

A special meeting of the Township Committee came to order at 7:15 p.m. Present were Mayor David Wang-Iverson, Deputy Mayor Dart Sageser, 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, posted on the bulletin board, and filed with the Clerk on October 5, 2015. The purpose of this meeting is to interview a candidate for a Township board/committee. Action may or may not be taken, and the public is invited to attend.

Frances (Flann) Lippincott was present to discuss her interest in serving on the Environmental Commission. Chair Doug Schleifer was also in attendance during this interview. Ms. Lippincott spoke about her interest in bird watching since age 9, growing up outdoors, being a Biology major, working at Cornell doing "movies for microscopes," and while not a professional, "science and environment are who I am." She was associated with Stony Brook Millstone Watershed for six years in the 1980-90's, noting specific people whom she knew there. She then became involved with her business and travel after that. She also served as a trustee at Walker's School, a girls' school in Connecticut. She worked part time a few years ago with NJ Audubon as their business manager for the SAVE program; she provided details of the program which involved working with farmers to grow, process, and sell 200 acres of sunflowers from Chesterfield to Sussex and Warren County. She mentioned working with Jim Lane, a farmer on Amwell Road, involved with processing; she named other farmers who are involved in the program. Sunflower seeds are harvested and sold, as example, to Basil Bandwagon and others throughout the state.

Ms. Lippincott said that she has lived in East Amwell since 1982, leaving only for a five year period, and she intends to stay here. She teaches business and property law in New York on a part time basis, commenting on the possibility of having more free evening time if this is her last semester in NY. She does have a commitment the third Monday evening each month.

Mr. Mathews was happy to hear about Ms. Lippincott's interest in serving, and he asked about the environmental impact of the Barn Party on her residence. Ms. Lippincott said that there was no environmental impact at all. She explained that parking is on a fallow field; there is a disco in the barn, and there have been no noise complaints. People camp out on the lawn so that they don't have to drive, and the State Police are at the driveway to monitor. There was only one problem at the event, i.e., an EMT passed out. Ms. Lippincott said that this was her son's party, but she oversees it, and it is her liability. She is well insured for the event, and information about attendees is on the tickets (phone numbers, etc.). She felt that this was no different than a wedding. Mr. Mathews asked about activities on farmland; Ms. Lippincott explained that combines and farm equipment do more damage to the land, referencing work being done today to harvest soy beans and creating dusty conditions. Ms. Lippincott also mentioned fox hunts, AVTA Hunter Pace, and the Hunt Club having activities on her property.

Ms. Lippincott continued by saying that combines and planters tear up the soil, and there is some damage caused by farming. She did not believe driving cars on the property was damaging, and she mentioned hiring professionals to pick up the garbage from the party. She mentioned having a 30 cubic yard Dumpster on site with many plastic water bottles being picked up. Next year, they may consider a water truck rather than plastic bottles in order to be more ecologically sound. Ms. Lippincott said that the fields are usually fallow for a year after a harvest, and there have always been trucks on it, including equipment from Gregg Manners. She commented on a gun shot going off near the property, but she didn't see anything more.

Mr. Schleifer was thrilled that Ms. Lippincott was volunteering her services because of her local knowledge and background. Ms. Lippincott said that she would be able to help by looking at regulations, statutes, and case law and being able to be objective. She believed that her teaching background would be beneficial in order to explain legal principals to lay people; she also "loved to solve problems ... creative solutions are satisfying."

Mr. Van Horn believed that the Township was fortunate to have her volunteer, and he thanked her for coming forth.

Open to the Public will be held at the regular meeting to follow immediately.

There being no further business, motion by Deputy Mayor Sageser, seconded by Mr. Miller, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk