



Longfellow's Wayside Inn
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PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release

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Longfellow's Wayside Inn Establishes New Fund to Mark 300th Anniversary

May 14, 2015 -- Sudbury, MA -- In anticipation of its 300th anniversary next year, the Board of Trustees of Longfellow's Wayside Inn, the oldest continually operating inn in the United States, recently voted to establish a new Historic Site Preservation Fund to meet the current and future preservation needs of the Inn. This fund will support the preservation, maintenance, improvements and upgrades to the Inn, other buildings on the Inn's grounds, the 125 acre property itself, and other projects with the approval of the Board of Trustees such as the protection, collection, and display of archival material, special events or programs consistent with the Inn's mission and more.

Since its establishment as a not-for-profit corporation in 1944, Longfellow's Wayside Inn, based in Sudbury, Massachusetts, has sustained itself principally through revenue generated by restaurant, event and lodging operations, with occasional charitable donations and grants. "Contrary to popular opinion, The Wayside Inn receives no state or town funding and has no major endowment or other significant fund," explained Steve Pickford, the Inn's innkeeper (only the 11th innkeeper in the Inn's 300 years). "It is difficult for us to support the preservation, maintenance and improvements to the 9 buildings and land preservation of the 125 acres solely from the Inn's business revenues. Many people don't realize that despite operating a full service restaurant, the Inn is a not-for-profit corporation with an enormous and old infrastructure to support," Pickford added.

"We hope the families that enjoy picnics on the banks of Hop Brook as it winds around the Grist Mill, dinners in the Old Kitchen of the Inn, a wedding at the Martha Mary Chapel, watching the faces of a child visiting the Little Red Schoolhouse for the first time, or fireside cocktails in the Old Bar, can appreciate how special this place is and the precious memories made here -- and how important it is to preserve this place for future generations," added Pickford. "We

are planning a whole series of events next year to mark the Inn's 300th birthday, and launching this fund is the first of many exciting things we have planned," he added.

Last summer, through the generosity of local friends and foundations, the Inn embarked on repairs and painting to the main building and barn. Much more remains to be done. Upgrades to the heating and air-conditioning system, sprinkler system, and interior painting and major repairs to ancillary buildings are next on the list.

"Our Board -- which is an entirely volunteer board -- felt the upcoming 300th anniversary would be a fantastic occasion to embark on a significant fundraising campaign", noted Lily Gordon, Board president. "Creation of this special Historic Site Preservation Fund allows us to better tell our story, and to focus our fundraising efforts," she added. "We are committed to engaging more with the local community and friends of the Inn, near and far -- and now, contributors to this fund will be assured their donations will be used principally for protection and preservation efforts," she said. Contributions to the fund will be kept separate from the Inn's restaurant and lodging operational budget. "As we kick into gear, we plan on a lot of celebratory activities and fundraising events, including an anniversary gala next year," Gordon said.

As a Massachusetts 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, all contributions to The Wayside Inn are tax deductible. The Inn, a nationally significant Massachusetts Historic Landmark, is the oldest inn still operating in the United States and has been serving travelers along the old Boston Post Road in Sudbury, Massachusetts since 1716.

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