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Sherman residents learn about capital improvement projects at open house

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SHERMAN — There are a lot of projects going on simultaneously in the Village of Sherman, but they're all part of the plan.

Sherman area residents were invited to come and review the Village's comprehensive plan at an open house in the fire hall on Monday, May 24. The plan, which is nearing completion after a year and a half of work, is guided by the slogan "Preserving our past, serving today, while work-

ing for our future."

Three capital projects, and at least eight other Village endeavors are all part of the plan. Those who attended the open house had the opportunity to view displays of various facets of the plan, and to leave comments or questions at each display for the steering committee to review.

Sherman Mayor Colleen Meeder and other members of the board of trustees and the steering committee were on hand to explain different aspects of the comprehen-



Residents of the Sherman area had the opportunity to review the village comprehensive plan at an open house on May 24.

sive plan. "I think they are very curious," Meeder said. "People want to see things

completed and to see things getting done."

If this is the case, there's

a lot to see in Sherman. Construction will begin in July on the \$3.2 million water treatment project. A \$1.25 million grant was just awarded three days before the open house for the \$6.2 million sewer and wastewater treatment plant upgrade. Construction will begin on that project in 2022.

Plans are also moving forward for the village's \$3.5 million stormwater project. The Village is applying for several grants for this project which will completely redesign storm-

water runoff in the area.

Several smaller projects are also in the works. The Village was just awarded a New York Main Street Technical Assistance Planning Grant of 47,500, along with a matching grant from the Village of \$2,500. This money will be used to study select buildings on Main Street with an eye towards renewal and repurposing said real estate.

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Meeder noted that, once the comprehensive plan is adopted, the steering committee will be assigned to select four buildings for the study.

Other projects underway include rehabilitation of approximately nine village residences, an engineering planning grant for composting, new signage for those entering or leaving the Village, and upgrading of Village equipment.

At the open house, all the tables

remained active throughout the evening. People left responses on post-it notes, such as "curtail vandals in the cemetery;" "weekly garbage collection in containers, not bags;" "brush removal throughout the year;" "complete work on 1st Street;" and "educate residents relating to property values."

Work on the comprehensive plan began in October of 2019 with a community visioning workshop. A steering committee, consisting of a

broad cross section of area residents was formed and, in April, 2020, the committee drafted action plans.

At this point, the COVID pandemic interrupted progress of the plan until April of this year. During the summer of 2021, the steering committee will review the revised comprehensive plan, which will then be referred to the county for approval, will undergo a second public hearing and then, hopefully be adopted.