

**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