

## Midway Woods Meeting

### Blue Tarp – Thursday, November 15, 2018

**Board Members Attending:** Jennifer Beaver and Kathryn Michaelis

**Neighbors Attending:** Melissa Hall, Mary Grace Brooks, Keisa Bruce, Julie Binney, Dan Binney, John Edgerton, Duncan Cottrell, Josh Cox

**Guest:** Sgt. Neal (DeKalb Police Department)

#### Paid Patrol:

This meeting was primarily to discuss the newly launched Midway Woods Paid Patrol and to ask questions of Sgt. Neal, who is working with the board to organize the patrol efforts.

#### General updates:

- We are still soliciting more paying members, but we have covered almost an entire year with one patrol shift per week.
- Shifts are at random, and are four hours. We have a select group of officers who will be patrolling the neighborhood.
- The more paying members we have, the more shifts we can have each week.
- The entire neighborhood is patrolled but there are benefits if you are a paying member (can be found on our website)
- Patrol dates/times are random and are not publicized
- There are four coordinators for the paid patrol and they will communicate with paying members with additional details about the patrol, etc. – an email was sent and will be resent with details for things like vacation checks, how to report activity, etc.

#### Updates from Sgt. Neal:

- Patrol hours are being selected based on when crimes and activity in the area are most common (is reviewing reports for the precinct and is selecting shift times based on that)
  - Most of the crime in the area occurs in the morning hours (after people leave for work) and there is some in the evening hours, after dark
  - Have not seen a lot of reported crimes in our area recently
- During the patrol shifts they will be checking for suspicious people, looking for vehicles who appear to be cruising throughout the neighborhood
  - Are making a point to hit every street and house, including all paying and non-paying neighbors
- Crime prevention suggestions: make sure to clear shrubbery, have visible lights outdoors (leave your lights on all night), ask USPS/UPS/FedEx to leave packages in a secret location – if package theft is a concern you may want to look into having packages delivered to a different location other than your home
- Concerns that were raised by neighbors:
  - Youth – what happens if they are out and about during school hours. Officers were typically try to contact their parents or their school resource officers.
  - South end of Oldfield – they will make sure this area is included in the patrol
- Crime stats for the area are the same, if not a bit lower – crime has not increased, we are just more likely to hear about every occurrence due to social media