

A Statement of Purpose

The beginning of The Gates Mills Land Conservancy is first credited to Councilman *Rick Bole*, who in August of 1988 identified his concept for an “Environmental Committee” in the Village of Gates Mills. Rick’s concept came from a growing concern in the Village about our diminishing natural resources and a desire to preserve the rural character of our village.

This concept evolved into the formation of the “Organizing Committee to Form a Gates Mills Land Trust”. *Mayor Dan Collister* believed that “This new committee should be independent of the Gates Mills Council and the administration.” And he appointed *Dr. Fred Suppes* as Temporary Chairman.

Dr. Suppes suggested that they would need to set forth by-laws, establish a tax-free status, initiate an enrollment campaign, and stressed that “anyone in the community would be encouraged to become a member.” *Tom Quintrell* said, “In many instances one would not have to buy land. Scenic easements might suffice”, and suggested that, “a Land Trust could indeed help the Village.” *Sterling Newell* suggested consulting with the “Trust for Public Lands” who were a knowledgeable resource.

From these early discussions the Organizing Committee, developed a ***Statement of Purpose*** which begins as follows...

“Open land is a diminishing resource – and once land is developed it is changed forever. The purpose of the Gates Mills Land Trust is to create a vehicle by which concerned private citizens can preserve the traditional rural aspects of our village using different techniques the trust will try to control housing development, so that some land and some woods will remain to preserve animal habitats, watersheds and scenic open spaces.

As a local organization with local membership, it is hoped that the trust will be able to elicit the cooperation of landowners and appeal to their philanthropic sides better than local government or national non-profit organizations. Using a flexible array of actions, the land trust will be able to address the specific needs of private landowners and thus will have the chance to protect the most land.”

The first “Trustees” of **The Gates Mills Land Conservancy** were:

Dr. Fred T. Suppes (President)
Raymond C. Burke (Vice President)
Mrs. Lorinda N. Collister (Secretary)
Robert S. Reitman (Treasurer)
Thomas A. Quintrell
Peter S. Hellman
Lawrence A Salibra
Richard H. Bole
Donald L. Perris