

October 11th, 2024

Ms. Karen Utz, Regional Director
Regional Economic Development Council

RE: VILLAGE OF SHERMAN - NY FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION ROUND 3

Dear Ms. Utz,

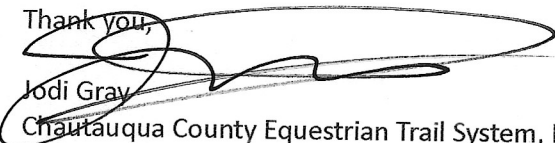
As a board member of the Chautauqua County Equestrian Trail System (CCETS) and local business partner, I fully support the Village of Sherman's NY Forward Application.

The Village of Sherman's commitment to trail development is important to the advancement of CCETS's mission in maintaining and providing multi-use trails and equestrian access. Chautauqua Rails to Trails (CR2T) is open to horseback riding and horse drawn transportation, however there are still limited opportunities in Chautauqua County that CCETS is diligently working to extend in promoting eco-tourism, outdoor recreation, and alternative transportation.

The recently built year-round public restrooms with showers in Sherman, plans for campsites with utilities, and parking areas inclusive of all trail users, including equestrians, are not only exciting for CCETS, but it is also inviting and encouraging all outdoor enthusiasts to visit and explore the Sherman area. One of the greatest concerns for all users on the CR2T section of trail leading into Sherman is the unsafe crossing of the Chautauqua Rails to Trails at NY State Route 430 at the east entrance to the Village. The Village is proposing to install a bridge for the safety of all trail users, including equestrians. This would be an incredible asset aligning our mission of safe and accessible multi-use trails. CCETS stewards 26 miles of multi-use trails in the North Harmony State Forest bordering Sherman, NY. CCETS is working with NY State DEC, NY Parks & Trails, local business and landowners to connect these two trail systems and further expand accessibility and provide safe alternative transportation routes.

A NY Forward Grant will provide the Sherman community and those of us trail enthusiasts in the surrounding region with a great opportunity to see transformational improvements to the trail supporting downtown small businesses and promoting outdoor recreation for everyone to access safely and enjoy together.

Thank you,


Jodi Gray

Chautauqua County Equestrian Trail System, Inc (CCETS)

PFM Ventures, LLC

www.HeronHorse.com