

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

July 27, 2022

RE: NYS DEC Climate Smart Communities CSC CFA
Sherman Community Nature Center Pond Stormwater Management Retrofit
Sherman Nature Center Pond Project

The Village of Sherman Board of Trustees has approved the application to the NYS DEC for the Climate Smart Communities Grant Program for the Sherman Community Nature Center Pond Stormwater Management Retrofit Project for \$899,000, authorizing the 50% match in land acquisition and in-kind services. The Village is truly appreciative of this opportunity to incorporate the stormwater improvements, trail enhancements, and business development, building a green and sustainable future for our community.

For the Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Project, the Village has prepared a Stormwater Preliminary Engineering Report, performed a State Environmental Quality Review (NYS SEQRA), approved a \$3.5m Bond Resolution, and secured long-term financing of \$3.5m with USDA Rural Development, and is applying to fund the different phases. USDA RD has been a valuable contributor to our Village projects in the form of street's equipment grant and financing, securing the long-term financing of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and generously providing a Rural Business Development Grant for local business signage.

The Village of Sherman is committed to planning and budgeting for a comprehensive approach to the various needs. The Village of Sherman's Climate Smart Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2021, and in 2022 we conducted a Downtown Market Analysis through a Community Development Block Grant, and a NY Main Street Building Feasibility Study that has led to an application for \$500,000 in a NYMS Implementation Grant for our Main Street businesses. To date, the Village is successfully completing a \$2.4m Drinking Water Improvement Project, and is half way through a critical \$7m Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project, and is breaking ground on the \$250,000 Electric Vehicle Charging Station project with the 2021 Award of the NYSDEC ZEV Infrastructure Rebate. The Village is working with Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation & Improvement Corp (CHRIC) on the \$488,500 investment into 8 single-family residences, while managing property, building, and cash donations towards the Food Pantry, the future location of a community center and parks improvements with the aid of a family charitable foundation and other non-profit organizations. The Chautauqua County Industrial Development Agency and Chautauqua County Dept of Planning & Development are very supportive of all these efforts, and the Village is partnering with Chautauqua Rails to Trails which is aiding Sherman in achieving the 'Trail Town' designation expanding regional tourism and growth.

While addressing stormwater impacts from reoccurring flooding in the eastern section of our Village, the Sherman Community Nature Center Pond Stormwater Management Retrofit is an essential phase of our Comprehensive Stormwater Management Project which will substantially mitigate impacts of climate change on our residents and businesses. This is key for us to build stable infrastructure as the basis for creating safe and sustainable neighborhoods, placemaking and recreation activities, providing for economic development opportunities, and establishing a healthy quality of living for current and future residents.

Sincerely,


Colleen M. Meeder, Mayor

THE HONORABLE COLLEEN MEEDER, MAYOR
DEPUTY MAYOR RYAN SANDERS
TRUSTEES DENNIS WATSON, GARY EMORY, AND CHRIS LABUSKES

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

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