



VILLAGE OF SHERMAN

NY Forward | 2024 Application



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY

NY Forward



REDC REGION
Western New York

PROGRAM
NY Forward Round 3

MUNICIPALITY
Village of Sherman

DOWNTOWN NAME
Sherman

COUNTY
Chautauqua County

PRO-HOUSING COMMUNITY STATUS
Submitted 10/3/24

CONTACT
Colleen Meeder

TITLE
Mayor, Village of Sherman

EMAIL
village.sherman@gmail.com

Honorable Council:

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that the Board of Trustees presents this application for the Village of Sherman to the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council for nomination to Governor Hochul's New York Forward Program Round 3.

The quaint Village of Sherman is recognized by the multi-story red brick attached-row-buildings lined with the unique and historic covered walkway awning arcade on either side of the downtown Main Street. While tractors and Amish Buggy's transit NYS Rte. 430 they are met with an increasing number of cyclists. The four new eateries are attracting customers from Chautauqua Institution, Erie, PA, and commuters from I-86. The charming bed & breakfast entertains travelers seeking overnight accommodations. Homes are in short supply and high demand as families are wanting to move into the school district and family-oriented neighborhood. The Rosie Billquist Trail and French Creek are being explored by walkers, hikers, bikers, equestrians, and snowmobilers. The local parks have new amenities from the generosity of people inspired by Sherman and its heritage. The school, fire department, library, museum, and churches in the village are the center of community activity.

The Village municipality has built the foundation for economic, community, and housing development by improving the critical public infrastructure; while simultaneously planning, preserving, and restoring the natural, historical, and environmental assets of the village. The installation of renewable energy systems, sidewalk improvements, and housing rehabilitation efforts reflect the action the Village has actively undertaken with Climate Smart, Complete Streets, and Pro-Housing Initiatives in mind, even before they were so labeled.

Supplying the diverse housing needs through rehabilitation and new development will contribute to the fundamental elements of sustaining a resilient, healthy community with quality-of-life strategies, including safe, walkable, and bikeable streets and trails.

Ecotourism is the keystone to local and regional economic growth for the Village of Sherman and Chautauqua County, understanding that Sherman is part of the greater regional economy and cannot stand alone in pursuit of achieving its goals.

The NY Forward Award to the Village of Sherman will continue the momentum of growth and restoration with the multiple proposed projects that are interdependent in their missions of serving residents and visitors. The chamber members, business owners, volunteers, and organizational leaders are collaborating and collectively rebuilding Sherman. The NY Forward Award to the Village of Sherman will exponentially strengthen these transformational revitalization efforts.

Sincerely,

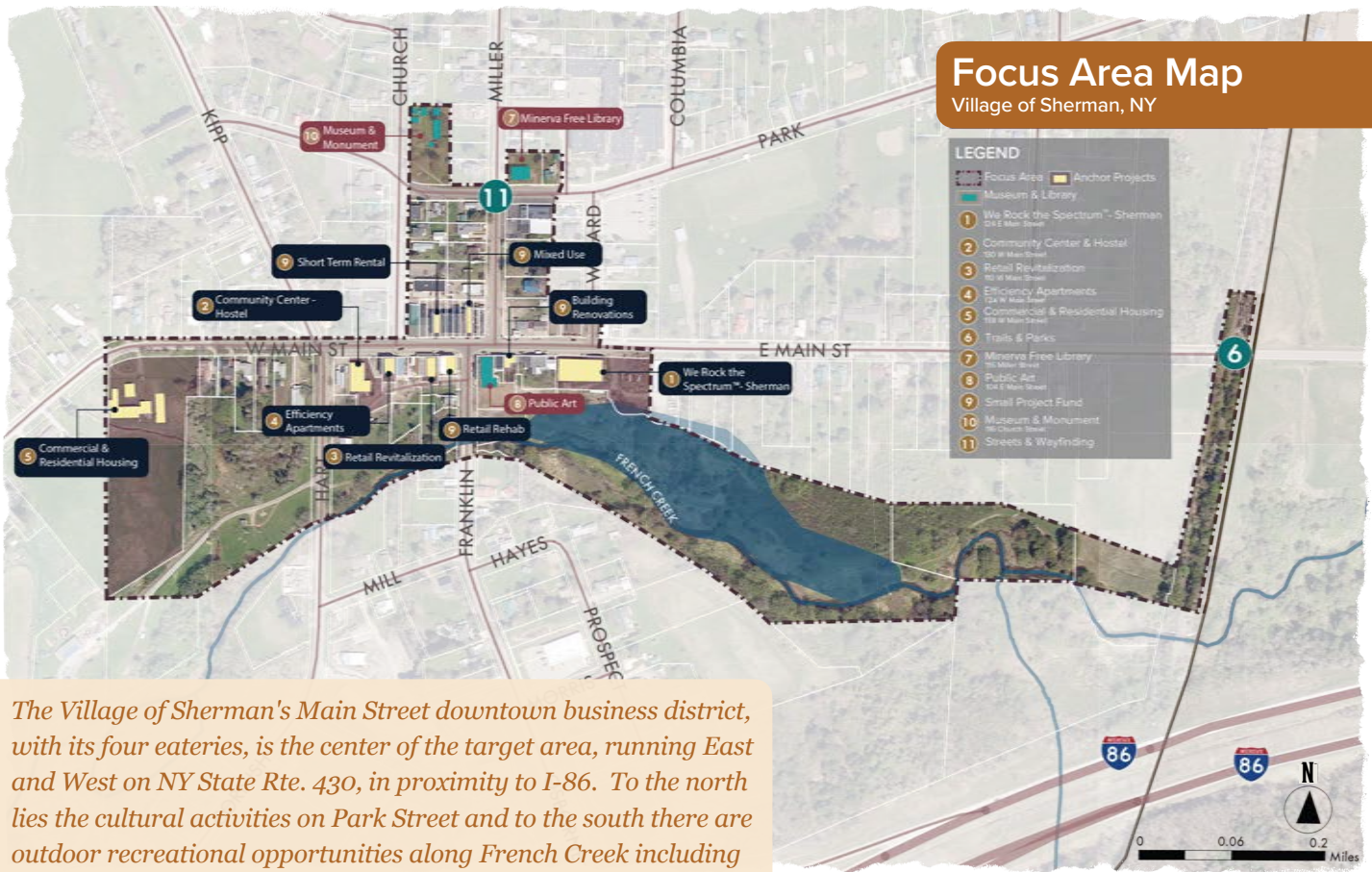


Colleen M. Meeder
Mayor



shermanny.org

2 Geographic Area & Justification



The Village of Sherman's Main Street downtown business district, with its four eateries, is the center of the target area, running East and West on NY State Rte. 430, in proximity to I-86. To the north lies the cultural activities on Park Street and to the south there are outdoor recreational opportunities along French Creek including parks and the multi-use trail (Chautauqua Rails to Trails).

The Village of Sherman is one square mile of family-orientated, walkable, and bikeable community. The 51-acre focus area includes the historic downtown East and West Main Street with its iconic attached row buildings. French Creek runs parallel to Main Street's south side, the location of two parks at the southern trailhead of Chautauqua Rails to Trails (CR2T); while Park Street runs parallel along Main Street's north side, the cross streets of Church Street and Miller Street are home to the French Creek Yorker Museum, Stanley Hose Company, and Minerva Free Library, (with Sherman Central School just outside the target area on Park Street).

Middle of nowhere? Actually, in the center of everything! The Village of Sherman is on the I-86 corridor and 13 miles from I-90. Almost perfectly centered between the cities of Jamestown, NY; Dunkirk, NY; and Erie, PA; and the metropolitan areas of Buffalo, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh. There are three beautiful recreational lakes within 20 minutes: Findley

Lake, Chautauqua Lake, and Lake Erie; and two trails in Sherman: Chautauqua Rails to Trails and Westside Overland Trail; representing only a portion of the many blueways and greenways to experience in Chautauqua County. Visitors to Sherman come to experience the nearby Chautauqua Institution, National Comedy Center, festivals, and enjoy all the seasons with activities on the snowmobile trail, golf courses, and Peek 'n Peak ski-resort. This makes the Village of Sherman the perfect place to live and visit.

Sherman is a key connective link in the greater Erie to Pittsburgh Trail System. The Village is working to receive the Trail Town Designation with continued investments in amenities to support a trail town full of visitors. Such a designation has proven to substantially bolster the regional economy through ecotourism.

The focus area of 51 acres consists of 15 acres of predominantly commercial and mixed-use buildings, including four major restoration and

reuse projects, one new housing development, multiple small retail and façade improvement projects, and public art. Downtown East and West Main Street is lined with multi-story, mixed-use attached row buildings covered in brick exterior with a quaint covered walkway awning arcade. The buildings contain retail establishments and restaurants on the first floors with residential units occupying the upper floors, some of which are vacant and require rehabilitation. The downtown center is bookended with two vacant industrial buildings uniquely positioned to be transformed into recreational and community spaces that will draw visitors to the region. The proposed projects at the museum, library, parks, and trail in the focus area complement the downtown projects with educational, cultural, natural, and recreational improvements, providing ADA accessibility and safety elements.

3 Vision Statement

The Village of Sherman's success in transitioning to a family-orientated 'bedroom community' relies on its ability to adapt by leveraging its geographic location, natural assets, and achieving a Trail Town Designation, with its sustainability dependent on growing ecotourism and regional agritourism and creating amenities attracting visitors and commuters to the region. All this while providing community services and enhancing engagement through placemaking,

maintaining and building diverse housing options, connecting people within the safe walkable and bikeable community, and incorporating green resiliency into planning and development practices. The focus on outdoor and recreational opportunities contributes to a healthy living environment for residents, supports small businesses by providing accommodations for visitors, and strengthens the local economy.



“The Village of Sherman has transformed from its historic roots as a sawmill and dairy farming community to become a Village which cultivates economic, educational, and recreational opportunities for families and residents of all ages...”

4 Past Investments & Future Potential

The Village of Sherman has successfully administered \$15M in grants and projects over the last 6 years; and Village businesses and non-profits have invested a few million more driven by entrepreneurs and organizational leaders with a commitment and passion for Sherman.

The Village municipality has invested in the infrastructural resources for stable and sustainable public services even through economic challenges. The available broadband through Spectrum and the Village's public water and sewer utilities are attractive for prospective businesses and developers. The Village added LED streetlights for sidewalk safety and crossings near the school, then another \$42,000 for four illuminating lights near I-86 making the Sherman Exit inviting to travelers with \$16,000 in National Grid Energy Incentives earned from the \$7M upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Concurrently, the \$2.2M Drinking Water Improvement Project was completed. The development of two Community Solar Arrays provides land lease payments to the municipality to offset the public infrastructure debt service, while infusing additional PILOT and Host Community Agreement payments into the community for more the \$3.1M over the 25-year-life of the arrays, before offering solar credits on individual electric bills. In 2023, the Village

installed two electric vehicle fast charging stations in a public parking lot conveniently located in the downtown encouraging commuter spending.

American Rescue Plan Act funds went toward the planning and implementation of economic and community development initiatives, together with a Rural Business Development Grant for business signs, Community Development Block Grants for Community Planning, and NY Main Street Technical Assistance Grants leading to the Façade Restoration Project Award. This has created a new retail business and one of two short-term rentals on the second story of the mixed-use downtown attached row building that has been vacant since the fire in 1991, and the conversion of vacant space into a new ice cream shop opening May 2025. Chautauqua Region Economic Development Corp (CREDC) and Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG) granted an additional \$25,000 toward the restoration of the unique and historic walkway awning arcade that lines both sides of the downtown Main Street.

Sherman's Inn on Main is a beautifully restored bed and breakfast that is sought after in the downtown business district. What's most impressive is the private investment since the COVID Pandemic. In 2024, Triple E

Manufacturing celebrated its 40th year in business and added construction doubling its floor space. Several vacant establishments underwent significant rehabilitation including the Cooler Bar & Grille, Sherman Hotel, and The Cornerstone Restaurant, nearly all of which was private investment without any grant or supplemental funding. Others have been painting, repairing roofs, and refreshing façades, showing that property owners take pride in the Sherman community.

Inspired by his meaningful early life influences and experiences in Sherman, Harold Wake has donated over \$1,000,000 to Sherman non-profits within the village. Especially dear to him was his uncle, ergo the George Edmunds Memorial Park, where his foundation has funded the children's playground and newly constructed public restrooms complete with showers, while the Cooler Bar & Grille contributed toward the materials of the new sand volleyball courts. Non-profits, the Minerva Free Library and Stanley Hose Company, underwent major interior and exterior renovations while increasing programming and recruitment; and in 2023, Sherman's French Creek Yorker Museum underwent over \$20,000 in restoration in its most recent preservation efforts.

There is great potential in the Village of Sherman

- An example for placemaking with inviting open natural spaces and parks along the multi-use trail promoting regional connectivity with amenities for residents and visitors encouraging healthy living and family-friendly activities.
- A walkable and bikeable community focused on safety, traffic calming, and accessibility.
- Diverse housing developments supplying the rental demand, need for single-family residences, and accessible homes to accommodate senior citizens.
- Non-profit organizations increase programming and foster interest in the rich history with improved accessibility and inviting aesthetics.
- An attractive gateway with mural, trailhead, and parks, coming into the downtown from I-86.

The Village of Sherman will have a competitive advantage in attracting tourists. There is no other children’s sensory gym serving the target market with the same size and scope of the We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman facility in Chautauqua County. Also, within the region, there is not a true hostel for convenient, inexpensive, safe, overnight accommodations for trail users and the like.

As the new restaurants continue to thrive, the short-term rentals are completed, and

entrepreneurs build the amenities, like the Cooler Creamery opening May 2025, and the bike rental and repair shop coming soon, the Village can apply for a Trail Town Designation. This designation will exponentially attract trail enthusiasts. Ecotourism brings visitor spending, drives labor income, and increases tax revenue for the communities along trails. The Village of Sherman is the southern trailhead to the Chautauqua Rails to Trails, and with its expansion it will be a part of the greater Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. Chautauqua County has many trails systems traversing the region, including the Westside Overland Trail 1.25 miles to the east connecting NY State Forests. Outdoor recreation is key to the economic development and vitality of Sherman’s future, producing more accessible green spaces and activities for all ages and abilities will be a major contributing factor toward Chautauqua County’s greenway improvements and the Live CHQ campaign.

Presently, three developers are interested in constructing diverse and affordable residential homes in the village, within and around the focus area, each with a different interest in residential housing, filling the need for rental multi-family dwelling units, small single-story accessible homes for senior citizens, and new single-family homes. All proposed developments, including those outside the NY Forward focus area, will benefit equally from the walkable and bikeable proximity of the downtown center from the improvements and amenities with a NY Forward Award to the Village of Sherman.



5 Recent & Impending Job Growth

As with the Western New York 2023 Strategic Plan, Sherman’s quaint village is striving to create a more vibrant downtown with ideal conditions for economic growth and placemaking. This will be accomplished by building a neighborhood that will attract talent and cultivate new business development by revitalizing outdated and vacant retail spaces on Main Street, providing additional affordable housing opportunities, and reusing vacant industrial buildings.

The Village of Sherman’s substantial investment in the public utility infrastructure and being situated along the I-86 corridor makes Sherman an attractive location for business development and construction of residential housing. In concert with the ‘Choose CHQ’ campaign, Sherman will contribute to a thriving regional economy. The Village subsequently planned and implemented projects to revitalize the downtown Main Street and maintain essential residential housing stock with CDBG, NYMS,

and MMHR funding programs through the NY State Office of Homes & Community Renewal. These efforts support transforming Sherman from one previously focused on small farms to one driven by ecotourism and agritourism in pursuit of a Trail Town Designation. The small downtown businesses and the trail advancements are becoming interdependent, presenting an opportunity for job growth as visitors require more of these amenities.



The Village of Sherman has seen job growth in the last five years from Triple E Manufacturing adding more products and doubling its floorspace; The Cornerstone Restaurant, Cooler Bar & Grille, and Sherman Hotel all remodeled and reopened previously closed eateries. New retail establishments on Main Street include BK Wine & Spirits and Sweet Meadows gift shop, while the Minerva Free Library has increased its hours.

Regional employers are experiencing a workforce shortage, particularly in high demand are the most critical institutions and non-profits

including nurses, teachers, skilled labor, licensed and certified operators. As a family-orientated bedroom community supporting a healthy quality of life, Sherman is a contributor to the Live CHQ and greater regional initiative attracting a strong and talented labor force. Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency has made great efforts to establish multiple industrial sites, as near as the neighboring Town of Ripley, but all within an easy commute of Sherman; and with new developments there will be a significant need for communities like Sherman to supply the labor force.



6 Quality of Life

The Village of Sherman’s iconic skyline and historic character contributes to its charm and identity, with the beautiful Italianate bracketed cornice top along the antique brick façades, the pendant lights aligned under the covered walkway awning along the attached row buildings, and the draped colored lights celebrating each season crossing overhead on Main Street.

Affordable Housing

The compact tight-knit village is a safe walkable and bikeable community made up of lower- and middle-income residents. The target area provides a sense of place consisting of eateries, parks, trails, a library and museum, with increasing amenities for residents and visitors. The downtown mixed-use attached row buildings have 2nd floor apartments, with more 2nd and 3rd story possibilities. There are too few rental apartment units and a high demand for single-family dwellings and small single-story homes accommodating the accessibility needs of senior citizens.

Commercial and Retail Main Street Businesses

The Cornerstone Restaurant, Cooler Bar & Grille, Mama’s Pizza, and Sherman Hotel are successfully growing the restaurant business. However, Sherman is lacking fresh food options, such as a local farmer’s market (which ended during COVID), local goods store, or general store that would provide healthy, fresh options for residents in the greater Sherman community whose only current option is a Dollar General, and eleven miles to the next grocery store. The downtown has a variety of retail establishments but needs more experiential shops accommodating the increasing number of visitors.

Walkability and Bikeability

The Village’s Beautification Committee initially planted over 100 street trees and will resume once the stormwater improvement projects are

completed. The Village has committed to installing 5ft wide sidewalks. The Complete Streets Policy adoption bolsters and better defines the Village’s plans to extend sidewalks, calm traffic, install crosswalks, and improve signage and wayfinding. The Chautauqua Rails to Trails, a developing part of the greater Erie to Pittsburgh Trail, provides connectivity to the region and beyond.

Community Space, Recreation, Cultural & Entertainment Amenities

The Community Center with coffee shop and return of the weekly Farmer’s Market, will provide a public space available to all residents and visitors for fellowship and programming. The neighboring Cooler Bar & Grille holds outdoor concerts and hosts volleyball tournaments. George Edmunds Memorial Park that sits behind the south side of Main Street along French Creek is the grounds for annual community festivals, including Sherman Days, the Annual Sherman Music Festival, and the Christmas week celebration concluding with the growing and creative Sherman Lighted Tractor Parade routed down Main Street.

The family-friendly neighborhood experience continues with the Village of Sherman’s French Creek Yorker Museum, a Living History Museum transporting you back in time with the beautifully curated local antiques and history overseen by the Sherman Historical Society; and the Minerva Free Library offering afterschool, preschool, summer reading programs, book club, and game nights. In addition, We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman is coming soon to Main Street with the recent purchase of the 23,000 sq ft industrial building it’s converting into a sensory gym that abuts the Rosie Billquist Trail on French Creek. The goal of bridging the gap for the children in the community and surrounding areas will be complemented with the development of the adjacent Autism Nature Trail.



7 Supportive Local Policies *in Action*

The Village of Sherman has actively engaged in implementing practices outlined in the policies as adopted to-date in pursuit of improving the resiliency and sustainability for the livability and quality of life in Sherman. The Village Board of Trustees first adopted the Village of Sherman Comprehensive Plan in 2021, with a Climate Smart Communities Grant. As local priorities evolve, the Comprehensive Plan was amended in 2023 related to historic preservation, hazard mitigation, stormwater management, and Complete Streets policies.

Zoning Updates

The goals in updating the 2009 Village Zoning Code with the Smart Growth Program include: preserving the character of neighborhoods, creating a downtown 'business district', establishing design guidelines, updating language, addressing new legislation (i.e., cannabis), transitioning to green and alternative energy systems, and adopting stormwater management regulations to secure existing assets and new development. In the interim, the Village Board has adopted a series of timely amendments addressing safety and quality of life needs, including the local law 2021 Regulation of Solar Energy Systems.

Pro-Housing

The Village of Sherman is taking a strong Pro-Housing position which is essential to the future stability and sustainability of the small Sherman community, starting with its adoption of the 2017 Fair Housing Policy. The May 2024 adopted Pro-Housing Pledge and detailed documents were submitted to NYS Homes & Community Renewal with the intent to become a certified community. Even before this important NY State initiative, the Village adopted local laws in efforts to enforce property maintenance, remediate blight, and manage issues arising from vacant properties, including the effective 2019 Vacant,

Abandoned, Boarded, Foreclosed Law serving as a deterrent and proactive measure preserving the existing housing stock by encouraging property owners to act by selling or remediating, while ensuring oversight of the property for safety and nuisance prevention. This has resulted in the rehabilitation of several single-family dwellings. Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation & Improvement Corp (CHRIC) administers the Village of Sherman's twice awarded Community Development Block Grants (2020, 2023) for the Rehabilitation of Single-Family Dwellings and the 2023 Mobile & Manufactured Home Replacement grant award. This activity, the increasing market value of single-family dwellings in Sherman, and the clear need for rental units has brought interest from investors to build new developments within the village.

Climate Initiatives, Agriculture, Green Resiliency

The Village of Sherman was the first in Chautauqua County to adopt the Climate Smart Community Pledge in 2018 and received the Designated CEC Status of a Clean Energy Community by NYSERDA. The Village has since taken on large scale progressive projects beginning with the \$2.2M Drinking Water Improvement project replacing pumps and installing variable frequency drives, the \$7M upgrade to the Wastewater Treatment Plant resulting in energy efficiency and improving the quality of effluent with UV disinfection. The Village installed two electric vehicle fast charging stations with the NYS DEC Municipal Zero-emission Vehicle (ZEV) Infrastructure Rebate Program and National Grid NY EV Make-Ready Program.

The Village pursued the development of two 5 Megawatt Community Solar Arrays on 32 acres of Village owned property. In July 2024, the first became operational and the second array's interconnection is expected in February 2025. The Village ensured the land use incorporated

agrivoltaic practices with sheep grazing. This innovative approach is fulfilling the Village's Comprehensive Plan goals in efforts to prevent farmland loss from repurposed solar fields and in keeping with Sherman's rural character. With these recently completed actions the Village will be applying to update its certification status within the Climate Smart Community and to become an Advanced Community among the Clean Energy Community.

Complete Streets Initiative

The Complete Streets Initiative was kicked off with public members and stakeholders identifying priorities, including traffic calming measures at entrances into the Village, the development of trails, and safety for senior citizens in the walkable community, resulting in preliminary designs in coordination with GOBike. The Village's Complete Streets Policy, adopted May 2024, considers all pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit (including equestrians), with special conditions for children, senior citizens, and those with disabilities, with the clear intent of understanding and accommodating all users and modes. This will be applied to all streets projects and phases organizing an integrated network of streets, sidewalks, and trails for transportation and recreation connecting neighborhoods, businesses, placemaking, and parks. It incorporates multi-jurisdictional cooperation in support of development and design within the character of the community and the vision established within the Village of Sherman's Comprehensive Plan; bringing safety, encouraging activity, and promoting overall health and well-being of the community and visitors. Beginning with the 2023 Community Development Block Grant of \$1.25M for the co-funded infrastructure improvements to the Main Street stormwater system, the Village is putting the Complete Streets Policy into action, installing new sidewalks, improving the trailhead, preparing for crosswalks and bump-outs for traffic calming.



8 Public Support and Engagement

The Village of Sherman's vision is a compilation of multiple initiatives and successful projects, brought together through public engagement, input from key stakeholders, and support by involved agencies.

September 26th, 2024, the Village hosted "Night at the Museum", a community engagement session held to inform all stakeholders of the NY Forward opportunity, to present the proposed projects, and to solicit input. Nearly 50 people experienced Sherman's French Creek York Museum 'under a new light', demonstrating the possibilities for the future of the museum and community.

During the Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Market Analysis, NY Main Street Feasibility Study and Implementation, applications to earlier rounds of Restore NY and NY Forward, and the successful Completes Streets Initiative, there have been many public meetings, open houses, and interactive opportunities for the public to engage in the future planning of the Village; this included breakout sessions, guided walks with GOBike, and more!

The Sherman Chamber of Commerce, to which the Village is a part, meets monthly exchanging information, updates, and ideas. Officials from the municipality are represented on the Sherman Day Committee, celebrating Sherman's historic roots and rural character, attracting alumni and new visitors to Sherman. The Village's Planning Board, Steering Committee, Beautification (Tree) Committee, Edmunds Park Committee, and the Sherman Historical Society provide regular feedback and input into community and economic development strategies.

The Village continues to improve communication and make significant efforts toward distributing information and educating the public with printed and social media to reach all in the community. Bi-monthly newsletters and flyers are mailed and emailed. The Village of Sherman administers a combined Village and Town website serving a variety of community needs and has established a separate ShermanNYForward.com website for the purpose of presenting a more in-depth look at the proposed projects. The Village

municipality has multiple active Facebook accounts including the primary 'Village of Sherman, NY'. In addition to social media, the Village Trustees receive monthly updates on capital projects, initiatives, committee and organizational meetings, including the NY Forward application; Village Board Meetings are well covered by the reporter from the Westfield Republican and Jamestown Post Journal.

There are many enthusiastic letters from the community, businesses, and stakeholders in strong support of this opportunity.



9 Transformative Project Opportunities

The NY Forward Award of \$4.5M will continue the momentum of investment in the Village of Sherman by leveraging \$8,942,000 in transformational projects. These feasible projects being actively pursued fit the character and vision of the Sherman community. The NY Forward Award will leverage funding to bring the projects to fruition sooner, with more creativity and quality, having a robust impact and injection of capital spurring further investment.

The charming downtown business district will be bookended by redeveloping two large vacant industrial buildings for the purpose of serving family and community needs. The anchor project on the east end, We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman, will draw families from around the region to the unique sensory gym

for children of all ages and abilities. At the west end, Sherman's Community Center will provide communal space for all the public, a proposed coffee shop, and hostel for visitors. Together these make Sherman a family-orientated and family-supported community while invigorating the local economy. They are connected by Main Street and the trail along French Creek with two parks. Improvements to the trail and installation of an Autism nature trail, bridge, and additional amenities will attract residents and regional tourism. Renovations to the library and museum will make them accessible and inviting. This is punctuated by the development of multi-family housing and conversion of unused mixed-use buildings. All of which will transform the Village into a walkable and bikeable community. It will expand recreational, cultural, and supporting amenities. It will grow

small business on Main Street. It will provide a green, healthy, family-orientated community in which to live and visit that is resilient to economic and climate challenges.

The Village of Sherman will be a model for small rural communities advancing the NY Forward initiatives, particularly in placemaking with smart implementation planning of the parks, multi-use trails, public art, museum, library, community center, and children's sensory gymnasium, collectively having a big impact on the local, Chautauqua, and WNY region economies. The proposed projects are sustainable and proven economic stimulus, as found in numerous economic impact studies performed around Trail Towns, and the market indicators of children's activity and play centers, a growing multi-billion-dollar industry.



"No single project stands alone, combined they support and contribute to each other's missions and the vision for the greater Sherman community. The NY Forward Award will be the catalytic driver ensuring the success and sustainability of these interdependent attainable goals."

PROJECT 1 — WE ROCK THE SPECTRUM, SHERMAN

Kid’s Sensory Gym (124 E Main St)

Project Sponsors

Agape Mas, LLC; members Heather and Kevin Goree (owner)

Estimated Project Cost

\$1,000,000

Recent Investment

Purchase of Vacant Building \$95,000
Franchise Fee

Funding Match Possibilities

Private funds, Donations, Construction Loan Applications to Restore NY and regional foundations, (CRCF)

Project Timeline

1-2 years



We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman is coming soon with the recent purchase of 124 E Main St building and its reuse as a kid’s sensory gym. With their inclusive philosophy, this unique sensory gym will provide a space for children of all ability levels to play and grow together and will bring essential services to underserved communities in Western New York.

The Village of Sherman’s central location in the region, the Main Street address, proximity to I-86, and the adjacent trail were recognized as opportunities making this the ideal site. Previously a vacant industrial 23,000 SF building last used as a heavy equipment garage and shop, its expansive space and high ceilings make the kid’s sensory gym a perfect reuse of the historic building, which still has visible features dating back to the original 1929 Sherman Theatre. The one acre lot offers parking and outdoor activities connecting to Chautauqua Rails to Trails. The goal of bridging the gap for the children in the community and surrounding areas will be complemented with the development of the adjacent Autism Nature Trail.

The market of children’s activity and play centers is robust and quickly expanding; the industry in 2022 had an estimated value of \$11.5 billion and is expected to increase to \$30.7 billion by 2032.

The franchise has a highly successful international reputation, and the unique sensory equipment sets We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman apart as the only facility serving the target market with the same size and scope in Chautauqua County.

We Rock the Spectrum - Sherman was created with the goal of providing a space for children of all ability levels to play and grow together. It will serve all children by providing a safe, inclusive, interactive, fun, and highly successful developmentally appropriate space for children and families. Creating a space for learning, socialization, exploration, and safe sensory experiences.

The community is overwhelmingly supportive of the project in serving children and families, while bringing visitors from the region, and the extensive restoration of the historic 1929 Sherman Theatre by repurposing the vacant garage into a children’s gymnasium.

Exterior Renovations

- \$225,000
- Replace Roof, Masonry Restoration, Façade Improvements
- Parking Lot Resurfacing, Landscaping

Energy Efficiency

- \$315,000
- Window Replacement, Overhead Door
- Interior Electrical, Mechanical / HVAC

Interior Improvements, Demolition, Soft Costs

- General Demolition, Masonry & Concrete, Flooring, Wall Finishes
- Wall Framing, Plumbing, Permitting, Contingency

ADA Accessibility

- ADA compliant recreational resource.
- Customers include family with children aged newborn-17, although the gym is designed for neurodiverse children, it is an inclusive space for all.

Fit with Vision Statement

- Cultivate Economic Growth & Prosperity
- Support Education & Family-Orientated Activity
- Celebrate Historic Character, Culture, and Art
- Promote Healthy Living
- Create Outdoor & Recreation Opportunities
- Enhance Community Services & Engagement
- Expand Local Amenities
- Provide for a Green & Resilient Community
- Attract Visitors and Commuters to the Region

Alignment with NY Forward Goals



Create an active downtown and sense of place



Providing amenities that support and enhance downtown living and quality of life



Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support investments that are more resilient to future climate change impacts



Enhance public spaces for arts and cultural events, serving the community and visitors around the region



Attracting a variety of new businesses for residents and visitors, and provide job opportunities

PROJECT 2 — HOSTEL & COMMUNITY CENTER

Historic Nuttal Building (130 W Main St)

Project Sponsors

Village of Sherman
Public/Private Partnership – in negotiations

Estimated Project Cost

\$3,602,996

Recent Investment

Property donated to the Village of Sherman,
Phase 1, Structure Report

Funding Match Possibilities

Wake Family Charitable
and Chautauqua Region Community
Foundations

Project Timeline

2-3 years



The historic 1928 Nuttal & Son building was used as a garage until 2008; it has since sat vacant, but the 10,000 SF industrial building has the potential to serve as a collaborative public and private space as a community center, hostel, coffee shop, fitness center, and event venue. The location on Main Street adjoins the trail and French Creek, connected by Edmunds Park where music events, festivals, celebrations, cornhole and volleyball tournaments, and family reunions are held. This project serves as the western bookend to the immediate downtown Main Street business district, complementing We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman to the east, in the transformation of the active family-orientated neighborhood.

This property was donated to the Village of Sherman and has great potential to serve the community and visitors in the heart of the downtown. The Community Center with coffee shop and future return of the weekly Farmer’s Market, will dedicate a public space available to the rural community’s youth, veterans’ associations, and senior citizens to gather for fellowship and programming. The location of the only known hostel in Chautauqua County, on the I-86 corridor, will provide safe, economical, short-term accommodations for visitors, particularly for those transiting the Village by the all-season, multi-use trails.

Organizations and individuals have requested the building be restored for the purpose of the much-needed spaces a community center will provide. The hostel will attract visitors, stimulating the local economy, and further contributing to achieving the Trail Town Designation, providing Sherman with a competitive advantage in ecotourism within the region. All of which makes this a greatly supported project by the Sherman community and stakeholders.

Exterior Renovations

- \$592,500
- Exterior Envelope, Roof Truss/Structure
- Parking, Hardscape, Landscaping

Energy Efficiency

- \$900,650
- Windows, Doors, and Overhead Doors
- Interior Electrical, Mechanical / HVAC

Interior Improvements, Demolition, Soft Costs

- \$2,109,846
- General Construction, Plumbing, Elevator
- Kitchen, Furniture, Professional, Admin

ADA Accessibility

- ADA compliant
- Elevator accessibility


Healthy Outdoor, Recreational, & Cultural Opportunities


- Fitness Center
- Healthy physical and social-emotional activities for senior citizens
- Connecting indoor and outdoor recreation with the park & trail adjacent to the property
- Hostel accommodations for visitors transiting the multi-use trails


Fit with Vision Statement


- Cultivate Economic Growth & Prosperity
- Support Education & Family-Orientated Activity
- Celebrate Historic Character, Culture, and Art
- Promote Healthy Living
- Create Outdoor & Recreation Opportunities
- Enhance Community Services & Engagement
- Encourage a Walkable & Bikeable Community
- Expand Local Amenities
- Attract Visitors and Commuters to the Region


Alignment with NY Forward Goals

 Create an active downtown and sense of place

 Providing amenities that support and enhance downtown living and quality of life

 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support investments that are more resilient to future climate change impacts

 Enhance public spaces for arts and cultural events, serving the community and visitors around the region

 Attracting a variety of new businesses for residents and visitors, and provide job opportunities

 Growing the local property tax base

PROJECT 3 — RETAIL REVITALIZATION

Vacant “Old Hardware” (110 W Main St)

Project Sponsors

Loutzemeeder Properties, LLC (Applicant)
Michael Sheffield (Current Property Owner)

Estimated Project Cost

\$295,000

Recent Investment

\$450,000

Loutzemeeder Properties, LLC; adjacent property 114 W Main St.

Funding Match Possibilities

Private Funding

Project Timeline

1-2 years



The 110 W Main Street vacant 5,000 SF building holds a 46 ft expanse on Main Street, which is the single longest of the attached row buildings under the unique and historic walkway awning arcade, providing a large visual impact.

Retail activity at 110 W Main Street is essential to the revitalization of the business district. It has been recognized as a critical building for restoration with its location in the center of the downtown attached row buildings. With updated electrical service, roof and façade improvements, and customization for a retail service, the building can be turnkey for an entrepreneur. What once was a vibrant hardware store was sold during the COVID Pandemic and is used for general storage and the occasional retail sale. With the recent passing of the property owner, the estate has the property for sale.

The neighboring Cooler Bar & Grille is a big attraction with live entertainment and sponsored volleyball tournaments at Edmunds Park. The owners, Cris Loutzenhisser and Amanda Meeder, are opening the Cooler Creamery (coming May 2025). 110 W Main Street is the attached row building adjacent to the ‘Cooler’ at 114 W Main Street. With the NY Forward Award to contribute to the rehabilitation needed, Loutzemeeder Properties, LLC is proposing to purchase 110 W Main Street and restore it, much like they

participated in the NY Main Street Implementation Grant for the Cooler Creamery ice cream shop. They recognize the need for additional candy stores and other amenities in efforts of attracting and serving tourists. This project is of particular interest to the Sherman Chamber of Commerce and is supported by the community.

Exterior Renovations

- Owner participated in the Village’s NY Main St Walkway Awning Restoration Project as the first step toward the beautification and preservation of the building amongst the downtown streetscape.
- Replace windows, door, and the siding with material in keeping with the original masonry brick.

Energy Efficiency

- Electrical service for energy efficiency, and for the safety and protection of all neighboring buildings.
- Replacement of windows and door.

Historic Appearance

The current vacant and future retail location is centered among the downtown attached row buildings on the south side of W Main Street, stretching 46 ft under the unique walkway awning, making it a critical piece of Sherman’s historic character.

Fit with Vision Statement

- Cultivate Economic Growth & Prosperity
- Celebrate Historic Character, Culture, and Art
- Secure Diverse Residential Housing
- Expand Local Amenities
- Attract Visitors and Commuters to the Region



Alignment with NY Forward Goals



Create an active downtown and sense of place



Providing amenities that support and enhance downtown living and quality of life



Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support investments that are more resilient to future climate change impacts



Enhance public spaces for arts and cultural events, serving the community and visitors around the region



Attracting a variety of new businesses for residents and visitors, and provide job opportunities



Growing the local property tax base

PROJECT 4 — MIXED-USE, EFFICIENCY RENTAL APARTMENTS

Auto Parts Building (124 W Main St)

Project Sponsors

Danielle Crane (future owner – pending negotiations)
 Duane Woods (current building owner)

Estimated Project Cost

\$236,500

Funding Match Possibilities

Private Funds and Construction Loan

Project Timeline

2-3 years



The bustling NAPA Auto Parts store located at 124 W Main Street has a vacant second floor. As one owner retires and the manager is looking to purchase the business and building, this brings opportunity for new investment in a mixed-use building, providing for business growth and efficiency apartments.

The 1898 building features Italianate details in the brick cornice that give a nod to its beautiful history and opportunity to highlight these elements with façade restoration. The active storefront will be renovated for accessibility and efficiency.

Rental units are in high demand, and the location of two efficiency apartments will provide affordable housing within the immediate walkable and bikeable community. The apartments have view of Main Street, as well as Edmunds Park and French Creek. Located on the trail, near eateries and entertainment, this space is perfect for a young person’s first apartment.

Exterior Restoration

- Masonry Restoration - \$5,000
- Façade Improvements - \$18,500
- Signage & Lighting - \$10,000

Energy Efficiency

- Windows & Doors - \$25,000
- Overhead Door - \$8,000
- Interior Electrical - \$20,000
- Mechanical / HVAC - \$30,000

Interior Improvements, Demolition, Soft Costs

- Retail Space - \$35,000

Conversion to Mixed-Use

- The 2,640 SF 2nd story will accommodate two 1,300 SF apartments.
- 2 Efficiency Apartments - \$85,000
 - Incl. Bathroom & Kitchen Fixtures

Diverse Housing

Efficiency apartments will meet the housing need for singles or couples

Historic Appearance


The restoration of the iconic Sherman building setting at the end of the series of attached row buildings is critical in maintaining the historic character of the quaint downtown.


Fit with Vision Statement


- Cultivate Economic Growth & Prosperity
- Secure Diverse Residential Housing
- Encourage a Walkable & Bikeable Community
- Expand Local Amenities
- Provide for a Green & Resilient Community





Alignment with NY Forward Goals


 Create an active downtown and sense of place


 Providing amenities that support and enhance downtown living and quality of life

 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support investments that are more resilient to future climate change impacts

 Enhance public spaces for arts and cultural events, serving the community and visitors around the region

 Attracting a variety of new businesses for residents and visitors, and provide job opportunities

 Growing the local property tax base

 Varied housing, supporting a diverse population

PROJECT 5 — MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING DEVELOPMENT

4.6 Acres with Commercial (158 W Main St)

Project Sponsors

David Conrad of Conrad Contracting
(Proposing to purchase the property)

Estimated Project Cost

\$1,000,000

Recent Investment

\$225,000 in 133 W Main St, reopening of Sherman Hotel (restaurant); and 129 W Main St, (flower & gift shop) façade restoration & energy efficiencies

Funding Match Possibilities

Private Funds and Construction Loan

Project Timeline

1-2 years



The purchase and redevelopment of the 158 W Main Street commercial property presents a great opportunity for revitalizing a vacant retail establishment to attract business. The open acreage is ideal for the construction of new housing surrounded by the existing neighborhood of residential homes. It's in a walkable distance to downtown, the French Creek parks and trails.

The property previously known as Chase Antiques is currently for sale and has drawn the attention of a few developers. The four commercial buildings facing W Main Street need restoration, but there is an even greater interest in building new multi-family dwelling

townhouses providing for the highly sought after affordable housing and rental needs. The property abuts the municipal property along French Creek near Edmunds Park and the trail. With the 500 ft sidewalk extension along W Main Street, this property is walkable, bikeable, and easily accessible to the amenities in the downtown center.

The public water and sewer utilities make development attractive. Within the target area, Conrad Contracting is looking to build four multi-family dwellings with four units each for a total of 16 new affordable two-bedroom 1,000-1,200 SF townhouse style residences for rent.

Conversion to Mixed-Use, New Development, Diverse Housing

The current vacant industrial buildings and large lot will be restored for use and (16) 2-story, 2-bedroom townhouses will be constructed for rent on the 4.6-acre parcel.

Fit with Vision Statement

- Cultivate Economic Growth & Prosperity
- Secure Diverse Residential Housing
- Encourage a Walkable & Bikeable Community
- Provide for a Green & Resilient Community
- Varied Housing, Supporting a Diverse Population



Alignment with NY Forward Goals



Create an active downtown and sense of place



Providing amenities that support and enhance downtown living and quality of life



Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support investments that are more resilient to future climate change impacts



Enhance public spaces for arts and cultural events, serving the community and visitors around the region



Attracting a variety of new businesses for residents and visitors, and provide job opportunities



Growing the local property tax base



Varied housing, supporting a diverse population

PROJECT 6 — ALL-SEASON MULTI-USE TRAIL

Chautauqua Rails to Trails (CR2T)

Project Sponsors

Chautauqua Rails to Trails 501(c)(3)
 Village of Sherman
 David and Pam Hinman, 180 E Main St

Estimated Project Cost

\$1,237,590

Funding Match Possibilities

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy’s Trail Grants Program
 NYS DOT Transportation Alternative Program
 Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth
 3% Occupancy Tax Tourism Development Grant
 Sheldon Foundation and Chautauqua Region Community Foundation

Project Timeline

1-3 years



Chautauqua Rails to Trails (CR2T) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that ties 24 miles of multi-use trail from northern to southern Chautauqua County. Sherman is the southern trailhead transecting the I-86 corridor and the point for the developing connection to the greater Erie-to-Pittsburgh Trail. The Rosie Billquist Trail is the section of the CR2T within the Village of Sherman. The development, safety, surfacing, and accessibility of this trail is vital to the community’s vision of creating a walkable and bikeable community, in providing opportunities to experience the French Creek natural asset and green spaces, and attracting ecotourism to Sherman’s downtown while achieving the coveted Trail Town Designation furthering proven economic growth through ecotourism around trails in the Chautauqua County region.

The NY Forward Award will greatly support the Village of Sherman’s Complete Streets Initiative with trail and parks improvements in creating an Autism Nature Trail connecting the We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman sensory gym to the adjacent Chautauqua Rails to Trails (CR2T) system, surfacing of the Rosie Billquist Trail (CR2T) for ADA accessibility, and the proposed

bridge to safely cross the state highway at the east gateway into the Village, making the multi-use trail available to all ages and abilities.

- 1. Autism Nature Trail** In coordination with the children’s gym adjacent to the trail, develop an accessible sensory and exploratory trail for children of all abilities. \$85,000
- 2. Trail Surfacing** Resurface existing .7-mile section that runs along French Creek from Franklin Street, in downtown Sherman, to NYS Route 430, at the edge of village property. The application of crushed and screened limestone is ADA compliant, providing a smooth surface for all, including equestrians. \$50,000
- 3. Camping Sites** Creation of campsites with electric, water, and sewer utility access for RV’s, horse trailers, tent campers, and other visitors while transiting the trail. \$60,000
- 4. Solar Lighting** Installation of solar lighting along the trail (qty 24). \$99,800
- 5. Trail Amenities** Total Estimated \$28,730
 - a. Bike Racks, Repair Station, Benches \$14,230
 - b. Educational Signs, Storybook Trail \$5,000
 - c. Planting Trees, Brush & Grasses \$9,500
- 6. Bridge** Bridge installation over NYS Route 430 at the Village boundary, replacing where once was the old railroad bridge, will allow safe

crossing for pedestrians, equestrians, and snowmobiles on the trail, and provide a substantial visual gateway for traffic immediately entering the Village’s residential East Main Street.

- Planning & Permitting \$75,000
- Bridge Manufacturing \$729,060
- Bridge Installation \$110,000
- Total Bridge Estimated Cost \$914,060


ADA Accessibility


- ADA compliant recreational resource.


Fit with Vision Statement


- Cultivate Economic Growth & Prosperity
- Support Education & Family-Orientated Activity
- Promote Healthy Living
- Create Outdoor & Recreation Opportunities
- Protect Natural Resources & Open Spaces
- Encourage a Walkable & Bikeable Community
- Expand Local Amenities
- Provide for a Green & Resilient Community
- Attract Visitors and Commuters to the Region


Alignment with NY Forward Goals

 Create an active downtown and sense of place

 Providing amenities that support and enhance downtown living and quality of life

 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support investments that are more resilient to future climate change impacts

 Enhance public spaces for arts and cultural events, serving the community and visitors around the region

 Attracting a variety of new businesses for residents and visitors, and provide job opportunities

 Growing the local property tax base

PROJECT 7 — RENOVATIONS FOR ADA ACCOMMODATIONS

Minerva Free Library (116 Miller Street)

Project Sponsors

Minerva Fee Library 501(c)(3) Non-Profit

Estimated Project Cost

\$125,000

Recent Investment

The Minerva Free Library has a new sign, outdoor learning center at the entrance to the library, an elevator for ADA accessibility to all three stories, and was just awarded another NY State Public Library Construction Grant of \$81,711 to replace windows for energy efficiency.

Funding Match Possibilities

NY State Public Library Construction Grant
Community Impact Grant

Project Timeline

1-2 years



The objective is to complete the restoration improvements and ensure full ADA Accessibility with the renovation of three bathrooms, replacing carpeting, and finish work. Maintaining this important historic asset and making it available to all in the community are high priorities for the Minerva Free Library members and the Sherman community.

Property Overview

Year Built: 1908 The construction of the building was commissioned by Oliver Willcox Norton for his sister Elizabeth (Libby), who was involved with the Minerva Club which established the free library. Once a student and child resident in Sherman, he continued his affinity for Sherman and his sister Libby, investing much in Sherman, including creating the first waterworks department, which was purchased by the Village of Sherman after its incorporation. His early investment in the infrastructure is why the Village of Sherman's public utilities are so advanced for such a small

rural community. An abolitionist and Civil War Veteran, his resume reflects his entrepreneurial spirit, while also being an author and philanthropist, with a great love for music, leading to his residence and ties to Chautauqua Institution, the home of Norton Memorial Hall. He was the first to sound Taps and is known as the 'Taps Bugler'.

ADA Accessibility

ADA Accessibility to all three floors

Fit with Vision Statement

- Support Education & Family-Orientated Activity
- Celebrate Historic Character, Family-Orientated Culture, & Art
- Create Outdoor & Recreation Opportunities
- Enhance Community Services & Engagement
- Encourage a Walkable & Bikeable Community
- Expand Local Amenities



Alignment with NY Forward Goals



Create an active downtown and sense of place



Providing amenities that support and enhance downtown living and quality of life



Enhance public spaces for arts and cultural events, serving the community and visitors around the region



Attracting a variety of new businesses for residents and visitors, and provide job opportunities

PROJECT 8 — PUBLIC ART

History & Culture Mural (104 E Main St)

Project Sponsors

RF & B Properties, LLC (Property Owner)
 Sherman Area Chamber of Commerce (Sponsor)
 Village of Sherman (Sponsor)

Estimated Project Cost

\$95,000

Funding Match Possibilities

Sheldon Foundation and Chautauqua Region
 Community Foundation

Project Timeline

1-2 years



The Sherman Area Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. The Chamber, in cooperation with the property owners Becky and Roy Van Valkenburg of The Cornerstone Restaurant, and the Village of Sherman, are working together to commission the painting of a mural in a public art display at the central southern entrance to the downtown, near the trailhead.

The art will capture Sherman’s character, history, and culture by depicting life in the community and the natural assets within Sherman,

providing a beautiful and inviting gateway into the Main Street from Interstate 86, and a strong sense of place for residents and visitors alike.

The public art installment will be painted on the west side of The Cornerstone Restaurant 104 E Main Street. This is at the intersection of Franklin Street and Main Street, the point where East and West Main Street meet, which is the center of the active downtown business district. This is also the intersection of two NY State Highways: Main Street is NY State Route 430


and Franklin Street is NY State Route 76 (that intersects I-86).


Fit with Vision Statement


- Celebrate Historic Character, Family-Orientated Culture, & Art
- Support Education & Family-Orientated Activity
- Create Outdoor & Recreation Opportunities
- Encourage a Walkable & Bikeable Community
- Expand Local Amenities
- Attract Visitors and Commuters to the Region



Alignment with NY Forward Goals

 Create an active downtown and sense of place

 Providing amenities that support and enhance downtown living and quality of life

 Enhance public spaces for arts and cultural events, serving the community and visitors around the region

PROJECT 9 — RESTORATION AND REUSE

Small Project Fund (Main St Buildings)

Project Sponsors

M3P Realty, Wagner Rentals, Sherman Area Pharmacy, The Cornerstone Restaurant, JSRP, Bone Creek

Estimated Project Cost

\$600,000

Recent Investment on Main Street

There have been a number of restoration and reuse projects on Main Street, several of which recently participated in the New York Main Street (NYMS) Restoration Grant of \$358,283 awarded to the Village of Sherman.

Funding Match Possibilities

Private funds

Project Timeline

1-3 years



The Small Projects Fund will continue the momentum from the NY Main Street Façade Improvements leveraging over \$600,000 in new investment into 15 properties, of which 9 underwent major façade and reuse improvements for the opening of the Sherman Hotel Steakhouse & Saloon, Cooler Creamery ice cream shop, and a new retail storefront; all from previously vacant spaces.

Interior

Refreshing and modernizing the space to accommodate entrepreneurs' needs while preserving the character and charm of the pressed tin ceilings and crown moldings. Constructing the second of two short-term rental units among the attached row buildings.

Exterior

Restoring windows, recessed doors, transoms, & repointing brick. Accentuating the Village of Sherman's key features with exterior lighting fixtures, highlighting the dentil trim along the roofline

and the beautiful Italianate bracketed cornice top the antique brick facades, distinguishing the iconic Sherman downtown skyline.

Housing

Expanding downtown upper floor living and hospitality options will benefit Sherman residents, visitors, businesses, and overall property value.

- Exterior Renovations
- Energy Efficiency
- ADA Accessibility
- Conversion to Mixed-Use
- Diverse Housing
- Historic Appearance

Fit with Vision Statement

- Cultivate Economic Growth & Prosperity
- Celebrate Historic Character, Family-Orientated Culture, & Art
- Secure Diverse Residential Housing
- Expand Local Amenities
- Attract Visitors and Commuters to the Region



Alignment with NY Forward Goals



Create an active downtown and sense of place



Providing amenities that support and enhance downtown living and quality of life



Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support investments that are more resilient to future climate change impacts



Enhance public spaces for arts and cultural events, serving the community and visitors around the region



Attracting a variety of new businesses for residents and visitors, and provide job opportunities



Growing the local property tax base



Varied housing, supporting a diverse population

PROJECT 10 — MUSEUM & MONUMENT

Yorker Museum (116 Church Street)

Project Sponsors

Village of Sherman (Conservator, Property Owner)
 Sherman Historical Society, 501(c)(3) (Curator)

Estimated Project Cost

Not to exceed \$200,000

Recent Investment

Chautauqua Region Community Foundation (CRCF) Grant \$20,000

Funding Match Possibilities

Chautauqua Region Community Foundation (CRCF)
 Preserve NY Grants

Project Timeline

1-2 years



The French Creek Yorker Museum is a ‘living history museum’ depicting how people lived and worked in the area. In 1946 Miss Genevieve Matteson, the 7th Grade History Teacher at Sherman Central School formed a local Yorker organization, part of the New York State Historical Society. Local membership grew to 250 students, who collected donations of artifacts and antiques. In 1951, the Yorkers saved the Peter Ripley House on Miller Street from demolition by moving it to the Village Commons. This began the living history museum which now consists of six original buildings dating back to the 1750’s.

The Sherman Historical Society (SHS) is a 501(c)(3) which serves as the steward of Sherman history and curator of the local antiques and buildings collectively known as the French Creek Yorker Museum. This priceless community asset is owned by the Village of Sherman. Together the Village and SHS are working with Historic Preservation Specialists to preserve, promote, and celebrate this unique and beloved historic treasure.

The replacement of the aging chain link fence with a black finish aluminum ornamental fence will enhance the beauty of the French Creek Yorker Museum making it an area attraction. The new fence will keep the museum secure, while making it more open and inviting to visitors with 20 ft sliding gates opening the front of the Museum to the Village Commons and Monument Park. This encourages engagement of those attending the annual Memorial Day Service and allows for festivals and events which otherwise are inhibited by the unmoving 6 ft chain link fence. The distinctive black lines will be aesthetically appealing and improve the curb appeal of the Village Commons from Park Street and the properties along Church Street and Miller Street to which the Museum shares property boundaries. A quality fence with a timeless design and lifetime guarantee will be a valuable investment into the Village and the Museum to be enjoyed by all.

Improvements include

- Replacement of aging chain link fence with black aluminum fence
- Gliding gates opening to Village Commons
- Monument Restoration
- Historical Market

Fit with Vision Statement

- Support Education & Family-Orientated Activity
- Celebrate Historic Character, Culture, and Art
- Create Outdoor & Recreation Opportunities
- Enhance Community Services & Engagement
- Encourage a Walkable & Bikeable Community
- Expand Local Amenities
- Attract Visitors and Commuters to the Region



Alignment with NY Forward Goals



Create an active downtown and sense of place



Providing amenities that support and enhance downtown living and quality of life



Enhance public spaces for arts and cultural events, serving the community and visitors around the region

PROJECT 11 — PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

Main St & Park St Connections

Project Sponsors

Village of Sherman

Estimated Project Cost

\$550,000

Recent Investment

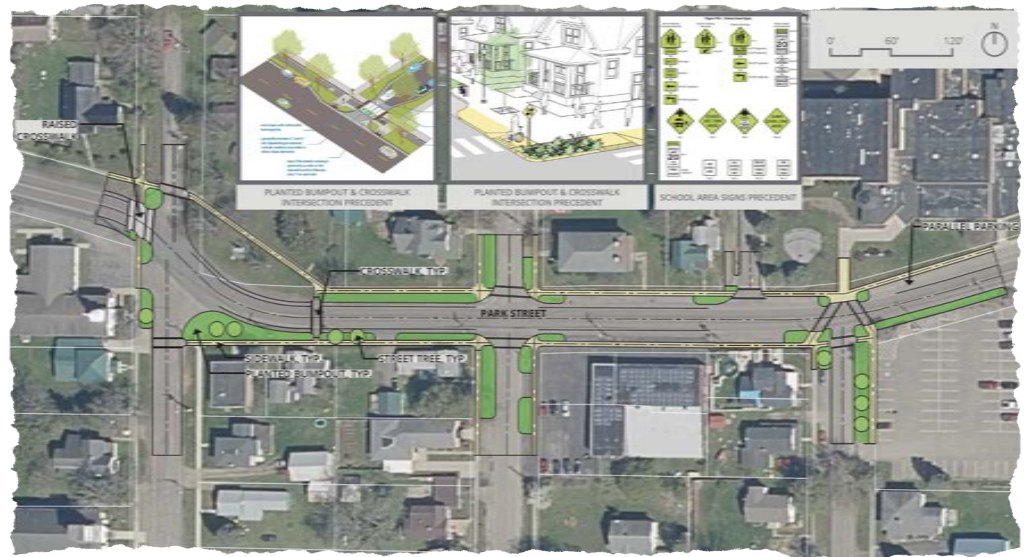
Main Street Stormwater Improvements
 \$1,500,000 Budget (with \$1.25M from the 2023 CDBG co-funded infrastructure grant and USDA Rural Development 1.25% interest on long-term financing)

Funding Match Possibilities

NYS EFC Green Resiliency Grant – 2024 CFA

Project Timeline

1-3 years



The Village of Sherman is implementing top priority practices identified in the Complete Streets Policy through the installation of safety elements, traffic calming features, and widening and extending sidewalks. The wayfinding signs highlighting amenities will provide direction for those using all modes of transportation, connecting people and places.

The Village is putting the Complete Streets Policy into action, installing new sidewalks, improving the trailhead, and preparing for crosswalks and bump-outs for traffic calming. This began with the 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of \$1.25M for the co-funded infrastructure improvements to the Main Street stormwater system with construction starting in August of 2024, and the NYS DOT’s resurfacing of NY State Route 430 through downtown Main Street.

A potential award of the 2024 NYS EFC Green Resiliency Grant, in combination with the NY Forward Award would exponentially leverage green infrastructure plans along Main Street addressing the existing hardscapes and historic building structures currently lacking stormwater

management practices in conjunction with the Complete Streets Initiative. The Village is committed to safe and walkable streets. The Village will persistently strive to make improvements with the assistance of shared services and supporting agencies.

The Complete Streets Initiative is a collaborative effort to identify priorities with Sherman stakeholders, GOBike, Chautauqua Health Network (CHN), Chautauqua County’s Department of Planning and Development (CCDPD), and the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG). The Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy is aiding with planting designs and goals, consultation from an area arborist, and applications for the Urban Forestry Grant.

For ADA Accessibility, with Historic Appearance, and in providing Healthy Outdoor, Recreational, & Cultural Opportunities the NY Forward Award will expand the initiative and construct:


- W Main St Sidewalk Extension to 158 W Main St


- Museum Parking on Church St and Hardscape around Village Commons
- Park St & Church St Bumpouts, Crosswalks, and Curbs
- Park St & Miller St Curbs at corner of Firehall Parking Lot
- North “Alley” Improvements behind 101 Main St - 133 W Main St, including landscaping and designated parking, eliminating traffic through alley, in conjunction with Small Project Funds improvements to enhance sense of place
- Wayfinding Signs to Local Amenities, i.e., Museum, Library, Parks, Trails


Fit with Vision Statement


- Cultivate Economic Growth & Prosperity
- Support Education & Family-Orientated Activity
- Celebrate Historic Character, Family-Orientated Culture, & Art
- Promote Healthy Living
- Create Outdoor & Recreation Opportunities
- Encourage a Walkable & Bikeable Community
- Provide for a Green & Resilient Community

Alignment with NY Forward Goals

 Create an active downtown and sense of place

 Providing amenities that support and enhance downtown living and quality of life

 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support investments that are more resilient to future climate change impacts

 Enhance public spaces for arts and cultural events, serving the community and visitors around the region

10 Administrative Capacity

The Village of Sherman has demonstrated its commitment to the preservation and restoration of assets and the capacity for growth and adaptability in a rapidly changing environment. The Village simultaneously took on multiple large scale infrastructure improvement projects involving multiple funding agencies, while initiating several community and economic development projects successfully, all with the assistance of teams of engineers, community planners, fiscal advisors, and legal counsel.

The Village of Sherman leads initiatives that most directly impact the members of the community, understanding that all health, security, stability, and sustainability begin in the home, resulting in a strong community. The Village has administered several grants to maintain the space the Village has secured for the Food Pantry and organized the first Home Repair & Energy Fair with Cornell Cooperative Extension's Sustainability Campaign Coordinator, bringing together NYSERDA

programs and a variety of others, for residents and businesses in the Chautauqua and Cattaraugus region.

The Village's Steering Committee, formed under the Comprehensive Plan, brought together people of different experiences around a table to develop a common vision for the Village and greater Sherman community. This amazing group continues to meet often to discuss initiatives, review proposed laws, and select economic and community development subawards ensuring the decisions are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan in realizing the vision of the community, objectives of the small businesses, and interests of stakeholders. The Planning Board and Board of Trustees provide oversight, but the creativity and innovation are inspired by the individuals and organizations that make up the Sherman community. Beyond Sherman's internal staff, committees, organizations, and shared service support, there is an expansive list of

collaborators in Chautauqua County, each of which has something to offer, be it labor, materials, grant assistance, technical support, all of which in some way has contributed to the success of Sherman and are eager to begin the next phase with an awarded NY Forward grant.

This NY Forward application was provided in large part from the support of the Chautauqua Region Economic Development Corp (CREDC) and Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG), because they have recognized the potential and capacity for Sherman's growth and development within the County's comprehensive plan to advance economic prosperity, expand recreational opportunities, bring families, and supply a labor force contributing to the Live CHQ and Choose CHQ campaigns. Sherman's natural assets and unique historic community make the Village of Sherman an ideal location for investment.



“The engaging NY Forward process has inspired development and growth throughout the Village, within and beyond the target area. The Village of Sherman wishes to express its appreciation for this opportunity and is grateful for the WNY Regional Economic Development Council’s time and consideration in what would be an extremely transformational award!”

11 Letters of Support

1. Hon. Paul M. Wendel, Jr., County Executive, Chautauqua County
2. Hon. Nicholas A. Langworthy, Congressman, U.S. House of Representatives, 23rd District
3. Hon. George Borrello, Senator, NYS Senate - 57th District
4. Hon. Martin Proctor, Chautauqua County Legislature – 18th District
5. Hon. Colleen Meeder, Mayor, Village of Sherman
6. Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development, Chautauqua County; CEO County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA); Co-Chair CCPEG
7. Nathan Aldrich, Manager, Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG) and Chautauqua Region Economic Development Corp (CREDC)
8. Nathan Aldrich, Economic Development Coordinator, for Rebecca Wurster, Special Projects Coordinator, Chautauqua County Department of Planning & Development
9. Andrew Nixon, President & CEO, Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau (CCVB)
10. Twan Leenders, Director of Conservation, Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy
11. Jacob Bodway, CCPEG Trail Coordinator, Friends of Chautauqua County Greenways (FCCG)
12. Bill Ward, President, Chautauqua Rails to Trails (CR2T)
13. Jodi Gray, Chautauqua County Equestrian Trail System (CCETS)
14. Claudia Monroe, Co-Founder, Centaur Stride, Inc., 8488 Jones Rd, Sherman
15. Rose Crane, Steering Committee Chairperson, Village of Sherman
16. Brian Bates, Planning Board Chairperson, Village of Sherman
17. Douglas Crane, Streets Superintendent, Village of Sherman
18. Joel Fisher, Secretary, Stanley Hose Company, Sherman Fire Department
19. Annette Swan, Sherman Town Historian, Sherman Historical Society
20. Roberta Tenpas, President, Sherman Historical Society
21. Cindy Sears, Director, Minerva Free Library
22. Amanda Meeder, President, Sherman Area Chamber of Commerce
23. Carrie Yohe, Superintendent, Sherman Central School District
24. Georgia Peck, Sherman's Inn on Main (Bed & Breakfast), 137 W Main St
25. Ken Labuskes, Steering Committee & ZBA Member, resident 137 E Main St.
26. Heather Goree, We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman, 124 E Main St. (anchor project)
27. Matt Bromberg and Paul Salzler, M3P Realty, LLC & Tusk Construction, Inc., 121 & 123 W Main St; (130 W Main St. hostel project)
28. Cris Loutzenhiser, Cooler Bar & Grille, 114 W Main St; (110 W Main St retail project)
29. Michael Sheffield, current owner of 110 W Main St.
30. Danielle Crane, 124 W Main St. (NAPA, mixed-use, efficiency apt. project)
31. Duane Woods, Ottaway & Woods Auto Parts Inc., current owner of NAPA, 124 W Main St.
32. David Conrad, Sherman Hotel, 133 & 129 W Main St; (158 W Main St. multi-family apt.)
33. Becky Van Valkenburg, The Cornerstone Restaurant, 104 E Main St. (public art location)
34. Joel Fisher, 5th Grade Teacher, Sherman Central School District



**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Gerace Office Building – 3 N. Erie St. – Mayville, NY 14757-1007
(716) 753-4211 – FAX (716) 753-4756 – wendelp@chqgov.com
<https://chqgov.com/>

October 9, 2024

Hon. Colleen Meeder, Mayor
Village of Sherman
111 Mill Street, P.O. Box 629
Sherman, NY 14781

Re: Village of Sherman 2024 NY Forward LOS

Dear Mayor Meeder,

This letter is in strong support for the Village of Sherman's \$4.5 million NY Forward Application to the NYS Department of State for the Village of Sherman.

The NY Forward award will be an all-encompassing master project providing funding for building improvements, business development, placemaking strategies, gateways and green infrastructure for implementation and revitalization of downtown Sherman to attract businesses, residents, and visitors by increasing access to the trail systems, new retail spaces to diversify the downtown's current offerings, and establishing the 'We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman' anchor business.

Along with investment in the anchor business and growing amenities, the Rosie Billquist Trail improvements to the greater Chautauqua Rails to Trails network and parks along French Creek are critical to the Village's economic development and stability, and quality of life strategies consist with the Live CHQ and Choose CHQ campaigns attracting visitors, new residents, and building a strong workforce.

Strengthening our small rural communities through established and proven ecotourism and agritourism development makes communities like the Village of Sherman less vulnerable to economic stressors and environmental challenges, all while in keeping with the historic character and charm of the neighborhoods.

Once again, I fully support this important grant application and the community's commitment to improving the lives of people who live and work in Chautauqua County.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Paul M. Wendel, Jr.
Chautauqua County Executive

**Remitting directly to Karen Utz, WNYREDC,
Honorable Nicholas A. Langworthy, Congressman
U.S. House of Representatives, 23rd District**

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



GEORGE M. BORRELLO
SENATOR
57TH DISTRICT

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
AGRICULTURE
BANKS
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTS
COMMITTEES
AGING
FINANCE
INTERNET AND TECHNOLOGY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ALBANY OFFICE
ROOM 406
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG.
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
PHONE: (518) 455-3563
FAX: (518) 426-6905
DISTRICT OFFICE
2-6 E. SECOND ST.
FENTON BLDG., STE. 302
JAMESTOWN, NY 14701
PHONE: (716) 664-4603
FAX: (716) 664-2430
SATELLITE OFFICE
WESTGATE PLAZA
700 W. STATE STREET
OLEAN, NEW YORK 14760
PHONE: (716) 372-4901
FAX: (716) 372-5740

October 10, 2024

Hon. Colleen Meeder, Mayor
Village of Sherman
111 Mill Street, P.O. Box 629
Sherman, New York 14781

Re: Village of Sherman 2024 NY Forward LOS

Dear Mayor Meeder,

I write today in strong support for the Village of Sherman's \$4.5 million NY Forward Application to the NYS Department of State.

The NY Forward award will exponentially strengthen the community's vision by providing funding for building improvements, business development, placemaking strategies, gateways and green infrastructure for implementation and revitalization of downtown Sherman to attract businesses, residents, and visitors.

The Village of Sherman is continually working toward providing a higher quality of living for residents by exploring and capitalizing on the rich cultural, historical, natural, and agricultural assets of the Village, by investing in sustainable public infrastructure, increasing access to the trail systems, creating new retail spaces to diversify the downtown's current offerings, and establishing the We Rock the Spectrum - Sherman anchor business.

The Village of Sherman has completed an updated Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Market Analysis, and a NYMS Building Feasibility Study that incorporated the input of all stakeholders and received support from businesses, residents, and community organizations. Funding also will assist with local trail improvements to the Chautauqua Rails to Trails network and parks along French Creek. It is essential to the village's economic development and stability, and quality of life strategies for residents and visitors.

I commend the Village of Sherman for being directly instrumental in making Western New York a better place to live and work through such quality of life and economic development strategies. I wish you continued success with this new endeavor.

Please accept my best wishes. Should you need assistance in the future, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'George M. Borrello'.

George M. Borrello
Senator, 57th District



CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATURE

3 N. ERIE STREET · MAYVILLE, N.Y. 14757-1007 · (716) 753-4215

Martin Proctor
Legislator, District 18

October 11, 2024

Karen Utz
WNY Regional Director
95 Perry Street, Suite 500
Buffalo, NY 14203-3030

Re: NY Forward Grant Application for the Village of Sherman

Dear Ms. Utz,

This letter is in strong support for the Village of Sherman's \$4.5 million NY Forward Application to the NYS Department of State for the Village of Sherman's downtown revitalization.

The NY Forward award would be an all-encompassing master project providing funding for building improvements, business development, placemaking strategies, gateways and green infrastructure for implementation and revitalization of downtown Sherman to attract businesses, residents, and visitors by increasing access to the trail systems, new retail spaces adding more amenities to the downtown's current offerings and establishing the anchor business 'We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman'.

The Village of Sherman has prepared for its 'shovel readiness' by upgrading the public water and sewer infrastructure, ideal for business and residential development. It has completed a Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Market Analysis, and NYMS Building Feasibility Study that incorporated the input of all stakeholders and received support from businesses, residents, and community organizations that led to the NY Main Street Award for the multiple Façade Restoration Projects along with the restoration of the covered walkway awnings. Funding the local trail improvements as part of the Chautauqua Rails to Trails network and parks along French Creek is critical to the Village's economic development and quality of life strategies.

Once again, I fully support this important grant application and the Village of Sherman's commitment to improving the lives of people who live and work in Sherman, while attracting visitors to the region.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Proctor
Legislator – District 18
County of Chautauqua

VILLAGE OF SHERMAN
HOME OF THE YORKER MUSEUM
111 MILL ST, PO BOX 629, SHERMAN, NY 14781
716-761-6781 TDD 711 * VILLAGE.SHERMAN@GMAIL.COM
WWW.SHERMANNY.ORG

October 15th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: VILLAGE OF SHERMAN - NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3

Dear Ms. Utz,

I became committed to the Village of Sherman as mayor in 2017, having seen the condition of the near failing infrastructure and the lack of budget to financially support the different departments, which combined led to significant operational challenges.

The members of the Village of Sherman Board of Trustees are each equally and personally committed to the future of the Village. They understand the decisions made are required and affect people not only today, but also 10, 20, 30+ years from now. They have chosen to accept responsibility, often at their own sacrifice. It is together through their selfless, nonpolitical actions that Sherman has been so successful. The Trustees are always focused on what needs to be done, knowing the risks, willing to make the hard decisions, even during difficult times.

This has resulted in financial preparedness, substantial grant awards, the completion of public improvement projects, and engagement of stakeholders, further strengthening the Village's purpose to serve. The adopted policies and initiatives drawing the community's awareness and support of this timely opportunity.

We planted the seeds and gathered the data with the Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Market Analysis, Feasibility Study and the like. Now we are watching the restoration and the opening of new businesses, our library rejuvenated, and our community getting excited! The NY Forward application process is fueling the momentum that is inspiring creativity and collaboration, bringing interest and investment to Sherman.

With the work the Village has done to date, we have developed a great network of people available to us from numerous supportive agencies across Chautauqua County, professionals from various planning, legal, and engineering firms, and contacts of experts in the field; all of which have and will contribute to our future success. We will look to these resources in the administration of the NY Forward Award and any other projects that reinforce the Village of Sherman's stability and sustainability.

These are the two words I continually use to describe all our efforts: **stable and sustainable**. Be it financial stability (of the municipality or local economy), infrastructure, energy efficiency, climate resiliency, historic preservation, support of small businesses and non-profit missions, housing security, building a healthy community with walkable & bikeable streets and accessibility for all, **the decisions we make are to ensure the Village of Sherman is stable and sustainable beyond our service to the community.**

Sincerely,



Colleen M. Meeder
Mayor

"Preserving our Past... Working for our Future"

THE HONORABLE COLLEEN MEEDER, MAYOR
DEPUTY MAYOR RYAN SANDERS
TRUSTEES DENNIS WATSON, GARY EMORY & DANIEL CRANE

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency



ChooseCHQ.com

October 11, 2024

Hon. Colleen Meeder, Mayor
Village of Sherman
111 Mill Street, P.O. Box 629
Sherman, NY 14781

Re: Village of Sherman 2024 NY Forward LOS

Dear Mayor Meeder,

This letter is to express our strong support for the Village of Sherman's \$4.5 million NY Forward Application to the NYS Department of State.

The NY Forward award will strengthen the Village of Sherman in its contribution to the goals of the Live CHQ and Choose CHQ campaigns aimed at attracting people to Chautauqua County for a healthy quality of life, gainful employment, outdoor recreational opportunities, and business investment.

The Village of Sherman's family-orientated 'bedroom' community with affordable homes in a walkable and bikeable community will provide the added labor force needed in Sherman, the surrounding towns, and the cities of Jamestown and Dunkirk, within an easy commute of 'shovel ready' industrial developments the CCIDA has established.

The Village's Pro-Housing and Complete Streets initiatives will be bolstered by the NY Forward award within the all-encompassing master project providing funding for building improvements, business development, placemaking strategies, gateways and green infrastructure for implementation and revitalization of downtown Sherman to attract businesses, residents, and visitors by increasing access to the trail systems, new retail spaces to diversify the downtown's current offerings, and establishing an anchor business.

Funding also will assist with local trail improvements to the Chautauqua Rails to Trails network and parks along French Creek. It is critical to the Village's economic development and quality of life strategies, contributing to growing ecotourism and agritourism in Chautauqua County.

Once again, I fully support this important grant application and the community's commitment to improving the lives of people who live and work in Chautauqua County.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mark Geise
Deputy County Executive for Economic Development, Chautauqua County
CEO, County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency
Co-Chair, Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth
201 W. 3rd St. - Suite #115
Jamestown, NY 14701
(716) 661-8900
(716) 489-6075 - Cell



October 10, 2024

Karen Utz
WNY Regional Director
95 Perry Street, Suite 500
Buffalo, NY 14203-3030

Re: NY Forward Grant Application for the Village of Sherman

Dear Ms. Utz:

As the Manager of the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth, I am pleased to provide my support for the Village of Sherman's New York Forward Application to the NYS Department of State.

The New York Forward award will ignite the committed capital infusion to simultaneously construct multiple transformational interdependent projects that are ideally supportive of each other's missions and within the community's goal of keeping with the historic character and charm of the family-friendly neighborhood. The New York Forward award will greatly contribute to Chautauqua County's growing industry of ecotourism and agritourism, and the Village of Sherman's role in Live CHQ and Choose CHQ campaigns contributing to strengthening the regional economy.

The "We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman" sensory gym is the anchor project that will give Sherman a competitive advantage in the region with its unique inclusive sensory equipment for children of all abilities. While the market of children's activity and play centers is rapidly expanding and expected to increase to more than \$30 billion by 2032, it will draw visitors from the region as it sets Sherman apart as the only facility of its size and scope serving the target market in Chautauqua County. The adjacent Chautauqua Rails to Trails and connectivity provide further opportunities for Sherman in its efforts to achieve the Trail Town Designation, to which substantial economic growth has been proven around trail communities. These are the key projects that will be further complemented by multiple committed transformational projects.

The Village of Sherman has support from businesses, residents, and community organizations for the application to the New York Forward program and through the completed Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Market Analysis, and NYMS Building Feasibility Study that incorporated the input of all stakeholders. The Village of Sherman has prepared for its 'shovel readiness' by executing the necessary community planning strategies and direct outreach to interested developers and businesses.

Once again, please accept this letter of support for the essential grant to support the Village of Sherman. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (716) 363-3672.

Sincerely,

Nathan Aldrich, Manager
aldrichn@chqgov.com



Chautauqua County
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

201 West Third Street, Suite 115 • Jamestown, New York 14701
Phone (716) 661-8900 • Fax (716) 664-4515 • www.planningchautauqua.com

October 10, 2024

Karen Utz
WNY Regional Director
95 Perry Street, Suite 500
Buffalo, NY 14203-3030

Re: NY Forward Grant Application for the Village of Sherman

Dear Ms. Utz:

As the Economic Development Coordinator of the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development, I am pleased to provide my full support for the Village of Sherman's New York Forward application.

The New York Forward award would be an all-encompassing master project providing funding for building improvements, business development, placemaking strategies, gateways and green infrastructure for implementation and revitalization of downtown Sherman to attract businesses, residents, and visitors by increasing access to the trail systems, new retail spaces to diversify the downtown's current offerings, and establishing We Rock the Spectrum - Sherman anchor business.

The Village of Sherman has completed an updated Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Market Analysis, and a NYMS Building Feasibility Study that incorporated the input of all stakeholders and received support from businesses, residents, and community organizations. The Village has begun acting on adopted Pro-Housing and Complete Streets Policies.

The New York Forward award will expedite the development of rental units in mixed-use buildings and new construction of multi-family dwellings units that are in high demand. This contributes to the tax base while supplying the labor force for the shovel ready industrial complex in the nearby Town of Ripley. The Village of Sherman's location on I-86 and proximity to I-90 makes it a convenient commute to employment. The walkable and bikeable community with outdoor and recreational opportunities, will make the family-friendly neighborhood attractive to residents and visitors. All of which is part of the Village of Sherman's Pro-Housing Strategy and Complete Streets Initiative in concert with the goals of the Live CHQ and Choose CHQ campaigns attracting people to Chautauqua County for a healthy quality of life and gainful employment.

The Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Development fully supports this important project as it helps us to fulfill our mission to improve the community, economy, and quality of life in Chautauqua County. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (716) 363-3672.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nathan Aldrich".

Nathan Aldrich
Economic Development Coordinator
aldrichn@chqgov.com

Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive
GeiseM@chqgov.com

Paul M. Wendel, Jr., County Executive
WendelP@chqgov.com



Chautauqua
COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU

October 14, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: VILLAGE OF SHERMAN - NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3

Dear Ms. Utz,

I am writing in support of the Village of Sherman's application to the NY Forward program for the \$4.5m award. The Village has worked diligently in efforts to promote the growth of small businesses since the COVID Pandemic through their Rural Business Development Grant award for signage, the lights and flowers beautifying Sherman's downtown business district, restoration of the historic covered walkway awning, and encouraging businesses to market in the Chautauqua County Travel Guide.

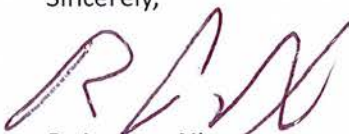
The Downtown Market Analysis and NY Main Street Grant have led to the opening of new restaurants and the Cooler Creamery ice cream shop coming this May 2025. The Village co-sponsors local festivals and events like the new Lighted Tractor Parade held in December drawing hundreds of attendees each year, and together with area businesses has built two volleyball courts for weekly tournaments.

The redevelopment of two large vacant industrial sites within the downtown for the 'We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman' unique children's sensory gym and a hostel accommodating trail enthusiasts will attract visitors to the region. The improvements to the Rosie Billquist Trail play an important role in supporting the development of the Chautauqua Rails to Trails connection to the greater Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. All the proposed projects within the NY Forward application complement each other's missions building a stable and cooperative environment for businesses and non-profit organizations.

The Village of Sherman with its historic charm and new amenities is becoming a contributor to Chautauqua County's ecotourism and agritourism strategies for a strong economy under the Live CHQ and Choose CHQ campaigns. The NY Forward award will greatly improve and expedite the Village of Sherman's goals of attracting people to live, work, and visit Sherman and the Chautauqua region.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you have questions or require further information.

Sincerely,



R. Andrew Nixon
President & CEO



PO Box 45
71 E. Fairmount Avenue
Lakewood, NY 14750
716-664-2166

www.chautauquawatershed.org
info@chautauquawatershed.org

Preserve and enhance the quality, scenic beauty and ecological health of the Chautauqua region's lands and waters for our community.

October 14th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: VILLAGE OF SHERMAN - NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3

Dear Ms. Utz,

I write today in strong support of the Village of Sherman's NY Forward Grant Program application for the multiple transformational complementing projects under one master project for trail development along French Creek in concert with the revitalization of downtown businesses and organizations in efforts to grow the community and attract visitors to the region.

The Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy was established "to preserve and enhance the quality, scenic beauty, and ecological health of lands and waters of the Chautauqua region for our community". The inviting green spaces around French Creek require management in balancing bank and habitat preservation while encouraging outdoor recreation. The Village's streetscape improvements will aid in managing the localized flooding and improving the quality of run-off discharging to French Creek. Watershed stewardship is critical to our mission in preserving the health of unique waterways like French Creek which is nationally recognized as the most biologically diverse stream in the northeastern United States and is a home and refuge to 98 rare or endangered species of plants and animals.

The Village has received support from local stakeholders, businesses, and community organizations while updating the Village of Sherman's Climate Smart Comprehensive Plan, performing a Downtown Market Analysis, preparing the Comprehensive Stormwater Improvement Plan, and through the recent Complete Streets Initiative. The new sidewalk pavement, stormwater infiltration trees, and trailhead improvements complement the Village's Complete Streets Initiative. This project sits at the trailhead of Chautauqua Rails to Trails (CR2T), a priority of the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG) and their established group representing multiple trail systems, known as the Friends of the Chautauqua County Greenways (FCCG). Trail system connectivity is essential to the County's economic development strategy.

The Village of Sherman's NY Forward Grant Award will bring transformative projects to Main Street and surrounding area, which is presently undergoing the replacement and right-sizing of the 'grey' stormwater infrastructure in preparation of the next phase of improvements.

The Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy fully supports this important grant application and the community's commitment to improving the lives of people who live and work there through quality programs. I look forward to seeing this project receive favorable consideration.

Should you require any further information regarding this project, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address listed below.

Sincerely,



Dr. Twan Leenders
Director of Conservation, Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy
&
Co-Chair, Friends of the Chautauqua County Greenways (FCCG)

71 E Fairmount Ave.
Lakewood, NY 14750
Email: twan@chautauquawatershed.org
Tel.: (716) 664 2166

October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: VILLAGE OF SHERMAN - NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3

Subj: Trail Development

Dear Ms. Utz,

The Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth (CCPEG) strongly supports the Village of Sherman's grant application to the NY Forward Grant Program for their all-encompassing master project, that includes improvements to the Rosie Billquist Trail, a section of Chautauqua Rails to Trails which serves the greater region of Chautauqua County.

We are particularly interested in how this project improves access and safety to the Rosie Billquist Trail segment with proposed surfacing of a .7-mile section with crushed limestone and the installation of a bridge to cross NY State Route 430. The creation of an Autism nature sensory trail behind the We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman children's unique sensory gym, campsites, lights, and trail head improvements will attract visitors to the region.

The Village of Sherman has built a restroom with showers at Edmund's Park available to all trail enthusiasts and continues its efforts toward the goal of becoming a trail town, including its project of a public / private community center and hostel at 130 W Main Street. The trail through Sherman is a multi-use trail for hikers, bikers, equestrians, and snowmobilers.

This important trailhead provides access for recreation opportunities for residents and tourists, and CCPEG has prioritized future improvements of the Sherman section of the Chautauqua County Rails to Trails. The Village's Complete Streets Initiative provided by funding from CCPEG will further contribute to Main Street improvements, walkability, and trail enhancements, all significantly benefiting the community and downtown businesses. It is exciting to see Sherman's push to "go green" in the village.

CCPEG fully supports this important grant application and the community's commitment to improving the lives of people who live and work there through quality programs. I look forward to seeing this project receive favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Jacob Bodway
Chautauqua County Trail Coordinator



CHAUTAUQUA RAILS TO TRAILS

P.O. BOX 151 · MAYVILLE, N.Y. 14757-1007 · (716) 753-2800

Bill Ward
President

October 14, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: NY Forward Round 3
Project: Village of Sherman

Dear Ms. Utz:

Chautauqua Rails to Trails strongly supports the Village of Sherman's application to the NY Forward Grant Program for their multiple transformational projects to revitalize Sherman's downtown attracting visitors to the region.

Sherman is proposing significant improvements for access and safety along the Rosie Billquist Trail, which is a section of Chautauqua Rails to Trails (CR2T). Chautauqua Rails to Trails and the Friends of the Chautauqua County Greenways (FCCG) are prioritizing improvements in and around Sherman, and ultimately making the connection to Clymer, NY completing this section of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail.

The trail improvements will contribute greatly to local and regional economic development. The list of proposed projects complements each other and will be constructed concurrently with the NY Forward Award further supporting the growth of amenities needed for a trail town designation.

The Village's recent kick-off of the Complete Streets Initiative with the award from the Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth will further contribute to these Main Street improvements, walkability, and trail enhancements, all significantly benefiting the community and downtown businesses.

We fully support this important application and the community's commitment to improving the lives of people who live and work there through quality programs, and we look forward to seeing this project receive favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Ward", is written in a cursive style.

Bill Ward
President, Chautauqua Rails to Trails



October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council

RE: VILLAGE OF SHERMAN - NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3

Dear Ms. Utz,

As a board member of the Chautauqua County Equestrian Trail System (CCETS) and local business partner, I fully support the Village of Sherman's NY Forward Application.

The Village of Sherman's commitment to trail development is important to the advancement of CCETS's mission in maintaining and providing multi-use trails and equestrian access. Chautauqua Rails to Trails (CR2T) is open to horseback riding and horse drawn transportation, however there are still limited opportunities in Chautauqua County that CCETS is diligently working to extend in promoting eco-tourism, outdoor recreation, and alternative transportation.

The recently built year-round public restrooms with showers in Sherman, plans for campsites with utilities, and parking areas inclusive of all trail users, including equestrians, are not only exciting for CCETS, but it is also inviting and encouraging all outdoor enthusiasts to visit and explore the Sherman area. One of the greatest concerns for all users on the CR2T section of trail leading into Sherman is the unsafe crossing of the Chautauqua Rails to Trails at NY State Route 430 at the east entrance to the Village. The Village is proposing to install a bridge for the safety of all trail users, including equestrians. This would be an incredible asset aligning our mission of safe and accessible multi-use trails. CCETS stewards 26 miles of multi-use trails in the North Harmony State Forest bordering Sherman, NY. CCETS is working with NY State DEC, NY Parks & Trails, local business and landowners to connect these two trail systems and further expand accessibility and provide safe alternative transportation routes.

A NY Forward Grant will provide the Sherman community and those of us trail enthusiasts in the surrounding region with a great opportunity to see transformational improvements to the trail supporting downtown small businesses and promoting outdoor recreation for everyone to access safely and enjoy together.

Thank you,

Jodi Gray

Chautauqua County Equestrian Trail System, Inc (CCETS)

PFM Ventures, LLC

www.HeronHorse.com



October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council

RE: VILLAGE OF SHERMAN - NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3

Dear Ms. Utz,

Centaur Stride, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization within six miles of the downtown Village of Sherman. We would like to express our support for a NY Forward Grant that furthers our mission in service to children and families in our community.

The We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman unique sensory gym will serve many of the same children and families as we do at Centaur Stride with our fully inclusive environment for experiential growth and learning. The only difference is Centaur Stride is a ‘Therapeutic Horseback Riding Facility’. We are an adjunct to physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy, using the horse as the facilitator to achieve developmental and rehabilitative objectives through sport, recreation, arts and culture.

“The mission of Centaur Stride is to provide an inclusive environment of recreational enrichment for persons with and without disabilities. A special effort is made to include the parents and siblings of the children with disabilities receiving services in our program. Our vision is to be recognized as a premier provider of a variety of alternative recreational opportunities for the Western New York and Pennsylvania region.”

Centaur Stride is a year-round facility, specifically adapted for people with disabilities. Centaur Stride is a very unique facility in that it brings together people of all ability levels and provides an opportunity for those without disabilities to develop a better understanding of the everyday challenges others must face and overcome.

We see how the mission of We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman complements ours in service to all children and families. Our locations are conveniently less than six miles apart. In fact, many of our participants come by I-86 through downtown Sherman to reach our facility at 8488 Jones Rd, Sherman, NY 14781. Our combined efforts would make Sherman the ideal location for visiting families and local families to experience multiple enriching programs in our rural community.

A NY Forward award to the Village of Sherman will benefit surrounding organizations in the area such as ours in strengthening our businesses and programming. Please take careful consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Claudia Monroe, Physical Therapist
Co-Founder of Centaur Stride, Inc.

**Rose Crane
Steering Committee
PO Box 53, Sherman, NY 14781**

October 10, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, REDC Regional Director
95 Perry Street, Suite 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: NY Forward Application Round 3 – Village of Sherman

Dear Ms. Utz,

The Steering Committee fully supports the Village of Sherman in its pursuit of a grant application from NY Forward.

The Steering Committee was originally established for the development and oversight of the Village of Sherman's Climate Smart Comprehensive Plan. The Steering Committee remains active to contribute and collaborate in Village projects like the Downtown Market Analysis, the NY Main Street Feasibility Study and its subsequent selection of sub-award participants in the NYMS Restoration Project. The Steering Committee has acted as a Selection Committee, and the Stakeholders Committee setting priorities in the Complete Streets Initiative; as well as providing recommendations in drafting law language prior to adoption, particularly as it relates to amendments to the Zoning Code, ensuring it remains in concert with the goals defined in the Village of Sherman's Comprehensive Plan.

The committee is in favor of all the proposed projects, which were presented at the recent 'Night at the Museum' event. We are especially supportive of reusing the vacant Ford Garage as a Community Center with coffee shop and the return of the weekly Farmer's Market, and much-needed short term hostels. This center will provide a public space available to all residents and visitors for fellowship and programming, as well as provide overnight accommodation for trail users. The location of the Community Center is perfect with the neighboring Cooler Bar & Grille holding outdoor concerts and hosting volleyball tournaments. The annual community festivals, including Sherman Days, the Annual Sherman Music Festival, and the Christmas week celebration concluding with the growing and creative Sherman Lighted Tractor Parade routed down Main Street, are all held at George Edmunds Memorial Park which is located behind the proposed Community Center.

We are completely behind the transformation of the old theater into a We Rock the Spectrum (WRTS) - sensory gym for children of all ages and abilities. Not only will this revitalize the vacant 23,000 sq ft industrial building but will also bring families from all around the region boosting the foot traffic within the village. WRTS will also work toward bridging the gap for the children in the community and surrounding areas with the development of the adjacent Autism Nature Trail. This along with the trail improvements project for the Rosie Billquist Trail on French Creek, and achieving the Trail Town designation, will promote the overall health and well-being of the community and visitors.

As the Chairperson of the Steering Committee, I thank you for your consideration and urge you to award the crucial NY Forward funding to the Village of Sherman. Such an allocation would provide a much-needed boost to our community's transformation and benefit to the greater region.

Sincerely,



Rose Crane
Steering Committee, Chair

VILLAGE OF SHERMAN
HOME OF THE YORKER MUSEUM
111 MILL ST, PO BOX 629, SHERMAN, NY 14781
716-761-6781 TDD 711 * VILLAGE.SHERMAN@GMAIL.COM
WWW.SHERMANNY.ORG

October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3 – VILLAGE OF SHERMAN

Dear Ms. Utz

As the Chair of the Village of Sherman Planning Board, I wish to express our complete support for the application to the NY Forward Grant, Round 3. We concur with the Board of Trustees that revitalizing our Downtown Main Street area is a high priority, working toward the health, safety and wellness of the village, and for the protection of vulnerable aging buildings.

Along with the adoption of the Fair Housing Policy in 2017, and the adoption of the Pro-Housing Pledge in 2024, the village has taken proactive steps to manage and remediate blight and vacancy issues, with the implementation of the “Vacant, Abandoned, Boarded and Foreclosed Property” law. The village has submitted all the requirements to achieve our Pro-Housing certification and are aggressively pursuing ways to protect and increase our housing stock to meet the growing residential need. Under the leadership of Mayor Colleen Meeder, the Village of Sherman has undergone incredible transformation, not only aesthetically, but all in line with the vision to build a stable and sustainable future. This includes the complete renovation of both the water and sewer facilities, the first phase of the 5-year stormwater improvements project, installation of 2 electric vehicle charging stations, adding additional lighting at the I-86 off ramp, the development of 2 community solar arrays built to offset the public infrastructure debt service, single-family and mobile home improvement projects through grants from HCR, and renovating the façade along Main Street through NYMS grants, all leading to the addition of new businesses and restaurants investing into this community.

I'd like to reiterate how the Village of Sherman is dedicated to preservation, restoration, and development while understanding growth requires the ability to respond to a rapidly changing environment. The Village demonstrated its capacity to manage large infrastructure projects with the 2024 completion of the \$7M Wastewater Treatment Plant and \$2.2M Drinking Water Improvement Projects. In conjunction with these endeavors, the Village participated in and adopted the Chautauqua County Hazard Mitigation Plan and is beginning a Zoning Code Update including the future adoption of local stormwater management practices and regulations for the Village.

“Preserving our Past... Working for our Future”

THE HONORABLE COLLEEN MEEDER, MAYOR
DEPUTY MAYOR RYAN SANDERS
TRUSTEES DENNIS WATSON, GARY EMORY & DANIEL CRANE

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Our vision is to capitalize on the unique, small-town, historic character of the village, while pursuing economic activity to create a community that is thriving, walkable, stable, and equitable. Building off recent commercial investment and growth, the Village seeks to become a destination and to gain its "Trail Town" designation, which will exponentially attract trail enthusiasts. Ecotourism brings visitor spending, drives labor income, and increases tax revenue for the communities along trails.

As a Planning Board member, I assure you that the Village of Sherman has actively engaged in implementing practices outlined in the policies as adopted to date in pursuit of improving the resiliency and sustainability for the livability and quality of life in Sherman. The Village Board of Trustees first adopted the Village of Sherman Comprehensive Plan in 2021, with a Climate Smart Communities Grant. As local priorities evolved, the Comprehensive Plan was amended in 2023 related to historic preservation, hazard mitigation, stormwater management, and Complete Streets policies.

The Planning Board is currently working on updating the 2009 Village Zoning Code with the Smart Growth Program to include: preserving the character of neighborhoods, creating a downtown 'business district', establishing design guidelines, updating language, addressing new legislation (i.e., cannabis), transitioning to green and alternative energy systems, and adopting stormwater management regulations to secure existing assets and new development. In the interim, the Village Board has adopted a series of timely amendments addressing safety and quality of life needs, including the local law 2021 Regulation of Solar Energy Systems.

The Planning Board is very supportive of the restoration and reuse of the many empty buildings, the preservation of our heritage at the French Creek Yorker Museum, the trail development, upgrades to the Minerva Free Library, and the creation of additional living spaces through mixed-use buildings and new developments. I believe these projects will all aid the stimulation of economic development and instill a renewed sense of pride in our village.

A NY Forward Grant would ensure the continued efforts to create a stable and sustainable community and expedite current projects which will not only benefit the Village of Sherman but advance economic prosperity, expand recreational opportunities, bring families, and supply a labor force contributing to the Live CHQ and Choose CHQ campaigns. All ensuring the continued advancement of economic development and revitalization of this whole area, benefiting this community and the greater area in Chautauqua County.

Awarding the NY Forward grant to the Village of Sherman would invigorate this small community, and outlying areas. I thank you for your favorable consideration for this critical grant.

Sincerely,



Brian Bates, Chair
Planning Board, Village of Sherman

CLERK-TREASURER JEANETTE RAMM	716-761-6781
STREETS SUPERINTENDENT DOUGLAS CRANE	716-269-9096
WATER & WASTEWATER CHIEF OPERATOR JAMES IRWIN	716-581-3397

VILLAGE OF SHERMAN

HOME OF THE YORKER MUSEUM

111 MILL ST, PO BOX 629, SHERMAN, NY 14781
716-761-6781 TDD 711 * VILLAGE.SHERMAN@GMAIL.COM

WWW.SHERMANNY.ORG

October 15th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: VILLAGE OF SHERMAN - NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3

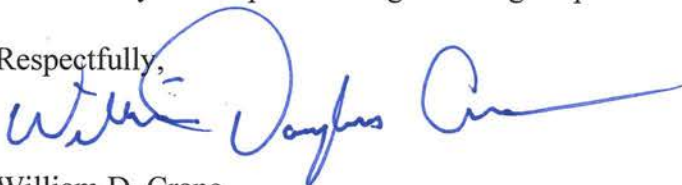
Dear Ms. Utz,

As the Streets Superintendent and water operator for the Village of Sherman for over 22 years, and lifelong resident, I have seen the Sherman community transition from traditional small family farming to more of a bedroom community with people commuting to work. This requires the businesses to adapt, and instead of solely relying on the local regular's early morning breakfasts and lunches, now its about drawing visitors made up of evening and weekend crowds, this involves marketing and collaboration of business owners. We've watched the small grocery, and agricultural related retailers go out of business, and the COVID pandemic striking quite a blow. The Village municipality, our non-profit organizations, and some key entrepreneurs have been diligently working the last few years to revitalize the downtown and stimulate the local economy. We've all been volunteering, grant writing, and investing in capital projects.

In 2024, the Village completed the final \$2.2M phase of the Drinking Water Improvements, which originally began in 2002 with the first installation of the new water mains. The 45-year-old wastewater treatment plant underwent \$7M in upgrades and the deteriorating stormwater pipes are currently being replaced on Main Street. There are a host of smaller but equally, if not more impactful projects the Village has undertaken to improve the lives of the residents and businesses in Sherman.

Since 2017, the Villag Board has been focused on building a "stable and sustainable" community, that carried through COVID and continues with the transformation to becoming a trail community. The Village is engaged in the regional effort toward ecotourism and agritourism. Our Complete Streets Initiative extending and widening sidewalks, installing crosswalks, and providing ADA accessibility are all part of the greater region plans for connectivity.

Respectfully,



William D. Crane
Streets Superintendent

"Preserving our Past... Working for our Future"

THE HONORABLE COLLEEN MEEDER, MAYOR

DEPUTY MAYOR RYAN SANDERS

TRUSTEES DENNIS WATSON, GARY EMORY & DANIEL CRANE

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Stanley Hose Company Fire Department

122 Park St. Sherman, NY 14781-0574 Phone 716-761-6700 TDD-771 Fax 716-761-6767

October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director REDC
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: VILLAGE OF SHERMAN - NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3

Dear Ms. Utz

As the Financial Secretary for the Stanley Hose Company, and active volunteer member since 1993, I am writing this letter in full support of the Village of Sherman's NY Forward Grant application aimed at revitalizing the village center at the heart of the area we serve.

The Village's vision is focused on economic, educational, and recreational opportunities for families and residents of all ages. The NY Forward award would expedite and ensure the successful restoration of empty, aging buildings; create additional housing to support the growing desire for families wanting to move into the community; improve the multi-use trail and upgrade recreational space; among other smaller yet equally beneficial projects.

The fire department is particularly supportive of the bookend projects that will take two empty commercial buildings that in their current condition are blight concerns. These reuse strategies will ensure that these old, deteriorating buildings will have their electrical and gas utilities safely brought up to code, while repairing structural and foundational concerns, as well as transforming and beautifying their appearance.

The Stanley Hose Company is committed to this community, serving the towns of Sherman, Mina, Westfield, and Chautauqua. Stanley Hose Company has invested \$200,000.00 to remodel the fire hall's kitchen, bathroom, and banquet space, reside the exterior façade, add new signage, repair the roof, windows, doors, install insulation and new energy efficient systems, all through grants, donations, and generous foundations. Additional investment went to purchase the new rescue truck for \$800,000.00, ambulance for \$300,000.00, and air packs for \$92,000.00. Much of which was made possible through generous donations from The Harold Wake Family Foundation and grants funded through the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation (CRCF), Sheldon Foundation, SAM (State & Municipal Capital Grant), and a USDA Emergency Healthcare Grant.

On behalf of all the volunteer firefighters at the Stanley Hose Company, we offer our full support of this application to NY Forward, and respectfully request that you consider awarding the Village of Sherman this critical funding. Such an allocation would provide a catalyst for the transformation and regeneration of this rural community.

Respectfully, 

Joel Fisher – The Stanley Hose Company INC.

Annette Swan
Sherman Town Historian
PO Box 183
Sherman, NY 14781

October 11, 2024

Colléen Meeder
Mayor
Village of Sherman
Sherman, NY 14781

I am writing this letter to offer my support for the application for the NY Forward Grant that would benefit many projects in the Village of Sherman. The list of projects that could benefit from this grant are all positive steps forward to enhance different areas of the village.

As the current historian for the Town of Sherman, I enjoy seeing new ways to utilize the existing buildings around town that hold a lot of history for Sherman. The early settlers and residents were proud of this town and worked hard to make it a place where people wanted to raise families and make a living. Receiving this grant would allow that pride to continue and would encourage families to stay and be a part of Sherman for many years to come.

Many of these projects would enhance the appearance of different areas of the village, one being the proposed new fence around the Yorker Museum. Replacing the current fence with a more attractive looking fence, and adding a large sliding gate in the front area, would allow museum events to be more accessible and inviting. Although the museum complex borders the Village Commons, the current fencing separates the two areas. Having a sliding gate at the entrance to the museum would open up the area to the Village Commons and would make a nice open and inviting area. This change would also allow more possibilities for events at the museum and encourage community involvement.

In conclusion, I fully support your application for the NY Forward Grant that will enhance many aspects of our community.

Annette Swan

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annette Swan".

Sherman Town Historian



FRENCH CREEK YORKER MUSEUM
Cnr PARK AND CHURCH STREETS, SHERMAN ,NY 14781

October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION, ROUND 3 - VILLAGE OF SHERMAN

Dear Ms. Utz,

The Sherman Yorker Museum Complex is located on the Village Green at 116 Church Street in the Village of Sherman. The museum comprises of 6 relocated buildings, essentially creating a village with a village, filled with authentic furniture and memorabilia for visitors to experience and imagine life long ago. The initial hard work was done by students from the Sherman Central School in 1950, and it is our desire to ensure that it remains in good condition for everyone to enjoy. Over the past ten years, SHS has been grateful to have been the recipient of grant money to preserve this unusual and unique attraction.

The museum complex is open for tours on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00pm-4:00pm during June, July, and August. Additional tours are scheduled during the week and every year school classes from Sherman Central School, and other schools, groups, and organizations who wish to visit the complex are given tours to learn about Sherman's history and see how people lived in the 1800 and 1900's. SHS has hosted many senior citizens, historical, and church groups, as well as, given tours to individuals and groups of family and friends. The museum is unique to this area and is an asset to everyone in the Western New York area.

On September 26th, 2024, the Village of Sherman hosted "Night at the Museum", a community event held to inform all stakeholders of the NY Forward opportunity, to present the proposed projects, and to solicit input. Roughly 50 people experienced Sherman's French Creek York Museum 'under a new light', demonstrating the possibilities for the future of the museum and the community. This sparked new interest in hosting more regular events and music evenings at the museum because it is a beautiful community venue.

The Sherman Historical Society is thrilled to support the Village of Sherman's application to the NY Forward program to further revitalize our business and downtown district, while ensuring the continued preservation of our historic assets for the benefit of this community and its surrounding areas. Thank you for your commitment to the betterment of rural communities across New York, and for considering the Village of Sherman. This award would be transformative to us!!

Sincerely,
Roberta Tenpas
President of the Sherman Historical Society
716-397-8876



116 MILLER STREET, SHERMAN, NY 14781

716-761-6378

October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: NY FORWARD GRANT LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE VILLAGE OF SHERMAN

Dear Ms. Utz,

In the last 3 years, the Minerva Free Library has an entirely new board of directors bringing renewed energy to the Sherman library.

There is great enthusiasm around the development of programming and services offered, which includes public computers and internet access, community book club, preschool, afterschool, and summer reading programs, while being a host to community meetings. The Minerva Free Library has received \$183,000 through donations and grants over the last 3 years in support of programming, materials purchases, and updated furnishings.

The Minerva Free Library has revived the Summer Reading Program and reestablished relationships with community organizations like the Sherman Historical Society. Connecting the two brought the opportunity for the kids to explore the French Creek Yorker Museum enabling them to experience Sherman's earlier history. Businesses like The Cornerstone Restaurant provided treats.

Board members are engaged in grant writing, outreach and education. With multiple successfully awarded grants and generous donations, we have invested \$148,000 in capital improvements to construct the outdoor learning center, build the sign, replace the windows, and install the new elevator.

The Minerva Free Library is working to ensure all in the community have full access to the three stories with ADA accessible restrooms on each floor. This has begun with the current installation of the new elevator, however the small bathrooms on each floor do not meet ADA specifications and will require creative design plans to fit in the limited space while achieving ADA accessibility. Among the outstanding restoration priorities, we have received a quote of \$20,855 to replace the carpeting.

The Minerva Free Library fully supports the Village of Sherman's application to the NY Forward program to further revitalize and connect the businesses and organizations strengthening our community.

Sincerely,

Cindy Sears
Director, Minerva Free Library



October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3 – VILLAGE OF SHERMAN

Dear Ms. Utz

I am writing today to express the Sherman Chamber of Commerce's complete support for the Village of Sherman's application to the third round of NY Forward.

The Village of Sherman is a vibrant, family-oriented rural community nestled in the center of three cities: Erie, PA; Jamestown, NY; and Dunkirk, NY. Centrally located between the larger metropolitan areas of Pittsburgh, Buffalo and Cleveland. Its location on the I-86 and being only 13 miles from the I-90 make Sherman a very accessible destination for residential, recreational and retail purposes.

Under the leadership of Mayor Colleen Meeder, the Village of Sherman is undergoing amazing transformation, not only aesthetically, but to build a stable and sustainable future. This includes the complete refurbishment of both the water and sewer facilities, the beginning of a 5-year stormwater improvements project, installation of 2 electric vehicle charging stations to draw visitors into the target area, adding additional lighting at the I-86 off ramp to make it more inviting and safe, single-family and mobile home improvement projects through grants from HCR, restoring the façade along Main Street, and the addition of new businesses and eateries investing into this community.

The vision is to capitalize on the unique, small-town, historic character of the village, while pursuing economic activity to create a community that is a thriving, walkable, stable, and equitable place. Building off recent commercial investment and growth, the Village seeks to become a destination for ecotourism and agritourism, and to gain its "Trail Town" designation. This designation will exponentially attract trail enthusiasts. Ecotourism brings visitor spending, drives labor income, and increases tax revenue for the communities along trails.

The Chamber is very supportive of the restoration and reuse of the many empty buildings, the preservation of our heritage at the French Creek Yorker Museum, the trail development, upgrades to the Minerva Free Library, and the creation of additional living spaces through mixed-use buildings and new developments. I believe these projects will all aid the stimulation of economic development and instill a renewed sense of pride in our village.

Awarding the NY Forward to the Village of Sherman would ensure the continued advancement of economic development and revitalization of this whole area, benefiting this community and the greater area in Chautauqua County. Please give the Village of Sherman full consideration for this much needed grant.

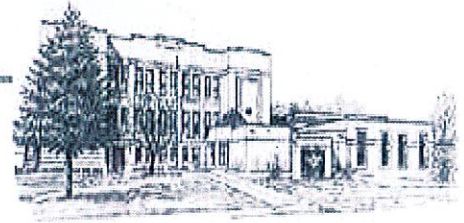
Respectfully,

Amanda Meeder
Chairperson, Sherman Chamber of Commerce



Sherman Central School

127 Park Street • P.O. Box 950 • Sherman, NY 14781-0950
phone (716) 761-6121 • fax (716) 761-6119
www.shermancsd.org



October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: NY FORWARD GRANT FOR VILLAGE OF SHERMAN

Dear Ms. Utz

As the Superintendent of Sherman Central School, I wish to express my support and gratitude for the Village of Sherman's efforts in supporting community development with the application to the NY Forward Program. The award of \$4,500,000 will be used in a variety of ways, including increasing and improving outdoor and recreational activities, and several needed amenities, all bringing community pride and unity that supports the safe neighborhood for our kiddos.

Many identify themselves as a "Shermanite"; their sense of community and activities centralize around Sherman organizations, family, and friends. Sherman Central School District's, "small school, BIG IMPACT", spans 98 square miles in the eight surrounding towns. Even beyond that, more than 1 in 6 students enrolled at Sherman Central are from outside the district, geographically the 2nd largest district in Chautauqua County, indicating two factors: Sherman Central is providing a high-quality education, and there is serious demand for housing within the district, optimally within a safe, family-friendly walking distance of the school.

The front entrance to Sherman Central is on Park Street at the intersection of Willard Street, while We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman will mirror the school at the south end of Willard Street promoting a family-friendly neighborhood encouraging growth and learning in a safe and inclusive environment. It will offer an extension of services and expand experiences to all children within our rural communities.

The NY Forward award to the Village of Sherman will significantly transform the closeknit rural Sherman community and exponentially increase the opportunities for our children and families, bringing more families into the district with housing development, further supporting the vision of Sherman Central School District.

Sincerely,

Carrie Yohe
Superintendent

Sherman's Inn on Main, Bed and Breakfast
137 West Main Street
Sherman, NY 14781
716-720-0889

October 11, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz
Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry Street
Suite 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: Village of Sherman 2024 NY Forward Round 3

Dear Ms. Utz,

I would like to offer this letter in full support of the Village of Sherman's application to the NY Forward program for \$4.5M.

I currently own and operate Sherman's Inn on Main Bed & Breakfast in the heart of the Village of Sherman, located at 137 West Main Street. I refurbished and opened the Inn in 2013 investing more than \$350,000 in the Village as well as many personal hours over the past decade as I sit on various community committees.

I am so thankful that the village is applying to this program to revitalize our community and secure the future of this quaint village. I have had ties to this community for over 70 years and although our village is unique with a colorful historical past, its infrastructure, from the 1800's to the present, is very much in need of innovation and new environmentally responsible systems both in and around the Village's Central Business District.

Our Village is currently a pass-through town on your way to someplace else. I welcome the new gateway and traffic calming ideas and would love to see our downtown district revitalized with the two empty commercial buildings being repurposed into a community center and the new anchor business, We Rock the Spectrum.

The much needed revitalization of the downtown area will positively benefit this community by attracting additional businesses, residents, and visitors. I firmly believe that increasing access to the trail systems, regenerating empty retail spaces to diversify the downtown's current offerings, and establishing We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman as the anchor business will draw families from all over the region. I am enthusiastic to hear that along with lodging, an eatery is the most essential business within a trail town. The proposed improvements to our local trail will go hand in hand with business development, boosting this economy and working toward a stable and sustainable community.

As a member of the Beautification Committee, it is our mission to create green space, improve the local environment, and promote physical, emotional and social well-being, so that our community get stronger and healthier. The trail improvements will help draw people outdoors, promoting a

healthier lifestyle while working toward our 'Trail Town' designation, which will exponentially attract trail enthusiasts. Statistics show that ecotourism brings visitor spending, drives labor income, and increases tax revenue for the communities along trails. The Village of Sherman is the southern trailhead to the Chautauqua Rails to Trails, and with its expansion it will be a part of the greater Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. That is so exciting!

The conversion of the old theater into a children's sensory gym right next to the trail, along with the proposed Autism Trail, will bring visitors from all over the county, and further. The Village of Sherman will have a competitive advantage in attracting tourists as there is no other children's sensory gym serving the target market with the same size and scope as the We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman facility in Chautauqua County. As a business owner and member of the Sherman Chamber of Commerce, I feel this anchor project will invigorate the local economy by increasing foot traffic to local eateries and retail shops, while also bringing attention to other parts of our community like our free library and living museum.

Currently there is no true hostel/hotel offering convenient, inexpensive, safe, overnight accommodations for trail users and other short-term lodgers. I would very much welcome the proposed hostel which would not be in competition with my Bed and Breakfast, but rather, meets a different demographic, both clearly in line with our vision and desire to become a 'Trail Town'.

Again, as a business owner and Chamber of Commerce member, the empty building reuse, new housing developments, and trail improvements around our goal of becoming a Trail Town, will all improve both the quality of living for our local residents and attract visitors stimulating our local economy. I reviewed the many proposed projects at the recent 'Night at the Museum' open house hosted by the Village of Sherman and was extremely grateful and impressed by the attendees support and excitement at these proposed initiatives.

Sherman brims with potential, and with the infusion of the NY Forward Grant, we can realize and foster a prosperous environment for all who call this charming village home. These improvements will, in turn, further advance the economic development and revitalization of the entire region, including the neighboring towns of Finley Lake, Mayville, Westfield and Chautauqua.

Thank you for your commitment to the revitalization of rural villages through the NY Forward program. I eagerly anticipate the potential transformative impact this grant can bring to the Village of Sherman, and Chautauqua County. I kindly request that you give the Village of Sherman your full consideration for this critical grant.

Sincerely,



Georgia Peck, Owner

Sherman's Inn on Main

Email: Georgiapeck137@gmail.com

October 14, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, REDC Regional Director
95 Perry Street, Suite 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

Re: NY Forward Application Round 3 – Village of Sherman

I am writing this letter in full support of the Village of Sherman's \$4.5 million NY Forward Application to the NYS Department of State.

My wife Christine and I purchased our home on East Main Street in the summer of 2020, after having lived in a densely populated area of Pittsburgh. We immediately fell in love with the quaint charm of the Village of Sherman and became part of the Sherman community as volunteers and contributors to the Minerva Free Library and Sherman Day Committee, as well as my positions on the Steering Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals. Recently, in line with the Village's goals of clean energy, we installed residential solar panels on the roof of our home with Solar Liberty out of Buffalo, NY. Christine and I are both involved in the Sherman Day Committee which hosts a weekend of events each year drawing past alumni and visitors each year. There is so much potential in this little village, and we are excited about all the proposed projects listed in this application.


As the Vice Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Village of Sherman, I am pleased that the village has completed an updated Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Market Analysis, and a NYMS Building Feasibility Study which resulted in the complete restoration of the Main Street façade along with other local business upgrades. The village also renovated both the water and sewer facilities and started a long-term stormwater project working toward a stable and sustainable future. The village installed two electric vehicle charging stations, converted solely to LED streetlights, added additional LED lights in front of the school and along the I-86 providing a safe, well-lit area drawing commuters into the village, and added two community solar arrays to offset the public infrastructure debt, working toward the goal of becoming an Advanced Community among the Clean Energy Community. The village is also participating in its second single-family and it's first Mobile and Manufactured Home Rehabilitation Programs, all these initiatives incorporating the input of all stakeholders and receiving support from businesses, residents, and community organizations.

As a ZBA member, I am passionate about the revitalization of the empty commercial buildings on both ends of Main Street within the target area, and the restoration of the empty, previously burned, residential units above the retail shops. This regeneration will help meet the growing need for different residential accommodation and counter the growing blight issues, while bringing peace of mind as these old buildings and especially the attached row building units along Main Street, are brought up to current building code and fire safety standards, along with being put back to use and boosting this economy and tax base.

My wife and I are avid walkers and cyclists, and regularly enjoy the local parks and trails. We are both very happy that this initiative will also focus on trail improvements to the treasured Chautauqua Rails to Trails network and parks along French Creek which are equally critical to the village's economic development and quality of life strategies. I am looking forward to attracting new businesses and visitors by increasing access to our trail system and developing part of the greater Erie to Pittsburgh Trail, connecting Sherman and Chautauqua County to other regions.

My wife and I are very happy here and excited to see the continued investment and revitalization of Sherman's downtown. Once again, I fully support this important grant application and the community's commitment to improving the lives of people who live and work in Sherman. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ken Labuskes,
Zoning Board of Appeals, Vice Chair
Steering Committee, Member
klabuskes1@gmail.com

October 8, 2024

Karen Utz
WNY Regional Director
95 Perry Street, Suite 500
Buffalo, NY 14203-3030

Re: Village of Sherman LOS - NY Forward Grant Application

Subj: 124 E Main Street, **We Rock the Spectrum - Sherman**

Dear Ms. Utz,

I, Heather Gorée, and my husband Kevin, are the owners and managing members of Agapé Mas, LLC. Opening 'We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman' kid's gym is our dream coming true! We are very excited to support the Village of Sherman's application to the NY Forward Program for a \$4.5 million grant.

Among the revitalizing projects, we are honored to be considered the anchor project. We see the 124 E Main Street location in Sherman near I-86 and adjacent to Chautauqua Rails to Trails as an opportunity to reach many children and families in the region. The 23,000 SF of space with its high ceilings from the original 1929 Sherman Theatre, allows us to kick off the We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman sensory gym with expansion of our services in providing an inclusive place for all children of all abilities while providing meaningful support to the greater family. The unique sensory gym consists of specially designed and research-based equipment for children with disabilities, neurodiverse, as well as neurotypical kids, providing all children with a safe, nurturing, and fun environment, offering an array of rich, vital learning experiences through play.

The billion-dollar market of children's play and activity continues to grow exponentially. There is a great need for physical, emotional, and social supported activities for children in our underserved rural communities. With the success of 'We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman' will come growth and success for Sherman in its stimulation of the local economy by attracting people to the downtown in patronizing the restaurants, retail opportunities, and amenities. The connection to the adjacent trail brings additional possibilities, including the Autism Nature Trail extending the sensory experience to the outdoors.

We are amid the closing phase of purchasing the building, have engaged engineers, contractors, and architects to examine the building and prepare design plans, and have received the approval of the franchise for this site. A NY Forward award would see our plans fully realized much faster, providing more creativity and quality to the capital and operational budget decisions providing exponentially more for our kids and their families!

Awarding NY Forward funding to the Village of Sherman would expedite this anchor project, reinvigorating the old theater, benefiting Sherman and the surrounding communities, all while stimulating the local economy. Should you require additional information regarding this key project, please feel free to contact me on my cell or via email.

Thank you for your commitment to the betterment of children, families, and rural communities such as ours.

Sincerely,



Heather Gorée
716.450.9798
Heathergoree1@gmail.com

October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: VILLAGE OF SHERMAN - NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3

Subj: 130 W Main St – Hostel, Coffee Shop, and Community Center

Dear Ms. Utz,

Our family business at Tusk Real Estate (including M3P Realty, LLC & Tusk Construction, Inc.) has projects in Dunkirk, Fredonia, Westfield, Buffalo, and Sherman, among others. We are intrigued by Sherman's possibilities for growth and development by taking advantage of the trail and natural assets of French Creek and open spaces. We believe we are perfectly timing our investment in the early stages of Sherman's upward trajectory.

M3P Realty purchased the 121 and 123 W Main Street attached row buildings following Sherman's Downtown Market Analysis and NY Main Street Feasibility Study, leading us to a NY Main Street grant award that involves façade restoration, interior retail rehabilitation, and the first of two full apartment size Airbnb's (short-term rentals) on the second story. The second story was a shell, having been completely gutted to the studs following the October 1991 fire, requiring an entire reconstruction of the space.

The Village is the owner of the 130 W Main Street property that was donated to the municipality in 2019. The property has undergone an asbestos abatement, Phase 1 Environmental Review, and the Village has engaged Barton & Loguidice for an 'Existing Building Conditions Assessment'; after the structure report we'll further define the role we'll play in its rehabilitation.

The Village and M3P/Tusk are discussing partnering in efforts to restore and reuse the 130 W Main St commercial property into a community center and hostel. This is a perfect pairing of interests. We are in the short-term rental & construction/renovation business and have the knowledge and ability to adapt that to an efficiently run hostel for those looking for a single night as they transit the multi-use trail. The space and location would be the optimal location for a coffee shop with drive-up window. The interior coffee shop can be gated off when closed, as the community center would be open to the community's organizations. The property is adjacent to the park, trail, and French Creek, bringing other opportunities as a venue for gatherings. It is located conveniently at the corner of Chautauqua County Route 15 and NY State Route 430.

A NY Forward Grant will contribute greatly to the time and design of Sherman's Community Center and Hostel fully benefiting the Village's vision for the community while attracting visitors to Sherman as the only known 'hostel' (affordable short-term housing) in Chautauqua County. It is our hope you see the same potential in Sherman as we do.

Sincerely,

Matthew Bromberg & Paul Salzler – Tusk Real Estate - www.tuskre.com



October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: VILLAGE OF SHERMAN - NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3

Subj: 110 W Main St – Retail Revitalization Project

Dear Ms. Utz,

I am considering, under the right circumstances, purchasing and restoring the adjacent attached row building located at 110 W Main Street. My partner and I are managing members of Loutzenmeeder, LLC which owns and operates the Cooler Bar & Grille at 114 W Main Street.

In April 2021, we purchased the 114 W Main Street property and invested significant private funds in the rehabilitation of the lower “Cooler Bar and Grille” with its entrance along Creekside Lane at Edmunds Park.

Our current focus is on completing the second phase of the restoration of 114 W Main Street “Cooler” property on the Main Street. We are wrapping up our participation in the NY Main Street Program with the \$50,000 in grant funds awarded toward the Main Street level façade and structural restoration project for what will be the “Cooler Creamery” ice cream shop opening in May 2025. Significantly more will be invested in the coming months on the interior renovations to accommodate its reuse as an ice cream shop from its many years of vacancy and prior use as a paint shop for the hardware store.

It would be advantageous for us to purchase the adjacent property of 110 W Main Street and provide services I've identified that are in demand by current residents and what would complement new development of residential properties.

I appreciate the NY Main Street grant experience and look forward to an opportunity to further leverage NY Forward funds to revitalize this vacant space on this critical section under the awning, centered in the downtown business district.

We are in support of the Village of Sherman's application to the NY Forward grant for the continual revitalization of Main Street and the opportunity for transformational size projects.

Sincerely,



Cris Loutzenhiser

*Cooler Bar & Grille
114 W Main Street
Sherman, NY 14781*

October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: VILLAGE OF SHERMAN - NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3

Subj: 110 W Main St – Retail Revitalization Project

Dear Ms. Utz,

With the closing of my father's estate, I am now in a position to sell the 110 W Main Street property. I've had a real estate agent preparing to advertise it, who has priced it fairly with local comparisons. I have also received estimates on some repairs, like the roof and electric, however the electric would be dependent on the decisions related to its final use.

The 110 W Main Street property is part of the south side attached row buildings under the recently restored covered walkway awning. I had participated in the awning restoration through the NY Main Street Project.

This property has the largest floor space among the attached row buildings, so it presents multiple opportunities for small business retailers. The high ceilings are still covered in their original pressed tin. By repairing the roof, updating the electric to fit the needs of the new retailer, and refreshing the façade, the building will require little else in preparation to open a variety of retail options.

I understand the owners of the neighboring property of 114 W Main Street, which has undergone significant restoration, may be interested in the purchase of 110 W Main Street in expanding its related services with the opportunity of a NY Forward grant.

I appreciate the efforts of revitalization I have seen throughout Sherman's downtown, and I wish for that to continue. Therefore, I am in full support of the Village of Sherman's application to the NY Forward Grant.

Thank you,

Mick Sheffield

Michael Sheffield
Owner, 110 W Main Street

October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: NY FORWARD GRANT – VILLAGE OF SHERMAN

Subj: 124 W Main St – NAPA Auto Parts Store

Dear Ms. Utz,

As manager of NAPA's Ottaway & Woods Auto Parts store, I am preparing to purchase the 124 W Main Street which is a mixed-use building in the downtown business district. The plans will include restoring the façade, refreshing the interior retail space, and returning the second story to efficiency apartments, maximizing the return on my investment, and supplying apartments that are in serious demand in Sherman.

I support the Village of Sherman's application and implore you to consider what this opportunity would bring to our small community. I have a unique perspective seeing the growth on Main Street from my front window. I see travelers using the EV Stations the Village installed, committees coming together to promote change, and am aware of the increase in cyclists and trail goers over the past year. All of these factors are part of the exciting initiatives that are allowing visitors to enjoy our local eateries, amenities, and businesses within the community.

Thank you for considering the Village of Sherman for the NY Forward award.

Sincerely,



Danielle Crane

October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: NY FORWARD GRANT – VILLAGE OF SHERMAN

Subj: 124 W Main St – NAPA Auto Parts Store

Dear Ms. Utz,

I am writing in support of the Village of Sherman's application to the NY Forward Grant as the present owner of Ottaway & Woods Auto Parts Inc. at 124 W Main Street, in Sherman.

My manager Danielle Crane and I have been planning for the transition of the business and property with my nearing retirement. The timing of the award will align with these plans and will be an exciting opportunity for the next phase of the business and for all the investment going into downtown Sherman.

Thank you,



Duane Woods
Ottaway & Woods Auto Parts Inc.

October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: VILLAGE OF SHERMAN - NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3

Subj: 158 W Main St – Mixed Use Commercial and New Housing Development

Dear Ms. Utz,

As a business owner and property owner in the downtown, I fully support the Village of Sherman's NY Forward Application.

Since 2021, I have purchased two of the attached row buildings on Main Street: 133 W Main St & 129 W Main St. After extensive rehabilitation we reopened the Sherman Hotel Steak House & Saloon in June 2024. I have also taken advantage of the NY Main Street Grant for the façade restoration with both, after buying 129 W Main St in 2023. It is the home to Miss Laura's Place, florist and giftshop. Along with participating in the covered walkway awning improvements, the Village completed the concrete ADA accessible entrance to the buildings.

The two buildings lost the second story in the fire of 1991, and it was not rebuilt to add upper apartments. It seems everyone is looking for a house in Sherman, and even more are looking to rent, which there are very few options to rent in Sherman. My next investment will be in the 158 W Main Street commercial property. Its existing four commercial buildings need restoration and plans for reuse from its original place as Chase Antiques. What makes me interested the most is that the nearly five-acre property has the capacity to build sixteen townhouse style multi-family homes.

The 158 W Main St property has public utilities available, and zoning allows for multi-family dwellings. It is surrounded by single family homes with a residential neighborhood feel, within a very short walk to restaurants in the downtown, and it is situated near parks, the trail, and French Creek.

A NY Forward Grant would enable me to build all sixteen units much faster and bring more creativity to the design and planning of the homes and site. As a Main Street business owner watching the revitalization efforts on Main Street, I am excited to see the Village of Sherman be considered for this award.

Thank you,



David Conrad
Conrad Contracting, Sherman NY

October 9, 2024

Hon. Colleen Meeder, Mayor
Village of Sherman
111 Mill Street, P.O. Box 629
Sherman, NY 14781



Re: Village of Sherman 2024 NY Forward LOS

Dear Mayor Meeder,

This letter is in strong support for the Village of Sherman's \$4.5 million NY Forward Application to the NYS Department of State for the Village of Sherman's revitalization of Main Street.

We are the business owners located at 104 East Main Street, in the heart of downtown Sherman on the corner of East Main Street and Franklin Street. The NY Forward Award would give us the opportunity to assist my restaurant with building improvements under the Small Projects Fund. The Franklin Street side of the building will be the optimal location for the proposed mural depicting Sherman's history, culture, and character greeting people coming in from I-86.

Downtown revitalization would attract businesses, residents, and visitors by increasing access to the trail systems, revitalizing empty retail spaces to diversify the downtown's current offerings, and establishing We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman as the anchor business drawing families from the region. I am enthusiastic to hear that along with lodging, an eatery is the most essential business within a trail town. The proposed improvements to our local trail will go hand in hand with business development.

We have attended the stakeholders meeting and met with two of the Village's architects from Clinton Brown Company Architecture and Barton & Loguidice in preparation for our 'shovel readiness'. We are excited and look forward to making improvements that specifically meet our needs at the restaurant in providing for locals and visitors alike. Since the COVID Pandemic we have been blessed with a growing business.

Once again, we fully support this important grant application and the community's commitment to improving the lives of people who live and work in Sherman.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us directly: 716-269-9185

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Becky Van Valkenburg', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Becky Van Valkenburg

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy Van Valkenburg', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Roy Van Valkenburg

RF & B Properties, LLC
The Cornerstone Restaurant



Sherman Central School

127 Park Street • P.O. Box 950 • Sherman, NY 14781-0950
phone (716) 761-6121 • fax (716) 761-6119
www.shermancsd.org



October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director REDC
95 Perry St., Ste. 500
Buffalo, NY 14203

RE: VILLAGE OF SHERMAN - NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3

Dear Ms. Utz

As a lifelong resident of the Village of Sherman, elementary teacher at Sherman Central School for 26 years, and volunteer member of The Stanley Hose Company since 1993, I am writing this letter in full support of the Village of Sherman's NY Forward Grant application aimed at revitalizing this quaint little village.

The Village of Sherman is a place of profound personal significance to me, having been my family's home for nearly 80 years. Four generations later, my family has watched this community evolve, from one focused on dairy farming to become a village focused on economic, educational, and recreational opportunities for families and residents of all ages. I am thrilled that the village is applying for the NY Forward funding which, if awarded, would expedite and ensure the successful restoration of empty, aging buildings; create additional housing to support the growing, diverse community; improve the multi-use trail and upgrade recreational space; among other smaller yet equally beneficial projects.

As a schoolteacher and father of a special needs child, I am partial to the development of the We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman sensory gym as it will provide a safe environment for children of all abilities to learn and play together. Funding from NY Forward will expedite the opening of this anchor project, benefiting my family and families from all over Chautauqua County. The location of the gym along the Chautauqua Rails to Trails, and proposed Autism Trail will be mutually beneficial to all, drawing more residents and visitors to Sherman.

I am very supportive of the restoration and reuse of the many empty buildings, the preservation of our heritage at the French Creek Yorker Museum, the trail development, upgrades to the Minerva Free Library, and the creation of additional living spaces through mixed-use buildings and new developments. I believe these projects will all aid the stimulation of economic development and instill a renewed sense of pride in our village.

I give my full support of this application to NY Forward, and respectfully request that you consider awarding the Village of Sherman this critical funding. Such an allocation would provide a catalyst for the transformation and regeneration of this rural community.

Respectfully,

Joel Fisher – Sherman Central School

Mrs. Carrie Yohe • Superintendent
Mrs. Leslie Melquist • PK-12 Principal
Mrs. Ann M. Morrison • Director of Pupil Services &
Data/Grant Coordinator

Board of Education
Mrs. Teresa Guzman • President
Ms. Kristin Irwin • Vice President
Mrs. Brooke Long
Mrs. Emily Reynolds
Mr. Timothy Sears

Mrs. Kimberly Oehlbeck • School Business Administrator
Mr. Luke Waygood • District Clerk



THANK YOU.



REDC REGION
Western New York

PROGRAM
NY Forward Round 3

MUNICIPALITY
Village of Sherman

DOWNTOWN NAME
Sherman

COUNTY
Chautauqua County

PRO-HOUSING COMMUNITY STATUS
Submitted 10/3/24

CONTACT
Colleen Meeder

TITLE
Mayor, Village of Sherman

EMAIL
village.sherman@gmail.com