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# RONDOUT VALLEY LAND CONSERVANCY



## NEWS

Spring 1989

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In September, 1987 the Rondout Valley Land Conservancy (RVLC) opened an office on Main Street in Accord. We greatly appreciate the generous donation of temporary office space made by the Anderson family (Verna, Charles, Sonya) in the stucco house next to the feed mills and across from the Accord train station (626-4849).

RVLC was incorporated as a New York non-profit corporation on August 11, 1987 and received its tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service on April 4, 1988. Our activities are being directed by Ira Stern, a professional planner educated at Pratt Institute.

The Board of Directors of the Conservancy presently include:

John L. Schoonmaker, Jr., President  
Eric Hertz, Vice President  
Paul Downs, Secretary  
Harry Hansen, Treasurer  
Ira Stern, Executive Director  
Nancy Copley  
Philip Davis  
John Novi  
Whitley Strieber  
Seward Weber

### What Is a Land Trust?

A land conservancy, or land trust, is a local (or regional) non-profit corporation dedicated to the permanent preservation of open space land. Open space lands include agricultural, forest, watershed, and other natural and scenic land. The 700 or so land trusts in the United States share a common commitment to using voluntary initiatives in the protection of open lands. Land trusts work directly with private landowners offering such tools as conservation easements and limited development.

### Why a Land Trust in the Rondout Valley?

The natural attributes and rural character which make the Rondout Valley a desirable place to live are being challenged. The Conservancy supports development at a scale which maintains the rural character of the area. We can provide private landowners ways of permanently protecting those natural and scenic parts of their property which contribute to our area's beauty and vitality. The Conservancy is dedicated to economically practical land preservation methods and can combine development with preservation in cases where income must be generated. Private land preservation may help landowners with some of the problems they face in continuing to enjoy their open land.



