

NJ Geospatial Forum Asks for Surveyors Help

By J. Peter Borbas, PLS

The New Jersey Geospatial Forum has a Boundary Task group that is working on educating the GIS community, public and other professions (including lawyers, judges, engineers and planners) on the matter of boundaries. This task group came about after a court trial regarding alleged misuse of data in a community's GIS. The surveying community recognizes that many GIS data creators and users do not know what boundaries are, how they are created and how they may be modified. As surveyors, we are horrified as to what people are, and might be, doing with precise boundaries and other survey data inside a GIS.

The NJGF Boundary Task group is made up of many constituency groups; municipal and county planners, State GIS "specialist", water resources agencies, transportation folks and a couple of surveyors. The NJGF Boundary Task group is asking for licensed surveyors to become more involved. As far back as 1999, in the NJSPLS Coordinate, Bruce Harrison, the GIS manager for Hunterdon County, had put a call out for the surveyor's involvement.

NJSPLS and its members have built a great relationship with the great GIS community over since that time. But over the past few years we have been relatively absent. The GIS community is putting out a call to NJSPLS and its members to step up their input and increase their activity.

One of the immediate tasks at hand is determining what standards and guidelines are already out there for surveys which could end up part of a GIS, e.g. NJDOT, NJDEP Green Acres, SARA, Wetlands, NJ Transit, county, municipal other state, licensing board, ALTA, etc. The intent of the task group is to educate and then hopefully be able to have some of these standards match up. We are discussing a best practices document for survey/GIS, similar to what the Geographic and Land Information Society (GLIS) has been developing.

Another task is to have more educational and information sessions; we are talking about presenting to the league of municipalities among other groups.

Non survey members of the task group were very surprised to hear that we have been fighting to have minor subdivisions included in the map filing law. They said that if they had known that, they would have gone to bat for us. The NJGF was created for just this type of thing, to identify and advise.

There has been a lack of surveyor's involvement with the Geospatial Forum in recent years, let's step up and respond to their request for the surveyors to provide their expertise!

If you would like to get involved or learn more about the NJGF Boundary Task Group, the next meeting is **June 7th at 8:30 am** at the Riverview Plaza Building 300, Conference Room 302 (3rd floor).

This is the same building that the NJ Geospatial Forum meetings are held in. **Everyone should park in the parking garage. Parking is free.**

Complex is located next to Arm & Hammer Park (Trenton Thunder baseball stadium).

Please contact either Peter Borbas or Kevin Zelinsky to RSVP or to discuss how you can help advance our profession.

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