

A public workshop regarding the Village of Delhi speed zone was held on **Thursday, June 8, 2023** at 5:00 P.M. at Village Hall.

The meeting started at 5:04 P.M.

Present: Mayor Jeffrey Gearhart, Trustee Janet Tweed, Trustee Jeremy Fitch  
Matt Dreyfus and Michael Tweed

Matt Dreyfus opened the meeting stating that the need for lowering the speed zone in the Village hasn't gone away. He recommended a couple preventive measures: Lowering speed limit and adding speed bumps on Elm St.

Janet Tweed mentioned that the PD had put a temporary speed check up on Elm St and asked if that seemed to have helped? Matt Dreyfus reported that it made drivers' a little more conscious but that they still drove over 30 mph a lot of times. Matt stated that the walkers and bikers are more comfortable walking out by the hospital where there is a speed check but not as much on Elm St.

Jeremy Fitch reported that the Village is looking into changing the speed zone from Gallant Ave to the main entrance at the College, Delaware Ave to the Hospital and to eliminate the school zone in front of the school and to change the speed limit on all side streets from 30 down to 25 mph. Jeremy stated that in order to do this, NYS requires for a traffic study to be done first and that we cannot change any speed zones for any road in the village without State approval. This will require an engineer and Jeremy said and it could take 2-5 years to complete. Jeremy stated that there is a fee of \$1,000 every time we make a code change, so we want to do these changes all at once.

Mayor Gearhart said the Village is reluctant to change any side streets at this time, knowing what we know now or we can be sued without going thru an engineer. Mayor Gearhart reported that he has been in contact with Scott at DOT and asked him what procedures we need to follow in order to meet his requests. Mayor Gearhart said that there are a lot of kids playing on lawns or in the road at times.

Janet Tweed mentioned changing the field of the streets per Matt Dreyfus' letter for the following streets: Elm, Clinton and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and wondered if the village could do something now that may be reasonable and affordable that may help slow people down. Janet mentioned using highway paint at the crosswalks, which could have a calming effect and would be a visual change for drivers.

Michael Tweed mentioned that he had gone to Lobby Day for the bicycle coalition and that discussion was had about changing village speeds to 25 mph. Michael mentioned that the village could paint the corner bump-outs at the corner of Elm and Main St and paint a crosswalk to shrink down the width of the road.

Janet Tweed reported that currently there are no lines on Elm St and recommended putting a crosswalk at the library and Elm and also Elm and Main St.

Matt Dreyfus asked about creating a slogan and that we could put it on our Village website. An example was "A slow down, take it easy community", to help raise awareness to everyone.

Mayor Gearhart said that the current signs at the Village entrances are dated and that it would behoove us to make new entrance signs where we could also include a slogan. Mayor Gearhart said

maybe we could ask some of the community based organizations, like the Rotary or the Masons to donate money for this.

Michael Tweed asked if there is a legal crosswalk that should be at the library. He stated that if the sidewalk in front of the library is owned by the village, then we can paint a crosswalk there. Discussion was had that someone should look into the NYS Code to see who the sidewalk is owned by and then go from there.

Janet Tweed asked “where do we go from here”? Jeremy Fitch stated that the Mayor had sent an email to get the traffic study going and that it will probably be 3 months or so by the time study is completed. Mayor Gearhart stated that Scott from DOT said that Delaware Academy and the Village both have to be in agreement to change the speed zone out in front of the school and that both would have to appeal to the State to have this approved. Mayor Gearhart is waiting for the form from DOT and then will submit it to the school for review. Mayor Gearhart will also reach out to Bill Brown at Delaware Engineering to see what resources may be available.

Janet Tweed asked “what can the village do while waiting”? Discussion was had about having the village slogan be a community project to get more people involved. Janet asked if the village would be able to put stenciling on the streets and asked “what is considered to be a sign”. Mayor Gearhart stated that the State has very strict laws on signage in regards to height, wording, etc...

Mayor Gearhart said that the State doesn't like to do speed studies but once every 10 years and he believes it is possible that the school had one done about 4 years ago.

Jeremy Fitch reported that the State didn't want to change the speed zone at the school because it wasn't at 80% of the average speed in that area already and that is what they normally require.

Janet Tweed reported that studies show that by having crosswalk art does decrease crashes and makes people slow down. Janet said that we don't have anything scheduled in the Village Code Book about children at play. Janet thinks we should and can put a “Children at Play” sign up at Elm St, Delaware Ave and Clinton Streets. Discussion was had about this and said that it should be brought up at the June 26<sup>th</sup> board meeting for further discussion.

In closing Matt Dreyfus thanked the Village for our efforts and concerns regarding speed in the village.

Janet Tweed recommended that if we are going to do a traffic study then we should also look into crosswalks in the village.

Jeremy said we are going to pursue changing the speed to 25 mph, but that we just need to do more research.

The meeting was closed at 5:56 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Yager  
Deputy-Clerk