

## Stoneleigh Woods Update

Logging started in Stoneleigh Woods this week as developers began clearing the land for 36 duplex homes. All who lived here 10 years ago will remember the year-long fight our community waged with the Country Club of Maryland when they proposed a development of 56 houses on 13.8 acres at the North end of Sherwood Road.

That was 9 years ago. The agreement we finally hammered out a year later permitted a smaller development on the 14 acres known as Stoneleigh Woods in exchange for preserving the rest of the club's open space. Permanent easements are now in place on more than 100 acres of open space owned by the Country Club.

This was a hard-won compromise. It took hundreds of people showing up for hearings, writing letters and staging protests. A small group of dedicated people spent hundreds of hours assembling a 200 page Community Plan and strategizing to block the development. Idlewylde paid thousands of dollars to an attorney who helped us make our case. Neighborhoods on all sides of the golf course joined our efforts and attended dozens of meetings.

Like most compromises, all parties leave the table with some satisfactions and some disappointments. Our disappointment is that we were not able to block the development and keep the lovely old trees of Stoneleigh Woods. Our satisfaction was reducing the size of the development AND assuring we won't have to fight this fight ever again over another parcel of the Country Club's open space.

We reached this compromise in the fall of 2006 - just before housing starts dropped with the economic down turn. The Country Club never broke ground to start building. Although many of us hoped the delays might lead to the owners scratching the development completely, this was not the case. The land was recently purchased by MacKenzie. All the terms of our agreement now apply to them as the new owner of the property.

Our Settlement Agreement can be viewed here on our website. It is up to all of us to make sure that the recent purchaser of Stoneleigh Woods lives up to the terms we worked out. These include repairing any damage constructions vehicles do to Sherwood Road, limiting the hours of construction activity, reforesting buffer areas we mapped out and so on.

If you see anything occurring that you think might violate the terms of the Settlement agreement, please contact a member of the Idlewylde Community Association Board.

- Cynthia Jabs