

A special meeting of the Township Committee took place at 7:15 p.m. Present during this meeting were Mayor Dart Sageser, Deputy Mayor David Wang-Iverson, and Committee members Tim Mathews, Charles Van Horn, and Peter Miller.

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat, Times of Trenton, Star Ledger, and posted on the bulletin board on July 8, 2014. The purpose of the meeting is to meet with a candidate for the Township committee/board. Action may or may not be taken, and the public is invited to attend.

Erica Johanson, Chair of the Environmental Commission, was in attendance during this interview.

Doug Schleifer, Rocktown Road, was interested in serving on the Environmental Commission. There were some comments exchanged about bears in the Sourlands, with Mr. Schleifer providing anecdotal information about a bear on his property.

Mr. Schleifer explained that he moved to East Amwell Township last year, previously living on the Peterson farm in Franklin Township. He served on the Environmental Commission in Franklin Township for 2.5 years, and prior to that, he served on the Princeton Environmental Commission for 8 years, serving as the Assistant Vice Chair on that Commission. Professionally, he worked with the Upper Raritan Watershed Association as a GIS specialist, mapping environmental conservation easements. Upper Raritan merged with South Branch Watershed Association to form the Raritan Headwaters Association, which is now in operation. Mr. Schleifer, for the last ten years, works for the State Office of GIS; the agency works with counties, some municipalities, non-profits, for-profits, academia, etc., as “enablers” for GIS.

Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson asked what work Mr. Schleifer did at Franklin Township. He said that they did trail mapping with GPS, also using aerial photography to map the trails. There were other maps being made too, but he left during the process. There were also ordinance reviews for solar installations and septic testing, etc. Deputy Mayor Wang-Iverson asked if Mr. Schleifer worked with the Board of Health in Franklin; he said that they worked with the Township Committee and the Land Use Board, commenting on Environmental Commission support there.

Mr. Schleifer stated that there was a lot of activity in Princeton Township, i.e., a joint Commission for both the Borough and the Township. He spoke about working with open space, recreation, Planning Boards, and Township Committees, noting that he worked with Joe Skupien as a liaison to the Flood Control Commission when working on the stormwater issues.

Mr. Schleifer said that his education was in environmental geography, so that working with GIS was relevant to his education. He mentioned a project that he is currently work on at the State, i.e., a statewide management and GIS layering of easements of open space land in state, federal, county, municipal, non-profit, fee simple, and other acquisitions. Mayor Sageser mentioned the work done in East Amwell Township with data-basing different types of easements. Mr. Schleifer mentioned work that he did in Mendhem Township, which involved significant deed research to uncover easements (i.e., 400 easements were mapped during the project).

Mr. Mathews asked about the motivation for the mapping. Mr. Schleifer spoke about the need to database all information from departments, such as Green Acres, SADC, SHPO, etc. in one place, i.e., the intent to map natural landscape with historic and cultural features that would be available for public use. The intent is to develop one standard model, which counties and municipalities would use, to maintain data, and send it to the state to incorporate in one place.

Mayor Sageser spoke about looking at the maps in layers. Mr. Schleifer commented on developing “powerful” applications, to identify ancillary information on a property, e.g., Omick Woods, getting information and storing it in a data base. He spoke about collecting information from deeds, CAD files, etc, to identify what is located in the parks, e.g., horticultural items, woods, trails, lakes, conservation easements, agricultural easements, recreation, historical elements, etc. and using the database as a repository for information.

Mr. Mathews asked about including infrastructure, such as cable, sewage, etc. Mr. Schleifer said no, just open space. He also noted work with the NJ Department of Transportation (DOT)

was data-basing addresses for road segments and address ranges on roads, providing some examples of such.

Mr. Schleifer commented on his desire to serve on the Environmental Commission, and he was thanked for his presence tonight.

There being no further business, motion by Mr. Mathews, seconded by Mr. Van Horn, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk

DRAFT - NOT YET APPROVED