

Hedgerows

Winter 2018 Published by the Washington Township Land Trust

Washington Township Land Trust

2018 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Jim Fitterer (President) is a Transportation professional with the Washington Township Board of Education and has expertise in project management and commercial insurance. He has served as Vice Chair of the Washington Township Historical Preservation Commission.



Kim Kaiser (Vice President) is an attorney involved in regional planning and land use. She is a former Washington Township Committee Member, Washington Township Planning Board Chair and was instrumental in the creation of the Washington Township Teen Center.



John R. Holt (Secretary) is a retired educator with a PhD from the University of Chicago who has taught English at the University of Kansas, the College of Petroleum and Minerals in Saudi Arabia, and the University of Illinois, chairing departments at the Chicago Latin School and Centenary College.



Dick Kellner (Treasurer) has a BA in Economics and an MBA from the Wharton School. He is a retired marketing executive, having worked for Fortune 100 companies. Dick served 8 years on the Washington Township Board of Education and is a past-President of the Long Valley Jaycees.



Nancy Gable (Trustee) is a clinical social worker and educator with an MSW degree (George Williams College) and MAT degree (University of Chicago). She has a private psychotherapy practice in Somerset and has been a part-time lecturer at the Rutgers School of Social Work.



Barbara Kellner (Trustee) is a professional psychotherapist with a BSN degree and MA in Counseling Psychology with a private clinical practice in Chester. A 46-year resident of the township, she is a long-time community leader and activist on historic and open space preservation.



Joe Koller (Trustee) is the Global Operations Training Manager for Tiffany & Co. He administers a SAAS learning management system with localization and mobility, and he has expertise in instructional design; e-learning development; project management; video planning, shooting, and development; and compliance training

editing; survey development and administration.



Sue Penney (Trustee) is a real estate professional, SRES, and banker with Peapack-Gladstone Bank. Sue also serves the community as a member of the Washington Township Historic Preservation Commission.



Dan Ross (Trustee) has lived in Long Valley for over 30 years. He has a B.S. in Environmental Policy, Institutions, and Behavior, from Rutgers University, serves as an NJDEP Watershed Ambassador for Watershed Management Area 1. He has worked jointly with Rutgers Cooperative Extension Services of

Morris County and the Great Swamp Watershed Association, where he helps to oversee the Rutgers Environmental Stewards Program. He is very concerned with the progress of invasive plant species.



Lisa Voyce (Trustee) is a Professional Associate at HDR, an engineering consulting firm in Mahwah, NJ. She has worked in various positions, including USEPA Region 2, US Army Corps of Engineers (ATSDR), and as Principal Scientist for the Highlands Council during initial development of the

Master Plan. She has served as the Washington Township Environmental officer and grants specialist, ANJEC Resource Center Director, and was appointed for eight years as Chair of the Roxbury Township EC and Planning Board.

Washington Township Land Trust Mission Statement

The Washington Township Land Trust was organized to protect and preserve ecological, cultural, and historical integrity of the areas that contribute to and enhance the rural character of Washington Township and its environs.

The Trust also promotes public interest in conserving land for open space uses in harmony with the natural environment and acquires interests in land by purchase or donation. It also manages land and property easements for the benefit of the public and educates the public to be stewards of the land.

“Walk and Talk” in Mill Pond Park

On Saturday morning, 23 September 2017, over two dozen members and friends of the Washington Township Land Trust gathered in Mill Pond Park for a “Walk and Talk” led by environmental expert Dr. Emile DeVito, followed by a complimentary lunch at the Obadiah LaTourette Mill in the center of Long Valley. “*Whether one has an interest in the environment, historical houses, engineering, working with wood and hand-sawn timber the size of a tree, or just in walking and talking with interesting people, Saturday’s Walk and Talk had it,*” commented Peter Michael Hansen, member of the Land Trust and Califon resident. And on Emile DeVito, “*What a guy! Extremely knowledgeable, funny, charming and also matter-of-fact and realistic about all the issues that surround the environmental challenges of today.*” Dr. DeVito identified native and invasive plants present in the park and explained the climate-related



Environmental expert Dr. Emile DeVito guides a group through the Land Trust’s Mill Pond Park

factors and ecological relationships that foster the growth or decline of each. He offered concrete suggestions of how to bring back and support plants and trees native to New Jersey. Dr. DeVito is the head of Science and Stewardship for the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and serves as a Trustee of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. The “Walk and Talk” was organized by Nancy Gable, Land Trust Board member, and served as her final project to receive certification through the Rutgers Environmental Stewardship Program at Duke Farms in Hillsborough.

Next Big Job: Double-Arch Outlet

Before we can *restore* the Obadiah LaTourette Grist and Saw Mill, we need to *repair* it. In the fall of 2016 we repaired the northeast corner of the Mill’s foundation, which had been eroding from the onrushing waters of the Raritan River’s South Branch to the point of imminent collapse. This year we need to turn our attention to the double-arch outlet at the west side, where the water flow returns to the river after having—at one time—turned the turbines. The column between the two arches is succumbing to the endless flow and needs repair. This job requires professional attention, and that requires funding. We are roughly estimating it will cost about \$30,000.

We continue to apply for grants to help meet our financial needs, but we also depend on generous contributions from members and friends of WTLT to sustain the work of our all-volunteer staff in their efforts to maintain lands for public use and to preserve the historic Mill (built c. 1750) at the center of Long Valley for our posterity. Please help with a donation. *Thanks!*

2017 In Review

At our Annual Meeting (held this year in October, 2017), President Jim Fitterer reviewed our achievements of the past year and our goals for 2018. Here's what we did.

- The "Walk and Talk in Mill Pond Park" with Dr. Emile DeVito
- Nancy Gable's certification in land stewardship
- stepped-up maintenance activity on our properties
- the return of former members of WTLT to active membership
- the two recent Open Houses at the Mill
- the establishment of civil relations with our neighbor at 8 Mill Road
- constructive internal dialogue on our By-Laws
- the improvements Dick Kellner has made in managing and reporting on our finances
- the success of our membership and fund-raising drives through local media coverage and our own advertising through signage
- the development of our website and Facebook page
- completion of the update of the preservation plan and construction documents for the Mill
- getting an extension of the preservation plan (new decision on Nov. 15)
- stabilization of the Mill's foundation and the arch (within 30 days of collapse!)
- relocation of four raccoons from the Mill
- 1000+ acres in preservation
- funding from Green Acres and passing their inspection
- representation of WTLT at the Green Festival
- an increase in number of patrons (\$100+ annual donation)
- the return to regular publication of Hedgerows
- the receipt of a \$5,000 grant from the Hyde & Watson Foundation for office equipment
- enhanced PR through articles and notices in The Observer-Tribune, Mill tours, signage, activities

GOALS FOR THE LAND TRUST

- Expand the Board. We especially need an architect, a lawyer, and a CPA.
- WTLT has spent about a million dollars so far in restoring the Mill and land acquisition. We need another million to complete our work!
- Enhance our marketing and fundraising activities.
- Increase our membership base.
- Involve our membership in more active volunteer work.
- Develop a relationship with WT schools, especially with the high school's environmental science program.
- Incorporate Dr. DeVito's suggestions about land management.
- Incorporate video on our website such as Dick Kellner's video of the "Walk and Talk".

President Fitterer concluded his remarks by thanking all in attendance for their support, and thanking in particular: the WTLT Board, for their hard work under reduced circumstances; Dick Kellner, for his professionalization of the Treasurer's position; Eileen Stokes (of the Historical Society) for her ongoing support; and Hoffman's Supply, for their ongoing support.

Washington Township Land Trust Annual Membership

- Individual \$25 Family \$35 Business \$100



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

E-mail (For WTLT use only) _____

Donation (optional)

I wish to donate \$_____ for:

- Land preservation
- Mill restoration work
- Mill Park plantings/maintenance

Make check payable to: WTLT
PO Box 4
Long Valley, NJ 07853

*Volunteers and Professional Services Needed.
Contact any WTLT officer for details.*



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