

LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

6-20-07

Differing worldviews at heart of dispute

I was present at the hearing held by the White Township supervisors and therefore had the opportunity to hear a number of local residents speak out and offer sound reasons against the township's plan to log White's Woods. I was impressed both by the diverse representation of the speakers and by the quality of their testimonies. Those speaking on behalf of the Friends of White's Woods were informed, intelligent, articulate and convincing in their testimonies.

Obviously, none of this mattered to the township supervisors. If anything, the strong platform opposing the logging plan only served to galvanize the supervisors, who seemed determined, if not defiant, in making sure their destructive plan not be defeated as it was in 1995.

There is, at the heart of this issue, a huge conflict of worldviews — a conflict that has far-reaching implications for the future of our community.

One view emphasizes the economic value of the

woods and regards the trees in terms of their potential currency as timber. This perspective sees nature devoid of intrinsic value, and instead as a resource to be dominated, controlled and exploited.

Another view, expressed by the Friends of White's Woods, emphasizes the inherent value of the trees. As Gail Berlin put it at the hearing, the woods offer a sanctuary to those who walk its paths. The township supervisors clearly have no appreciation for this particular worldview nor do they have an understanding of how many people regularly take refuge in these woods.

It's apparent the logging plan is not in the best interest of the forest. I sincerely hope the supervisors will work with the Friends of White's Woods and their attorney from the Community Environment Legal Defense Fund to modify the plan in order to ensure that it offers more protection than harm to the woods.

Jill Fiore
Indiana