

**West Pikeland Land Trust  
Fourth Quarter, 2008, Report  
To Board of Supervisors**

The Land Trust accomplished many significant tasks during the last quarter of 2008.

In the area of communications, we formally launched our redesigned website via an outbound email to our membership as well as other township email lists. A special section of the website is dedicated to providing residents with up-to-date information on the Chester County Pipeline Projects. This section has received a significant number of hits, and a number of residents have said they use it for their main information source on pipeline developments. We also mailed an annual fundraising appeal letter to all township households which included premiums for higher levels of giving (notepaper with photographs by resident photographer Bill Richmond and framed photographs of Horseshoe Trail).

The Open Space Advisory Committee was extremely busy over the last quarter. It currently is in various states of discussion with 19 landowners about conserving their properties. The committee has 2 landowners on hold, and has declined one property to date.

The Open Space committee members are all very committed to their volunteerism. This is reflective in their participation in all meetings and overall willingness to do any necessary follow up to move our efforts forward. The committee has managed to actively work with 20 or so landowners, while developing policies and procedures for conserving lands within the township, along with creating a packet of basic information on conservation easements for each landowner's initial site visit. All interactions with residents to date have been very well received.

We are looking forward to a very successful 2009 where many acres within the township will be conserved. We also would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for their commitment to this effort and look forward to working with them throughout the next year.

With the assistance of the Chester County Department of Parks and Recreation, the Trails Committee completed a map of Pine Creek Park and made it available on the township website and in the park kiosk. A permit was obtained from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the construction of the two culvert bridges along the Pickering Creek Trail. Funding was secured through two DCNR grants of \$5,000 each which were arranged by the Land Trust. Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2009, with bridge opening celebrations to follow.

In October, the Land Trust hosted a walking tour of the Binky Lee Preserve to introduce township residents to the preserve and the value of land preservation. Educational events are also being planned for 2009, with the first occurring in the spring. Another event is being planned for owners of WPT protected land as well as prospective conservators.

We are maintaining relationships with regional land trusts and have attempted to partner with West Vincent Township on an Open Space project. In addition, we have registered with both Chester County and State DCNR grant programs and identified foundations that might provide the Land Trust with specific project funding.

A number of people are being considered for Board positions to replace members whose terms ended in December and volunteers are being engaged.