



20 YEARS

Hedgerows

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Support Local Land Conservation

Twenty Years of Accomplishments

by Caryl Brackenridge

The Washington Township Land Trust of Morris County, Inc. was organized in the fall of 1990 by some local residents who were alarmed at the rate at which farmlands, historic houses, barns and other buildings were being replaced by housing developments and malls. The first advertised meeting was in September, 1990, with Margaret Nordstrom speaking about the importance of open space. The mission statement was adopted in December, 1990, and the Land Trust was incorporated in January, 1991.

In March, 1991, the town condemned the Obadiah LaTourette Grist and Saw Mill, a circa 1750 building listed on the State and National Registers as a contributing property in the German Valley Historic District. The WTLT borrowed \$20,000 from the Historical Society and \$10,000 from the Morris County Trust, and in December, 1991, purchased the mill from Joan O'Dowd for \$25,000. The O'Dowd family donated the eight acres of river-front property which was once the mill pond. Shortly thereafter, the Land Trust secured a \$5,000 emergency stabilization loan from the New Jersey Historic Trust and embarked upon the restoration of the Mill with the aid of volunteers and donated materials.

In 1992, the firm of Watson and Henry estimated that the restoration would cost \$1.5 to \$2.2 million. Donations from individuals and \$40,000 from the Leavens Foundation funded the restoration in the early 1990's and then in 1996, Jack Borgenicht offered the Land Trust \$50,000 a year for three years if we

(continued on reverse)

WTLT Is Now In Its 20th Year

by Chris Steffan

We would like to acknowledge the people who served on our Board of Trustees giving of their time, talents and energy. They brought us to 2011.

The Land Trust was conceived in 1990 by local people concerned about keeping open space in the township and maintaining its historical heritage. Both are important aspects of Washington Township and why so many of us choose to live here. The Board was incorporated early in 1991 and preservation began.

Over the years the faces of the Board of Trustees have changed but the desire to maintain the character of the township has continued. Some trustees were on the board a short time while others served for numerous years. All have contributed important views, ideas, energy, and expertise to the Board, providing a fresh outlook on what is possible.

Contributions

Starting the land trust...

Setting up by-laws...

Organizational mailings...

Engineering...

Assessing the grist mill...

Photography...

Park maintenance...

Restoration labor...

Willingness to 'step-up...'

Love of land & LV history

Board of Trustees listed in the Articles of Incorporation, January 1991

Stan Andrews	Bob Mielich
Dianne Galletts	Frank Mileto
Mervyn Haines	Margaret Nordstrom
Betty Sue Harris	Langdon Palmer
Chris (Tucker) Hartshorne	Gordon Raupp
Bill Leavens	Shirley Shields
Kurt Maier	Susan Sinclair
	Kathleen Smith

Additional Trustees 1991-2011

(listed in chronological/alphabetic order)

Jeannie Aiello	Stanley Kramer	Jim Richards	Jon Wagar
Donna Coolbaugh	Tom Lopezzo	Sue Jung	Tim Morris
Kim Kaiser	Tim Warrener	Lois Kramer	Kriss Olsen
Carol Kasperwitz	Jim Pavone	Madeline Schmitt	Mark Paris
Clarabel Kent	Chris Steffan	Evan Showell	Jim Fitterer
Harvey Ort Jr.	Angelo Vilardi	Laura Showell	Barbara Kellner
Sherri Raupp	Bill Harrington	Greg Jones	Allison Goessling
Ken Short	Judy Killion	Paul Krylowski	Susan Penney
Erma Flynn	Karen Richards	Shirley Gillette	
Caryl Brackenridge	Keith Hayes	Jen Wagar	

could match it. With this pledge and other donations we were able to secure 1996 and 1997 New Jersey Historic Trust grants, followed by grants from the Community Development program, the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust Fund and the New Jersey Historic Trust Emergency Grant program. As of January, 2011, we have spent \$614,948 (\$342,168 public funds and \$272,780 private funds) and have completed at least 75% or more of the work needed.

As for the land side of the mission, the Land Trust has received almost \$2 million in Green Acres grants from the state and has matched this money by partnering with other land conservation organizations. The result has been the preservation of almost 1,000 acres of open space through purchases, easements and donations. Properties preserved include Mill Pond Park, Crystal Springs, Covalesky, Woodpecker Point Park, Lillis, Lance and Borgenicht.

Along the way we have raised funds from concerts, art auctions, farm tours, the Long Valley Street Fair and Brew Fest, cocktail parties, dinners, dances, art shows, talent shows, wine tasting events, a window adoption program, a native tree adoption program and the sale of merchandise at every local event. Funds raised have been used to pay back \$35,000 in loans and mortgages, pay operating costs, provide matching funds for grants and pay land acquisition soft costs.

We are a small organization of approximately 125 member families, 10 volunteer Board members and no paid director or staff; but in the twenty years of our existence, we have made large strides toward the preservation of the landscape, the streetscape and the history of Washington Township.

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Collapsed Wall Restored

by Caryl Brackenridge

In June, 2009, a retaining wall behind the out-building next to the Obadiah LaTourette Mill collapsed, probably due to heavy rain all spring. The wall is on the edge of the river and its collapse threatened the foundation of the historic out-building. After receiving estimates of \$14,000 to restore the wall, the Land Trust was able to obtain a \$7,000 matching Emergency Grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust in September, 2009.

Plans were drawn by historic architect, John Bolt and mason Vince Iacampo was scheduled to do the work. Extreme cold during the winter, high water in the river and Vince's work on the Fairview Avenue church ruins all conspired to delay the project until August 2010.

Michael Harrington of Hoffman Supply donated a pallet of sixty pound sandbags and employees Ben Andrews and Jason Fischer to help us get the sandbags down the alley and into the river to create a relatively dry work area. Vince's employees then started the project by dismantling the collapsed wall and installing a drainage system. Our beautiful new wall was completed in early September, just as Hurricane Earl was making its way up the east coast. Timing really is everything and, hopefully, this wall will continue to protect the river bank and the foundation of our out-building for years to come.



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