

# Village of Sherman Continues Work on Downtown Projects

By SARA HOLTHOUSE  
SHOLTHOUSE@POST-JOURNAL.COM

**T**he Village of Sherman has been working on multiple projects with the focus of improving parts of downtown.

These projects include; updating the Main Street businesses, a drinking water improvement project, a wastewater treatment project, electric vehicle charging station project, the future location of a community center, and parks improvement, leading to a Trail Town designation for the village. These projects began with the adoption of the comprehensive plan in 2021 and a feasibility study was conducted in 2022.

“With the help of Barton and Loguidice, Heritage Resources LLC, Clinton Brown Company Architecture, and Camoin Associates along with the ARPA funds and awarded planning grants, the village prepared the Downtown Market Analysis and Building Feasibility Study, building on the comprehensive plan and formulating the vision through the NY Forward application in keeping with the culture and preserving the historic character for the economic development and trail enhancements,” Village Mayor Colleen Meeder said.

The grant the village received provides \$358,283 for the restoration of businesses along Main Street in ways that include; new windows, doors, facade repairs, and some interior work. The work is set to potentially begin in April and end Nov. 2024.

“There will be improvements to the unique, charming, and historically valuable walkway awning spanning the Main Street businesses,” Meeder said. “New signage and changes to the structure will open up the front for more natural lighting, including additional lighting underneath and sound for parades and community events.”

The village was awarded \$25,000 for the projects from Chautauqua County Partnership for Economic Growth and Chautauqua Region Economic Development Council.

Other grants being pursued include grants for the preservation, restoration and promotion of the French Creek Yorker Museum, which the village has applied for with the help of the Sherman Historical Society, through the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. This is a part of the Sherman Yorker Museum Restoration Project which will eventually lead to an application to the National Registry to put the living history museum on the national map.

Another grant the village is working on will improve pedestrian safety, increase walkability, and add trail signage, wayfinding and placemaking with an emphasis on wellness. George Edmunds Memorial Park is beginning to see improvements, provided by the Harold Wake's Family Charitable Foundation and electric vehicle charging stations will be installed on Church Street in May. The village is in the process of completing upgrades to water and sewer services, with the challenge being the needs for storm-water infrastructure improvements without having funds.

“All these efforts are attracting new investments from developers taking interest in Sherman’s vision coupled with the proximity to I-86 and available water and sewer utilities,” Meeder said. “Bringing new businesses like an Airbnb, while improving and growing existing businesses, lodging, eateries, and other amenities supports the pursuit of the Trail Town designation.”