

Bedford forum organizers should have attempted to invite all candidates

In a recent news story in the newspaper written by Andrea Peck and titled “Bedford candidates field questions, debate issues,” it was reported that I was “absent” from the forum. It is true that I was not in attendance that night, but the reason is that I was not invited.

An e-mail was sent out to the Republican candidates for trustee by the organizers of the event. However, my e-mail address was not on the e-mail list; consequently I was not invited or informed that there was going to be a forum. As a result of not knowing about the event, our family scheduled an out-of-town excursion, so as it happened, we were out of town on the day of the event. Had I known about the event in advance, we would have rescheduled in order for me to be present at the event.

I have been told that the organizers could not find my e-mail address. It is rather strange that I am an incumbent trustee on the

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Bedford Township Board and no one could look up my phone number and call me to ask my e-mail address — or speak to one of the many other candidates who know my e-mail address. It also seems odd that out of nine candidates running, I was the only one whose e-mail could not be found.

I am very disappointed in the tactics and lack of pursuit taken to be sure all candidates had an

equal opportunity to participate. I have been told that I should expect this kind of thing in “politics,” but I do not agree. We live in America, where every eligible citizen has the opportunity to run for office and, whether you agree or disagree with their opinions, the voters have a right to make their own choices. Trying to control the voters’ choice is not democracy.

**Nancy Tienvieri
Lambertville**

Editor’s note: Jim Krieger, event organizer, said the list of e-mail addresses for trustees was collected from their affidavits for identity, which candidates file when they run. He alleged Nancy Tienvieri did not include her e-mail address on her affidavit of identity. Someone compiled those e-mails and gave them to him, and he subsequently contacted each candidate about participation in the event.

“It was nothing intentional,” he said of Nancy Tienvieri not being included in the event.