

**West Pikeland Land Trust
First Quarter 2008 Progress Report
April 21, 2008 Board of Supervisors Meeting**

The Land Trust and its seven subcommittees have had an extremely productive first quarter. The passage of the Open Space Ordinance by our residents last November has produced extraordinary interest and support for our work.

In particular, some of the highlights of our first quarter focus include:

1. Drafting the Open Space Funding Implementation Ordinance which you approved recently. We analyzed WPLT's role as open space advisor and potential conflicts of interest questions were raised and resolved, in concert with the Township solicitor. Second quarter activity will include assistance to the Township, with a professional open space consultant, on mapping and comprehensive plan amendments, ranking criteria, and open space sub-committee appointments to implement open space acquisition/funding process in accordance with draft Ordinance and Act 153.
2. In the communications area, we sent thank you letters to all donors from our December 2007 solicitation in which we raised \$11,500. You have a sample portfolio of the custom design developed for all WPLT communications materials, including a "signature" photograph of Horseshoe Trail. We printed new letterhead, envelopes, business cards and folders for use by board members and for communications initiatives and developed an all-purpose flyer for use as handouts at 2008 events, with overview information about WPLT and membership application. We began developing a stakeholder data base.
3. In the finance area, West Pikeland Land Trust is now registered to apply for Grants from the Pennsylvanian Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) as well as the Chester County Grant program. If any one in the audience has grants experience and would like to work on LT grants, we're looking for volunteers.

Through Senator Dinniman, the LT applied for and received a second \$5,000. Grant from DCNR, bringing the total funding to \$10,000. for building two rustic wooden bridges across two culverts along the Pickering Creek Trail between Clover Mill Road and Pikeland Road. We will present a proposal to township Supervisors later this month requesting their approval of this project, as a DEP permit signed by BOS will be necessary before the bridges will be designed and built.

4. During the first quarter most assessments for conservation possibilities were on hold awaiting the enactment of the open space ordinance. However, one property was assessed in January as a potential parcel for easement, and was determined to not meet the selection criteria. We currently are assessing

approximately 10 additional parcels for conservation possibilities. We also are collecting names of volunteers for 2 resident seats on the Open Space Advisory Committee to join designated representatives from the Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation, Historical Commission and Land Trust board members.

5. We requested an inventory of Township owned Property/Easements for monitoring consideration and worked with a real estate broker on interpretation of a current easement.

6. On Saturday, March 15 the education committee co-sponsored a public workshop with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society here at the township building. Entitled Nature's Bounty: Creating and Enhancing Naturalized Landscapes, the workshop was led by Eva Monheim, certified arborist and instructor at Temple University, Ambler. It focused on the opportunities to use native plants and shrubs as a way to address landscape management issues and enhance wildlife habitats. Over 20 people attended the event, most of whom rated the workshop "the best." Door prize plants were provided by Pickering Valley Feed and Seed. We plan on offering at least one additional education event this year.

7. And finally, we are pleased that an interested resident who began attending our board meetings, Lisa LaCroix has volunteered to head a new Trails Committee, which will report to Parks and Recreation but coordinate with the LT in its activities. Lisa already has a number of volunteers for the committee and has begun work on this all important piece of focus for recreation in the township.