

6-19-07

## **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

# **Vote on White's Woods a defeat of democracy**

This community witnessed a defeat of democracy last week. Despite overwhelming public opposition, the White Township supervisors voted to go forward with an ill-advised timbering plan in White's Woods. The supervisors ignored a wide range of expertise and citizen input and chose instead to adopt a "management" plan disastrously inappropriate for a nature center.

White's Woods would be better served by a genuine conservation initiative, such as the newly established Grand View Scenic Byway Park project on Mount Washington in Pittsburgh, where a significant part of the mission is to engage people in a healthier relationship with nature. There, the park hired an anthropologist

with experience in conservation politics to facilitate involvement from the public.

Surely, in a time when Pennsylvania is rated one of the most polluted states in the country, we need greater public participation in protecting our natural resources.

The top-down decision by the supervisors is, sadly, a negative development for the Indiana area because it reveals how little those in leadership positions value imagination, collaboration and intelligence. A flourishing community depends on an open and responsive process of decision-making, and that didn't happen in this case.

**Susan Comfort  
Indiana**

## **Supervisor misses point**

How odd is White Township Supervisor George Lenz's response to my proposal that the Indiana County Chamber of Commerce study the possibility that the township and the borough be merged into a Third Class City called Indiana?

Political correctness and nostalgia about Jimmy Stewart have nothing to do with it. I'm

thinking of better equipping this area for future progress.

As for an "Indiana Borough bias," my candidate for mayor of the City of Indiana is Larry Garner!

Yours for continued constructive public discussion of this suggestion,

**Bill Shane  
Indiana**

