



MOUNT BEACON
INCLINE RAILWAY
SINCE 1902

For Immediate Release

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Former Beacon Mayor Joins Incline Society Board of Trustees

(Beacon, NY) – The Mount Beacon Incline Restoration Society has rapidly grown in capability and professionalism over the last year. Now former Beacon Mayor **Clara Lou Gould** has joined the Society’s Board of Trustees. She takes her place alongside several other prominent figures, to include Beacon Mayor Steve Gold, Town of Fishkill Supervisor Joan Pagonos, and Walkway Chairman Fred Schaeffer.



When asked why she accepted the board’s membership invitation, Gould responded that “Beacon is in such a beautiful area that one of my hardest decisions is which is more beautiful - to be up on the mountain looking down at the river or out on the river looking up at the mountain. The return of the Mount Beacon Incline Railway will make it possible for many more people to puzzle over that -- while enjoying the spectacular views.”

A native of the Hudson Valley, Gould was born in Cold Spring, New York. She later moved to Beacon and was sworn in as the city’s first woman mayor in 1990. During her 18 years in office, she worked to have Beacon designated one of the initial model communities of the Hudson River Valley Greenway. Under her leadership, the city was also winner of the inaugural Hudson Valley Quality Community Award and was designated a Preserve America Community. She saved from development a 100-plus acre property at the base of Fishkill Ridge and collaborated with Scenic Hudson to create a park at the 80-acre former University Settlement Camp. As mayor, Gould also championed Main Street's renewal and economic revival along Beacon's shoreline.

Gould has been the recipient of numerous awards, to include: the Dutchess County Arts Council Award; the Southern Dutchess Exchange Club Commitment to Community; the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce Award for Community Service; the Ursula Laurus Citation from College of New Rochelle; the Girl Scout Community Service Award; the NAACP award for community contributions; the Rotary Club Award for Service Above Self, the DAR Community Service Award; Wal Mart’s Award for Hometown Leadership; the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Award; and the Community Foundation of Dutchess County Award for Community Service.

Gould’s current memberships include the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council, the National Heritage Area Management Council, the Boscobel Board of Directors, the Greater Southern Dutchess Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club of Beacon-Fishkill, the Southern Dutchess NAACP, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill Board, the Dutchess County

Community Development Advisory Board, the Howland Cultural Center, the Stony Kill Foundation, the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie Board Associate Member, the Pattern for Progress, the Tioronda Garden Club, and the St. Francis Hospital Beacon Auxiliary.

Past memberships include the Hudson Fulton Champlain Commission (Chair), the Dutchess County Arts Council, the St. Francis Hospital Foundation, the Board of Directors - Fishkill National Bank, the Dutchess County Economic Development Committee, and the Dutchess County Board of Health.

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 located in Mt. Beacon Park, created on 234 acres of land preserved by [Scenic Hudson](#). Scenic Hudson purchased the park's land parcels in 1995 and 1998, respectively. The latter parcel, proposed for a residential subdivision before its acquisition, contains the remnants of the lower portion of the Railway. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Incline Railway 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