

BOROUGH OF INDIANA

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May 9, 2007

White Township Supervisors
950 Indian Springs Road
Indiana, PA 15701-3598

Re: Proposed timbering of White's Woods

Dear Supervisors:


At last night's meeting, Indiana Borough Council discussed the proposal to timber White's Woods. This issue has been a topic at various public meetings within the Borough, including the Shade Tree Commission, Planning Commission, and Borough Council. The consensus of these groups is rather uniform in its concern over wise management of this community resource, potential threats to nearby private property from accelerated soil erosion and storm water runoff, and possible damage to public infrastructure from heavy truck traffic and additional storm water.

In general, however, the major concerns involve proper management of this community asset for the enjoyment and benefit of the public at large. The White's Woods Nature Center is a true community resource that should be appropriately managed and protected for its intended purpose: recreation, conservation, and historical preservation. The forest management plan must, therefore, engage the public in a dialogue regarding the long term goals for the Nature Center and how best to accomplish these goals. Indiana Borough Council believes that the timbering plan for White's Woods has not adequately addressed community goals for the Nature Center or the public's concerns over the ancillary impacts of the logging operation.

Indiana Borough Council encourages the White Township Supervisors to delay any action involving the timbering of White's Woods until a truly representative plan can be developed for the Nature Center that takes into account all those elements necessary for the long-term benefit of the public at large. Because a portion of the property is located within Indiana Borough and many Borough residents actively use and enjoy White's Woods, members of Council and other interested citizens would welcome the opportunity to participate in this planning process.

Indiana Borough appreciates the Supervisors' time and consideration of these concerns. If you have any questions, or wish to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kenneth E. Gabler
Borough Manager

Cc: Borough Council
Shade Tree Commission
Planning Commission
Friends of Whites Woods