

June 9, 2006

My name is Brian Mulligan and I have served two years as chairperson for the Mendon Deer Management Committee. Two years ago Mendon Town Supervisor, Moe Bickweat, asked the Town Board to form a committee to study the impact that the overpopulated White Tail Deer herd has had on our community. The committee consists of talented Mendon residents who have volunteered their time in an effort to make Mendon a safer community and to properly manage the White Tail Deer, one of our most beautiful natural resources.

In the summer of 2004, a town wide survey was mailed out to all of the landowners in the Town. The response was overwhelming. Survey results showed a wide range of management ideas indicating the community's desire for better management. In November of 2004, the committee presented proposals to the Town Board. These proposals along with information about deer behavior, deer vehicle accidents, Chronic Wasting Disease, hunting statistics and gardening suggestions are available on this website. Remember that all proposals are made with long-term goals in mind. For this reason, the Town Board asked to make the committee permanent.

This spring the committee met with and mailed a letter to the New York State Department of Transportation asking for speed limit reductions, the installation of Streiter lights and possibly visual messaging boards for use on Clover Street. The messaging boards would be used to caution drivers of high deer densities in the fall and spring. Our contacts at the Department of Transportation have given us good reason to believe that these recommendations could come to fruition if we can supply them with reliable data on the high incidence of deer vehicle accidents on Clover Street.

This summer, the committee members will again reach out to landowners to gather information on how much active hunting is present in the town during the fall season. The committee will continue to research innovative ways to better manage the deer herd. The committee meets once a month and all meetings are open to the public. We are open to suggestions from the public on ways to make Mendon a safer community, improve the health of the deer herd and reduce the agricultural and residential damage due to over-browsing.

Keep your eyes on the road and have a safe and happy summer,

Brian Mulligan