



Laurel Hill Association of Stockbridge

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Stockbridge's Iconic Cat and Dog Fountain to be Restored

Stockbridge, MA, June 8, 2016 – The sculpture and basin of the historic Cat and Dog Fountain in the center of Stockbridge are about to undergo restoration. They are in desperate need of repair. A piece of the cat's nose has broken off, and the sculpture has many small cracks that threaten to become serious. In addition, the basin is cracked, and leaks.

The fountain was installed in 1862. It is a 2-foot-tall sculpture of a cat and dog, sitting on a 5-foot-tall carved base. The cat and dog face each other, and the cat sprays water into the dog's face. A cast sandstone replica was created in the 1970s, but it proved less durable than the original, which was subsequently returned to its original place.

Although the Town of Stockbridge owns the fountain, Laurel Hill Association maintains it. "The first step of the restoration project," said Association Board member GeGe Kingston, "will be to turn the water off, have professional restorers examine the sculpture, and have masons examine the basin. Once we've chosen contractors, restoration will begin."

The Association hopes to complete restoration work during the summer. By the fall, Laurel Hill Association will also construct a new weather-proof protective cover for the off-season months.

Laurel Hill Association will launch a fundraising campaign for the project once a budget has been established. Information about the project will be available on the Association's website and Facebook page. Donations may be made on the website.

Laurel Hill Association of Stockbridge, Massachusetts, founded in 1853, is the oldest existing village improvement society in the United States. The organization's purpose is to do "such things as shall serve to improve the quality of life and of the environment in the town of Stockbridge." Activities include maintaining Association properties, planting trees and flowers, and cooperating with town authorities and other organizations for community welfare. For more information, go to laurelhillassociation.org.