



MOUNT BEACON
INCLINE RAILWAY
SINCE 1902

For Immediate Release

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Incline Society Joins State and National Museum Associations

(Beacon, NY) – Today the Mount Beacon Incline Railway Restoration Society announced its membership in two leading museum organizations, the [Museum Association of New York](#) (MANY) and the [American Association of Museums](#) (AAM). The Society is also a member of the [Association of Railway Museums](#) (ARM).

“Membership in these organizations places us within a very vibrant community of practice,” said Incline Society President and CEO Anne Lynch. “It gives us access to standards and best practices as we plan for the eventual opening of our own museum. It also partners us with fellow members, spreads awareness of our organization, and helps us to identify and compete for museum grants.”

According to Mike Colarusso, the Society’s Chief Operating Officer, plans call for the opening of a fully accredited heritage railway museum in the City of Beacon as part of the railway restoration effort. “First and foremost, our Society is a state-registered historical society, and the establishment of a museum has always been one of our goals. The museum and its professional staff will operate and maintain the railway for the public’s benefit.”

While the final location is yet to be determined, the Society plans to open the Mount Beacon Incline Railway Museum on Beacon’s Main Street, drawing the bulk of a projected 415,000 annual visitors into Beacon’s primary business zone. Environmentally friendly hybrid electric buses would then transport visitors on a pleasant 4-minute ride to the railway’s lower station. “This will be of tremendous economic benefit to the City of Beacon, the Town of Fishkill and beyond,” said Beacon Mayor Steve Gold, co-founder and current vice-president of the Society. “It means that visitors to the incline will discover all that our communities have to offer. They’ll share that positive experience with others, bringing additional tourism dollars into our region.”

An opening date for the museum has not yet been set, but according to Lynch, the museum must open its doors prior to the railway. “We can’t operate one without the other,” she said, “but if all goes to plan, both the railway and museum could be open by the summer of 2013, Beacon’s centennial year.”

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