

Bentwood Estate homeowners seek remediation

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Submitted photo A portion of the main road through Bentwood Estates residents say has not been finished as promised.

MARTINSBURG — Residents of Bentwood Estates in Inwood have asked the Berkeley County Commission for help in their attempt to get the the community’s developer to finish off the main road through the development and provide a secondary entrance to the complex.

Serving as spokesman for the Bentwood Estates Homeowners Association, Richard Lindvig appeared before the Berkeley County Planning Commission on Jan. 16 to ask the commission to write the group a letter of support in his dispute with housing developer Phil Cogar.

According to Lindvig, developer Cogar is obligated to finish off all portions of the development’s main roadway, Bentwood Drive, and construct a secondary outlet from the community.

Cogar could not be reached for comment.

Bentwood Estates is located on W.Va. 51 in the Inwood section of Berkeley County.

“I’ve been there 11 years now, and nothing has been done,” Lindvig said. “The community is basically getting tired of it. They want the community finished.”

Lindvig said the developer has yet to apply a final topcoat on the main road, which he claims is now deteriorating in some places.

Lindvig submitted to the commission a petition with 131 Bentwood Estates residents’ signatures and requested it stop further construction at Bentwood Estates until the developer provides two requirements: to apply a topseal to the development main road and construct a second entrance.

“This community has one entrance,” Lindvig said. “We have one way in, one way out, and we have 133 homes now. We are asking you to look again at an emergency exit.

“Since then, none of our roads have been maintained, Lindvig said. “It’s a construction type road in there. The developer hasn’t done a final topcoat on any of it yet, nor has he made any improvements to the road, and it is breaking down.”

According to Lindvig, Cogar has told residents he does not want to finish the road until all construction is complete.

Lindvig said the commission previously had approved a change in the development road width from 60 feet to 50 feet.

“You can hardly get through roads right now, if people are parking on the side of it,” Lindvig said. “It’s dangerous — it’s a safety hazard, especially in the summer when the kids are out.”

In response to the homeowners association petition, Planning Commission president Donald Fox requested the county engineer and planning staff review its claim.

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