

APPROVED MINUTES

TOWN OF WEST MONROE PLANNING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE BROWNELL, NEVERETTE AND BETTS SUBDIVISIONS PUBLIC HEARING

September 25, 2024

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Craig Stroh - Vice Chairman, Linda Wolf, Brad Sheldon, Keri Micale, Chick Quattrini, Travis Hayes, Virge Carpenter, and Mary Regan-Benson – Recording Secretary

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** David Bardoun, Neil Brownell, Shirley Betts, Heidi Tompkins, Patrick Bloss, Jill Peterson, Rob Bismarck, Craig Green, Lewis Crump, Jason C. Verkey, Ken Parrotte, Denise Parrotte, Melissa Snavlin, and Dean Gass

Vice Chairman Stroh opened the Public Hearing at 7:15 PM. Mr. Quattrini was called up to join The Board, he accepted.

**The Neil Brownell** subdivision was discussed first. Dave Bardoun distributed the Final PLAT to The Board members.

Jill Peterson lives adjacent to the property being subdivided. She explained that in the process of preparing the [Brownell] land for sale, the drainage was rerouted, and the front part of her yard has flooded. She said what was previously a 4 - 5 foot ditch is now an 8 – 9 foot ditch. The West Monroe Highway Department was called and they did come out. Jill disagrees with the environmental assessment that there is no impact.

Ms. Wolf asked if the town plans to install a pipe under the road? The pipe under the road will put the drainage in the pond by the golf course, and this is okay with Dannie Green. Jill Peterson asked if there is town money to do this?

The town may drop the culvert to lower it. Dave Bardoun noted that the town has opened up the ditch, but it was done at an inopportune time (weather). He said it drains into the pond. Jill responded that it did not previously drain to that degree, and the ditch is eroding. Dave said that trees and stumps were taken out and the site leveled off. The Highway Department did the best they could to get the culverts to work. She observed that is it always wet in that area, water does not drain into the pond, it drains into her yard.

Neil Brownell said that what Jill Peterson said is true, the water does accumulate but it goes away in 2 – 3 days. Jill responded that the ditch is eroded, and the problem is in the front of her property - making it difficult to mow. Neil Brownell disagrees as to the ditch eroding.

Dave Bardoun stated that the area being discussed is within the highway boundary. The town cleaned out the culverts (which were full of debris), thus making the water flow again. The

Brownell, Neverette and Betts Public Hearing Minutes 9-25-2024

Highway Department is well aware of this situation and there is nothing Neil Brownell can do to correct it.

Mr. Sheldon said he cannot speak for the Highway Department, they marked where the culverts are. He felt that if they said they would look into it, they will.

Jill Peterson said Kevin Davis (previous Highway Supervisor) said they couldn't justify the cost, now she feels she is getting mixed responses, and is concerned it may not get done.

Mr. Hayes observed that we cannot control this with a subdivision Public Hearing. Mr. Sheldon concurred, noting this is not a Planning Board function.

Lewis Crump asked how do we make this a priority? There are new culverts on Route 37, and this is the first time in 45 years his ditches have filled up. Ms. Wolf said that is more about the culverts and highway, not the Planning Board. Ms. Micale agreed, saying the Planning Board does not have the authority [in this case].

**The Neverette subdivision** was tabled until next month, per Dave Bardoun's request. Chris Neverette is building a house, the boundary lines will not change, he is adding buildings. This subdivision can be addressed at this Public Hearing, but the final review will be tabled until the October Planning Board meeting. There were no comments from the public.

**The Betts subdivision** was the final one to be discussed. Per Dave Bardoun, the milk house has been removed, and the print has been updated. There were no comments from the public.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Vice Chairman Stroh closed the Public Hearing at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Regan-Benson (Recording Secretary)