



## Sherman Board Hears Update On Forward Program

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SHERMAN — Sherman Village Board members received an update on the New York Forward program from Village Mayor Colleen Meeder at their meeting on Sept. 14.

The NY Forward program is intended to invigorate and enliven downtown areas in New York's smaller and rural communities — the type of downtowns found in villages, hamlets and other small, neighborhood-scale municipal centers. She told trustees that in Sherman there has been discussion of having one or two anchor projects.

Meeder reminded trustees that a meeting was held on Sept. 13 for investors, realtors and developers to “discuss leveraging opportunities for businesses and the greater Sherman community. The team of Barton & Loguidice is assisting the village in applying for the NY Forward grant of up to \$4.5 million.”

Meeder said the meeting was well attended. “We will continue to receive input and support letters through the application due date — and beyond,” she said. “If awarded, we’ll go from concept to refined details. We are always looking for input from the community.”

Meeder said the village is continually working toward providing a higher quality of living for residents by capitalizing on the rich cultural, historic, and agricultural assets of the village by increasing access to the trail systems, improving the parks, including the dog park, offering new retail spaces and establishing one or two anchor businesses.

“We always talk about location, location, location. ... It really is an important factor for Sherman,” Meeder said. “Also, we have a top notch educational system; we have utilities in place if someone would want to open a brewery or a canning company — we have a lot going for us.”

There will be a focus on



**The dog park in Sherman is one of the places slated for improvement, especially since it has been disrupted by improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.**

Photo by David Prenatt

reducing large load trucks and traffic, increasing pedestrian safety and returning Main Street to a tranquil, inviting space, Meeder said.

In a related matter, Meeder shared a report from the trail committee. Patrick Johnson, a board member of the Chautauqua Rails to Trails and Erie to Pittsburgh Trail, will be meeting with area residents to discuss their support of the trail on their property, between Sherman and Clymer. Additionally, Meeder said she would be attending the Trail Summit in Ford City, Pa.

Meeder also reported on the progress of the EV charging stations, which will be located on property the village purchased from Graham's Market.

“I am not happy with how long this has taken,” she said. “We took out the bonds in March and the equipment isn't coming until next March.”

Bids for the construction of the stations were due on Sept. 21.

Meeder noted that these are fast charging, but not the “fastest.” However, she noted that current vehicles can only receive a charge at a certain

rate.

In other business, Meeder reported that Josh Cole of Cole electric is interested in sponsoring a community garden. The location has yet to be determined and the village will try to gather those interested in organizing a garden in 2023.

Meeder also noted that the inaugural Sherman Music Festival, organized by the Chamber of Commerce, had a successful start. More than 230 people attended.

The Sherman Chamber of Commerce is also planning a tractor parade on Dec. 10. Linesville, Pa., has a large, lighted tractor parade every year, with everything from combines to ride-on lawn mowers, and, of course, tractors, she said. She encouraged trustees to consider personally participating in this event for Sherman.

Trustees approved several resolutions, including the NY Forward application and the Restore NY application. They approved a \$250 donation to Access Chautauqua, Channel 5, which provides public service announcements and local information to residents.