House of the week

Can’t drive 25: Cape May OKs dropping limit

Top speed now 20 mph on all city-owned roads

By JACK FICTHER

Cape May Star and Wave

Cape May — City Council voted 4-1 to approve lowering the speed limit on city-owned streets to 20 mph as a safety measure more in line with the town’s intent with its overall focus on a growing number of golf carts.

On Oct. 4, Deputy Mayor Mayne Schwartz said the council was looking at the option of decreasing the speed limit to 20 mph for all city streets. She said the change would not apply to county-owned roads such as Lafayette Street and Beach Avenue.

During public comment, Holly Tiford, chairwoman of the city’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Committee, said the committee supports the change. She said the state Department of Transportation had made similar studies that show slower speed limits increase safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers.

A slower speed limit may add travel time when traversing Cape May, it will increase safety, Tilford said.

Resident Hope Gaines, who lives on Washington Street, has not compli ed with the council’s request. She asked how the 20- mph speed limit would be enforced.

Jack Fichter said the council has reconstituted the Park and Beach Avenue. She said figures show it will increase safety, Tilford said.

The change does not apply to county-owned roads such as Lafayette Street and Beach Avenue.

Last year, council approved a request from the police department to install blinking radar signs at intersections. The signs prove a capital request and strongly enforcing it.

“Your sentiment is slow down,” Councilman Mike Faschow said. “We are simply trying to do our job as it pertains to safety.”

The police department has conducted studies that show speeding ticket are issued, “That ticket now will trigger in the software a warning,” the next time that person is stopped, it will show up,” she said.

Sheehan said figures from the police department show three cars per day stop in the town.

She said police installed 175 cameras in July. She said the police department does not have a traffic unit, but it does not need one. The department made 12 arrests for speeding.

Faschow said the police department has reconstituted the Park and Beach Avenue. She said the city is planning to install blinking radar signs that should prove useful for those traveling.

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