

LONDON BRITAIN LAND TRUST
P.O. Box 215, Kemblesville, PA 19347-0215
Telephone: 610-255-0388 ~ Fax: 610-255-3542

LONDON BRITAIN TOWNSHIP LAND TRUST

HISTORY

On 10 August 1998 the Board of Supervisors of London Britain Township adopted and enacted Ordinance # 98-5, supporting the creation and implementation of a land trust in accordance with the Second Class Township Code. The specific purpose of this land trust?;"... to assist and cooperate with the Township in achieving its goals and objectives". Among the "goals and objectives" are the protection of historic sites, environmentally sensitive areas and open space.

The Pennsylvania Legislature in 1981 enacted the Agricultural Areas Security Act (AASA). This Act, among other things, provides for the purchase, by the State and Counties, of development rights of properties within an established agricultural security area. It does not provide for the appropriation of funds for local municipal acquisition of such rights.

Funding for the purchase of open space in Chester County is severely limited. In order to address the open space concerns of Township residents, which were revealed in a Township survey held several years ago, Township Supervisors desired and recommended, enhancement and promotion of the acquisition of open space and/or development rights from landowners.

To reach that objective, three residents volunteered to be founders and initial directors of a nonprofit organization identified as a "Supporting Organization", pursuant to Section 509 (a) sub-Section 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Articles of Incorporation were signed by the Incorporators (the aforementioned "founders") on 29 January 1999 and approved and filed in the Pennsylvania Department of State on 17 May 1999 on which date the London Britain Township Land Trust was incorporated under the Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

MISSION

1. Serve the needs of London Britain Township (LBT) in the preservation, conservation and stewardship of historic sites and open space, including important agriculturally productive lands and natural areas;
2. Assist the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission in decisions regarding open space planning and land acquisition
3. Assist landowners in LBT who wish to pursue conservation objectives in their plans for their properties.
4. Establish an endowment fund to provide operating revenue for acquisition of land and interest in land, and for stewardship and planning activities;
5. Provide liaison with environmental, agricultural, conservation and historic preservation organizations and promote the services each organization offers;
6. Acquire land in fee, purchase development rights and accept lands and conservation easements from donors, including developers that are required to set aside lands by subdivision or land development regulations;
7. Establish management procedures with homeowners associations;
8. Work with LBT staff in efforts to better manage and improve existing open space areas and greenways.

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NONPROFIT STATUS

- 1 July 1999 Employer Identification Number (EIN) obtained 25-6646514
- 4 August 1999 Application for Recognition of Exemption Filed with IRS.
- 4 February 2000 Notified of exemption from federal income tax, having qualified under
IRCode Section 501(a) sub-Section 501 (c) (3); also
- Notified of the "Supporting Organization" status, having qualified under
IRCode Section 509 (a) (3)

FUNDING

London Britain Township provides a minimum of one-third of the expenses of the LB LT; the remaining two-thirds must be acquired by gifts, donations, bequests, promotions and/or grant applications.

MISCELLANEOUS PARTICULARS

The Incorporators (founders) were three in number; Aileen Parrish, Township Supervisor, Joseph McNelis, Chairman of the LBT Planning Commission, and Warren Davies, at-large.

The London Britain Land Trust (LBLT) Board of Trustees can vary in number from three to a maximum of twelve. At the present time there are six trustees:

Warren Davies, President
Howard Mannheim, vice-President
Joseph McNelis, Treasurer
Aileen Parrish, * Secretary
Thomas Fieldman, Chairman, Funding
Robert Cheyne, Board of Supervisors Appointee

Officers and trustees are not compensated for their services and there is no paid staff.

The LBLT address, telephone and fax numbers are those of the Township.

Filing space and the use of office machinery is another courtesy of LBT welcomed with appreciation by LBLT.

* Term as Supervisor has expired; currently represents LBT Historical Commission