

FIRST SELECTMAN COLUMN

02/23/23 ISSUE DATE

The Board of Selectmen will hold its February regularly scheduled monthly meeting this week on Thursday at 7pm in Mallory Town Hall. Our meeting is sandwiched between two budget intake meetings, one of which is Wednesday night at 7pm in Mallory Town Hall and the other is Saturday at 9am at Mallory Town Hall. Our Thursday meeting's agenda is on the Town website.

In our continuing efforts to control excessive speeding on Sherman roadways, we have installed a speed indicator on Leach Hollow Road. This machine not only indicates the speed of the car approaching it, but is able to record general traffic data and offer us a look at the density and speeds (average, mean, and exceptional) of the traffic. This is useful on many levels but especially for determining the time and day of repeat high speed drivers and for us to coordinate efforts for enforcement to encourage them to slow down. This encouragement is through ticketing them for driving too fast.

Our speed indicators on Taber Road and Wanzer Hill Road have also been upgraded to include this data software. The speed indicators on Hubbell Mountain Road and Anderson Road already had this capability and offer us useful information about the traffic there. Just to be clear, these speed indicators do not take photos, do not give out tickets, and do not record license plate numbers.

In addition to these efforts, we are adding hours to the Trooper overtime effort devoted solely towards speed control. It is not wise to speed through Sherman anymore or you risk an expensive ticket. All of this effort is in response to an outcry from many members of the public to "do something" to make the roads safer for drivers and also for those that walk and reside on our beautiful roadways. It's not going to slow every fast driver down, but the results are already showing that it helps and it's improving.

I know I'm hitting this subject hard, but one more thing about driving on our roadways and then I'll stop: when you see someone walking on a road and you are soon to drive past that person, please slow down. It's both a matter of courtesy and safety. If you speed by someone who is walking, stones or gravel bits on the road can fly up and hit the person. Also, slowing down is an indication by the driver that you see the person who is walking. That's considerate and much better than roaring past.

Please go on the Sherman Library website and not only check out the wonderful array of programs that are being offered, but also consider purchasing a "Golden Ticket" which puts you in line to possibly win a variety of cool stuff. The drawing to determine the winners is at 6pm on April 1 via ZOOM. Each ticket costs \$20 and you can purchase as many as you wish. All proceeds go towards our amazing library. The prizes are listed on the website.

You know, I wanted to go ice fishing this winter but there wasn't any ice. And then I wanted to go fishing down by the docks this President's Day weekend and there wasn't any water. (Big drawdown on Candlewood this year.) So far, this has been a challenging fishing year!



DON LOWE

TOWN OF SHERMAN