

BEECH GROVE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS  
MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, August 4, 2021

Secretary James Coffman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Present: Board of Zoning members Marsha Dorsey, Mike Garrett, and Jeff Yeager were present. Attorney Beth Copeland and Secretary James Coffman were also present. Members Julie Weaver and Rick Greenfield were absent.

**Rules of Procedure**

Secretary James Coffman read the Rules of Procedure and swore in those giving testimony.

**Reading of the Minutes**

Minutes from April 7th, 2021 were read into the record. Mike Garrett made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Marsha Dorsey seconded the motion, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**Continued Petitions**

None

**New Petitions**

**2021-DVB-002 1982 Alton Street (approximate address)-** By Jacob and Brandi Lesshafft. Variance of development standards of the Consolidated Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance to legally establish a six-foot tall fence in the front yard along Alton Street (maximum 3.5-foot-tall fence permitted in the front yard). The property owners, Jacob and Brandi Lesshafft, have big dogs and a 3.5-foot-tall fence would not be big enough to keep them in. Petitioners feel the current fence is not blocking any view and provides a safe place for their dogs and keeps their dogs inside, safely from neighbors and passersby.

**Remonstrators-** None

**Staff-** This was a violation case, meaning that someone called in in and reported it. Staff recommends denial of the variance petition due to public safety concerns. Staff also suggested a compromise of moving the fence adjacent with the evergreen tree. This would be a compromise from the required 25 feet.

**Petitioner Rebuttal-** The petitioners say if the fence was 3.5 feet, the dogs would be seen by passersby. When asked if a compromise would be okay, the petitioner said no and that they would just sell their house and move. The cost would be prohibitive, and the dogs would lose too much space to run around. Board members asked the petitioners if they would like the vote to be on the variance, or with a compromise, and the petitioners requested a vote on the variance.

Board Member Marsha Dorsey made a motion to deny the request for the variance, Jeff Yeager seconded the motion. Member Mike Garrett voted to approve the variance. With a vote of two to one, the petition must be continued due to a non-majority vote.

The petition will be continued until Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 pm.

---

Julie Weaver, President

---

Jeff Yeager

---

Marsha Dorsey

---

Mike Garrett

---

Rick Greenfield

---

James W. Coffman, Secretary