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Town officials tell resident they are willing to reduce limit to 45 mph

A citizen's push to get the speed limit reduced on Cedar Sauk Road made partial headway with Town of Saukville officials last week.

Town of Cedarburg resident Jerry Plyer, 6905 Cedar Sauk Rd., has been leading a petition campaign to have the speed reduced from 55 mph to 35 mph, appearing repeatedly before town officials in Saukville and Cedarburg.

The road is the border between the two communities.

The stretch of road being targeted is between Covered Bridge Road and Dunbar Court.

Taking a cue from Cedarburg officials, Saukville supervisors concurred last week with the suggestion that reducing the speed limit to 45 mph — at least initially — makes more sense.

"I would have to agree with Cedarburg, because it is a connecting road and 35 mph seems a little low," Saukville Town Chairman Barb Jobs said.

Supr. Kate Smallish said Shady Lane is the only other town road with a speed limit as low as 35 mph, noting its narrow roadway and frequent blind corners.

The motion to support reducing the speed limit to 45 mph was contingent on the Town of Cedarburg formally taking a similar stand.

"The issue is going to be enforcement," said Supr. Curt Rutkowski, noting the road is patrolled by the Ozaukee County Sheriff's Department.

For the speed limit to take effect, ordinances need to be adopted by both communities.

When Plyer appeared before the Saukville Town Board in November, he said he had gathered nearly two dozen signatures from property owners in both communities who support the speed reduction.

Because of its terrain, he said the 1.5-mile section of road is the scene of frequent accidents, especially collisions with whitetail deer.

Plyer said officials need to keep safety in mind when considering the speed limit, and not the minor inconvenience the reduction might cause.

"Change is always tough, but things keep changing over the years. The extra 20 or 30 seconds it is going to take to drive that 1.5 miles isn't going to kill anybody," he said at an earlier town meeting.

Town officials also recently learned that the Milwaukee engineering firm GRAEF has recommended a 15-ton weight limit be placed on a culvert bridge recently inspected on Cedar Sauk Road. The limit represents the maximum load the span is deemed adequate to handle.