

GMLC's Board Serves to Protect and Preserve

The Gates Mills Land Conservancy is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt membership organization whose mission is to permanently preserve and steward the woodlands, fields, wetlands, and freshwater streams that make Gates Mills a beautiful place to live for us and for the abundant birds and wildlife that also call the Village home. We operate as an effective and vibrant all-volunteer organization dedicated to preserving natural habitats through the purchase of land or through conservation easements.

The Articles of Incorporation (September 1988) and the Code of Regulations (as amended September 16, 2009) established the overall organization and operating philosophy of Gates Mills Land Conservancy.

The Board of Directors of the Gates Mills Land Conservancy consists of 15 dedicated Village citizens, ten of whom are elected by the Conservancy membership and five appointed by the mayor. We are fortunate to have a very diverse and talented group of individuals with a cross section of skills. Term limits govern the length of service. Directors are elected for four-year terms and, if willing, can be elected by the membership for an additional four-year term. Officers of the Gates Mills Land Conservancy are elected annually by the full Board of Directors, for one-year terms. The Officers include President, one or more Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board meets monthly.

The Directors are charged with the stewardship of the "protected land" and to execute the plans for acquiring and protecting additional parcels of land for preservation throughout the Village of Gates Mills. The Board of Directors and Members of the Land Conservancy abide by the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Standards and Practices. The Conservancy was accredited by LTA in 2013 and was audited and re-certified in 2018.

The Board of Directors has the legal, fiduciary and ethical responsibility to ensure that the organization meets all statutory legal requirements and operates in accordance with its mission, Articles of Incorporation, and Code of Regulations. As safeguards of public trust, the board members are responsible for protecting the organization's assets and must ensure that the organization is well run. The overall goals and specific objectives are outlined in a documented Strategic Plan that is reviewed and update roughly every five years.