

June 26, 2018 Wooded Areas Meeting

A subcommittee of the Landscape Committee

In attendance: Karen Taylor, Merle Dickens, Sandra Shores, Larry Shores, Rhonda Otto, Bob Otto, Sharon Dereamer, Nick K, Janet Hall, Linda Froberg, Marjorie Havens, Georgie Gilmat, Danesa Stolz, Susie Hively.

After introductions Danesa Stolts, Chief Naturalist of Fishers shared the information she had been able to gather for us.

1. Our PUD supersedes the UDO (Unified Development Ordinance) for the city of Fishers.
2. Our PUD states that: Within Preservation Areas the intention is to preserve trees; therefore the only things that can be removed are dead trees and underbrush. The removal of trees for public health and safety is allowed as determined by a registered arborist who shall file a report detailing those reasons with the Director of Development for the Town of Fishers. Should a living tree be damaged or destroyed greater than 4 inches in diameter as measured six inches above the ground the person(s) causing the damage is required to replace it with a tree measuring at least 2 1/2 inches in diameter six inches above the ground. Within Conservation Areas developers will take reasonable steps to avoid the damage or destruction of healthy trees.

Danesa also recommended two Arborists that have helped her in the past.

1. From the Indiana DNR: James Potthoff (219-843-4827, jpotthoff@dnr.in.gov)
2. Jud Scott, a consultant (317) 846-3778 treeconsultant@aol.com

We agreed that our goal is "Preserve the natural beauty of the wooded areas." A discussion followed this about what preserving the natural beauty might entail. The issue of paths was discussed. Danesa suggested that if we had paths they should be designated and have a surface that would withstand wet and use. She recommended chip limestone as dirt and woodchip covered paths require more continual maintenance. We also discussed the need to get rid of the invasive shrubs and plants (see lists online at the portal). Once these are removed we discussed the possibility of putting down a mulch buffer between the grass and the wooded areas making mowing more efficient and less invasive to the wooded areas. It would also serve as a boarder as the woods naturally seeks to expand into open areas.

It was suggested that aerial pictures of the area prior to development, during development and now might provide an interesting history of the wooded areas. The city GIS aerial pictures might be a good source. I didn't ask if anyone is willing to investigate this at the meeting. If you would be willing please let me know.

The following individuals agreed to serve on a committee that would draft rules for the WOODED AREAS to provide guidance to individuals that may want to remove or add to these areas as well as to provide guidelines for how they can be used.

Bob Otto, Chair

Karen Taylor, Secretary

Sandra Shores

Larry Shores

Sharon Dereamer

Marjorie Havens

Georgie Gilmat

This group will be sending out drafts of their work to the larger committee as appropriate so that we can all be prepared to discuss these rules at our next meeting. **They will meet the first three Mondays in July (2nd, 9th, 16th) in the AC Room at the Chateau at 10:00 AM.**

The next full meeting of of the Wooded Area Committee will be July 19 in the Arts and Crafts Room at the Chateau at 3:30. We look forward to discussing the draft of the rules for wooded areas that our subcommittee is creating.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Hively
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