4 EXISTING LAND USE REGULATIONS

The Town of Hermon has implemented and is enforcing the following land use regulations:

Land Use Zoning Ordinance – The purpose of the existing Land Use Zoning Ordinance is to help the town grow in a manner that will enable it to maintain its present rural character. It sets standards for review of all structures which are erected, reconstructed, altered, enlarged, or moved, and their uses. There are several districts with performance standards established for different land use activities. The existing land use ordinance provides appropriate guidance for the future development of the community. Therefore the community's existing land use ordinances and the proposed land use provisions of this comprehensive plan are synonymous. Please see the Proposed Land Use portion of this section for their description.

Currently the local Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, National Electrical Code, NFPA 101, Site Plan Review Ordinance, Mobile Home Park and Campground Ordinance, and community Subdivision Regulations are incorporated into the Town's Land Use Zoning Ordinance and are discussed further in this section.

> Shoreland Zoning Ordinance (Maine *Land Use Laws*, 1992, as amended in 2000) - Shoreland areas include those areas within 250 feet of the normal high-water line of any great pond, river or saltwater body, within 250 feet of the upland edge of a coastal or freshwater wetland, or within 75 feet of the high-water line of a stream. The purposes of these controls are to further the maintenance healthful conditions; to prevent and control water pollution; to protect fish spawning grounds, aquatic life, bird and other wildlife habitat; to protect buildings and lands from flooding an accelerated erosion; to protect archaeological and historic resources; to protect freshwater wetlands; to control building sites, placement of structures and land uses; to conserve shore cover, and visual as well as actual points of access to inland waters; to conserve natural beauty and open space; and to anticipate and respond to the impacts of development in shoreland areas.
>
> National Electrical Code - All electrical work in Hermon must be consistent with applicable portions of the National Electrical Code.

NFPA 101 – National Fire Protection Association regulations pertaining to Life Safety, Ingress, Egress and capacity provisions.

Site Plan Review Ordinance – Provides guidance as to procedure and review criteria for site plans, controls impacts of developments and applies to all new constructions, conversions and alterations except single family and two family residences; and all new businesses.

Subdivision Regulations – This ordinance is designed to control the land development and the subdivision of structures into three or more lots or units. This ordinance also provides guidance as to procedures and review criteria for subdivisions.

Mobile Home Park Ordinance & Campground Ordinance - similar in purpose to the Subdivision Ordinance but are application specific.

Building Code Ordinance - Hermon has adopted by reference the 1992 CABO One- and Two-Family Dwelling Code, the BOCA/National Building Code - 1993 and the State of Maine Manufactured Housing Installation Standard. Late in 2007 the International Residential Code (IRC) 2003 and the International Building Code (IBC) 2003 will be adopted.

Property Maintenance Ordinance – Established the minimum conditions for the maintenance of structures and exterior property appearance.

Maine State Plumbing Code - Installation of plumbing fixtures and septic systems must be in accordance with Maine State Law and Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules and Regulations.

K.5 AREAS UNSUITABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT

There are areas within Hermon that are not suitable for development or areas that require special consideration based on the potential environmental impact as the result of various land use activities. Land use activities within these areas require stricter regulation than in other areas or, in some circumstances, prohibition. These areas include:

Floodplains - These are areas located in the flood prone areas of Hermon and lands designated as Flood Hazard Areas under the National Flood Insurance Program. Flooding is frequent and use should be limited to those activities, which are unharmed by flooding, such as agriculture, forest and some types of recreation. It should be noted that the actual floodplain of a stream would usually be more extensive than the areas shown having floodplain soils.

Water Resources/Wetlands – This includes surface waters and lands classified as state regulated freshwater wetlands. These are also areas that fall under the Shoreland Zoning Laws and development in these areas would be extremely limited if not impossible.

Wildlife Habitat/Conservation - These are areas that would fall under the provisions of the applicable mandated legislation. Development in these areas, if possible, may require review and approval by the pertinent State Agencies.

Unsuitable Soils - These are areas in Hermon that would have limited development because of poor soils. Larger lot sizes would be required in order to meet the requirements of the Maine State Plumbing Laws.

Slope - These are areas within Hermon that have a slope greater than 15 percent. These slopes preclude extensive development because of problems with erosion, runoff, and construction limitation such as allowable road grades, suitability for septic sewage disposal, and stability of foundation. Also, note that the Maine Plumbing Code does not permit septic systems on a slope greater than 20 percent.

Public Property- This includes lands publicly owned and/or currently used for public purposes.

K.5 PROPOSED LAND USE DISTRICTS

The purpose of the land use plan and map contained within the comprehensive plan is to identify general areas of appropriate location and size to accommodate anticipated growth and future development. The proposed land use plan does not endeavor to identify specific parcels or areas needed to accommodate predicted growth and development. Only a detailed site-specific analysis can determine land suitable for development and density levels. In addition, the comprehensive plan has not assessed nor will it assess, the individual landowner's desire to sell his/her land for development, to develop it or to leave it undeveloped.

The land use ordinance for the Town of Hermon will continue to address development concerns with strict performance standards to ensure appropriate development in each district. The schedule of uses shall remain consistent with current and existing development.

At the present time Hermon is experiencing significant growth and it is likely to continue into the near future.

With the current interest in the Village Commercial (VC) District for small commercial and retail businesses, it is anticipated that the VC District will be the next growth area. With this continued interest it may become necessary for the Town to look again at the extension of water and sewer along Route 2 and Coldbrook Road. It is anticipated that the existing industrial and commercial parks will look toward expansions as well.

The history of the growth pattern in the business/commercial and residential sectors of the Town's economy has created a significant demand for commercial, industrial and year-round residential building units. Therefore, the **proposed** zoning districts are the same as current, with the exception of the conversion of Hermon Bog to resource protection to meet the new state requirements for shoreland zoning. The districts are:

(AF) Agriculture/Forest (Rural Area)

(RA) Residential A (Growth Area)
(RB) Residential B (Growth Area)
(RC) Residential C (Growth Area)
(VC) Village Commercial (Growth Area)
(C) Commercial (Growth Area)
(I) Industrial (Growth Area)
(RP) Resource Protection (Shoreland Zone)

These zones are illustrated on the Future Land Use Map located in Book 1 of this Plan and described below. For lot sizes and dimensional standards, see Hermon's Land Use Ordinance at: http://www.hermon.net/assets/CEO-LAND_USE_ARTICLE_3.pdf.

Agriculture/Forest (AF)
This district is established for areas currently farmed or managed for forest products. New dwellings are allowed, but the predominant character of these areas is rural. Many rural areas have natural constraints such as hydric soils/wetlands or steep slopes, or are areas not accessible by public roads. Uses allowed in this district are consistent with a rural setting.

Residential A (RA)
This district is established to protect the essential characteristics of **a** residential area of mostly single-family dwellings, or areas where such development is desired. Agricultural uses such as live-stock shall not be allowed. It is the intent of this district to promote and encourage a suitable environment for family life, by preventing incompatible uses and structures.

Residential B (RB)
This district is established to encourage and protect medium density residential development with single, two and multiple-family dwellings, and certain other facilities residential in character or serving the neighborhood. Also, this district is intended to provide area for public and semi-public uses compatible with and necessary to residential development. At the same time, this district is intended to protect the rural use and character of land and agricultural uses. It is the intent of this district to harmonize agricultural and residential use.

Residential C (RC)
This district is established to encourage and protect medium density residential development with single, two and multi-family dwellings, mobile home parks and certain other facilities residential in character or serving the neighborhood. The maximum density is six units per acre.

Village Commercial (VC)
This district is established for new commercial development in the form of mercantile and service businesses which draw their markets locally rather than regionally. This district is intended for the conversion of many of the existing dwellings in the area into a mix of home/offices for professionals who need access to the motoring public (e.g. real estate, insurance, family practice physicians, psychologists, dentists, chiropractors, etc) and conversions into retail or service businesses (such as restaurants, beauty/barber shops, specialty stores, etc), with one or two shopping plaza projects. In order to continue the traditional village mix of uses,

new residences shall be permitted in these areas at a density of two units per acre or eight units per lot.

Commercial (C)
This district is established to provide for general retail sales, services and business space within the Town of Hermon in locations capable of conveniently servicing the community and oriented primarily to automobile access.

Industrial (I)
This district is established to provide space for existing industries and their expansion and future industrial development for the purpose of manufacturing, processing, treatment, research, warehousing, storage and distribution where there is no danger of explosion or other hazard to health or safety. The intent of this district is to encourage non-polluting industrial development at a safe and reasonable density. This district is also established to accommodate certain commercial and industrial uses, which desire location in spacious, attractive surroundings. Development in this district includes light manufacturing, warehousing, distributing, or other treatment of goods and products, truck terminals and other similar uses, designed to ensure sufficient space for building, expansion, parking, loading facilities, and landscaping.

Resource Protection (RP)
The Resource Protection district reflects the Shoreland Zoning law and protects those significant resources in Hermon.

K.6 GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ZONING ORDINANCE AND LAND USE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The following recommendations outline the direction for any amendments to Hermon's Land Use Ordinance to be consistent with the intent of this comprehensive plan. The policies are detailed below:

Several items must be considered prior to addressing specific issues for Hermon's Land Use Ordinance. During preparation of any ordinance, land use regulations should be kept to the minimum necessary to achieve the goals of the comprehensive plan and to reduce the number of non-conforming properties. It is not the intent of the Comprehensive Planning Committee to impose burdensome requirements on the everyday activities of the town's residents or to create costly enforcement issues for town government. The ultimate goal of growth management is to regulate land use development to the extent necessary to protect natural resources, property values, and ultimately public safety. The imposed regulations should not make the town's residents feel that they have lost their freedom as landowners and, therefore, over-regulation must be avoided. In particular, land use regulations should not be so restrictive that they have negative impacts on existing land use practices.

Regarding the creation and updating of various ordinances, there are some general guidelines that should be followed. In ordinances, specific standards and clear definitions are needed because all ordinances must meet the minimum standards as set forth by state law. In addition, it is very important that any future land use ordinances be consistent with the recommendations of

the comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan provides the legal basis for enacting the ordinances, and their consistency with the plans, goals, and policies will be a major consideration in the event that the ordinances are subject to a legal challenge.

The Town of Hermon has identified specific needs and concerns to be addressed in the land use ordinance: (1) Open space including trail systems; and (2) lot sizes in the rural districts.

Any future Land Use Ordinance of the Town of Hermon will be developed consistent with the identified needs of the Town in order to protect and preserve natural resources, property values, public safety, health and welfare, provide for affordable housing and ensure the proper future development of the Town.

K.7 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The planning board, ordinance committee, code enforcement officer, zoning board of appeals and the Town Council will continually review the land use ordinance, shoreland zoning ordinance, subdivision ordinance, and any other applicable ordinances to ensure that there are no changes required. In reviewing these regulations, the planning board and code enforcement officer will consider whether or not there have been any changes in the minimum requirements of state or federal laws that would require any local amendments to the land use regulations.

In order to educate residents on the local land use ordinances, a list of all local ordinances and when they are applicable should be developed and made available to the public at the town office. An attempt should be made to notify and involve all citizens in the development and amendment of local ordinances.

K.8 ENFORCEMENT

The value of any ordinance is dependent on how well it is enforced. In order to achieve better enforcement, two issues are of importance: (1) the education of residents as to the requirements of local and state regulations, and (2) providing for adequate hours for the code enforcement officer to ensure that compliance is taking place. The key to adequate and successful enforcement is providing the code enforcement officer with the proper legal language and definitions within the land use ordinance. The success of any ordinance depends on the ability of the code enforcement officer to enforce the ordinance and support of the code enforcement department by any management, planning board, and elected officials.

K.9 REGIONAL COORDINATION

Comprehensive planning recognizes the importance of regional cooperation. The land uses in one community can impact another community, particularly when that land use is located near the boundaries of the town. As indicated in the natural resources section of this plan, the Town will continue working to develop compatible resource protection standards with nearby towns.

APPENDIX A – MAPS