



MOUNT BEACON
INCLINE RAILWAY
SINCE 1902

For Immediate Release

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Town of Fishkill Supervisor Joins Incline Society's Board of Trustees

(Beacon, NY) – Today the Mount Beacon Incline Railway Restoration Society announced the addition of **Joan A. Pagones** to its Board of Trustees.



Pagones is the first woman elected to serve as Fishkill Town Supervisor, a position she has held since 1991. Her civic and volunteer positions have included chairing the Dutchess Community College Board of Trustees, as well as past board member, past president, current member, and Paul Harris fellow of the Rotary Club of Fishkill. In addition, Pagones was past president, and is now current advisory board member, to the Dutchess County Unit of the American Cancer Society, member of the Vassar Brothers Hospital Board of Trustees, trustee of the Locust Grove Board of Trustees (Samuel FB Morse Historic site), and the immediate past President of the Dutchess County Supervisors and Mayors Association.

A graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes High School and honors graduate of Dutchess Community College with an A.A. Degree in Liberal Arts and the Humanities, Pagones is a Phi Theta Kappa member. She is also a graduate of the Pace University Leadership Alliance Program and has attended Empire State College. Pagones and her husband James reside in the Lomala section of Fishkill.

“Joan brings incredible leadership, drive and integrity to our Board,” said Incline Society President and CEO Anne Lynch. “In particular, she’ll help us to generate support for this project in the Town of Fishkill and beyond. In addition to her years of government service, Joan has tremendous experience in leading historical, philanthropic and not-for-profit organizations. It makes her a perfect fit for our team and I’m really excited about the contributions she’ll make to our success.”

Pagones believes the Incline Railway restoration, with a completion target date of July 4, 2013, will bring tremendous economic and quality of life enhancements to the entire region. “The railway is an amazing cultural and recreational resource,” she said. “More than just a wonderful part of our heritage, it will give thousands of people access to Mount Beacon and the Fishkill Ridge series of trails. The Society’s restoration will be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and will also reflect the very best practices in historic preservation and sustainable, eco-friendly design. An economic impact analysis is already underway, and we’re confident that

it will highlight significant job creation, increased tax revenues, and dramatically increased tourism in Dutchess County and beyond.”

Steve Gold, Mayor of Beacon, co-founder of the Incline Society and a trustee on its board, echoed Pagonos. “The railway’s restoration will place it alongside other attractions such as Dia Beacon and Walkway Over the Hudson. In its heyday the incline drew 110,000 visitors annually, and that was while operating from May to October only. Our business plan calls for an all weather capability that will allow visitors to take in the beauty of the Hudson Valley year round. The railway was once the area’s number one tourist destination and we’re confident that it will be again.”

Regarding the addition of Supervisor Pagonos to the Society’s board, the Mayor was equally positive. “Joan and I have known one another for years. She’s a great leader, a wonderful neighbor, and a friend to our community. Beacon and the Town of Fishkill share so many interests that we’ve developed a terrific working relationship. I know that will only deepen as we work together to restore the railway for the benefit of our citizens.”

About The Incline Society: The Mount Beacon Incline Railway Restoration Society, headquartered in the City of Beacon in Dutchess County, New York, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Historical Society registered with the New York State Education Department. It also holds a Provisional Charter issued by the New York State Board of Regents.

The Society's mission is to restore, operate and maintain the Incline Railway on North Beacon Mountain, in the City of Beacon, New York and the Town of Fishkill, New York. The Railway is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is an important part of American industrial, engineering, transportation and leisure history. It will serve as a living museum and centerpiece asset in the restoration of the Mount Beacon summit as a scenic, historic and recreational resource. Press kits are available at: www.inclinerailway.org/news_press_kit.htm