

For Immediate Release

Planning in the works to reunite Sandwich boardwalk planks with donors

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Contact:

Heather B. Harper

Assistant Town Manager

508-888-5144

Sandwich Massachusetts - Town officials and local volunteers are collaborating on a plan to reunite Boardwalk planks with those who donated to the engraving programs of 1992 and 2001-07.

About 400 planks were displaced from the Boardwalk during a fierce Nor'easter in January. Town residents Brian and Katie Stanton found the boards a short distance away in the salt marsh and town employees retrieved them for storage.

The reunion plan is still being developed. Those on the informal working group, including members of the Friends of the Sandwich Boardwalk, are working to ensure that each plank is photographed, tagged and logged on a spreadsheet before it is separated from the wooden support beams and securely stored.

"It is most important that the work is documented to create a chain of custody to assure the public that every effort will be made to reunite the plank with its original donor," said Selectman Charles Holden, a member of the committee.

About 350 people have contacted town hall staff to inquire about their planks. Their names and emails and engraving details have been placed on the spreadsheet that will be matched against the tagged planks. A blueprint noting the location of Boardwalk planks will assist volunteers in identifying weather-worn boards that are hard to read.

Officials ask that people wait to be contacted about retrieving planks rather than calling Town Hall for information. A special email has been dedicated to this project and should be used for inquiries: boardwalk@sandwichmass.org. It will be frequently checked. Additional news releases will be issued to mark progress.

The work crew will make every effort to save each plank, a task made more difficult by the condition of some of them. In places, the wood is damaged, warped or rotten and screws are rusted in place.

But this project is a labor of love for town staff and volunteers, some of whom were plank donors or were involved in the construction of the 1992 structure, an iconic symbol of Sandwich.

If this pilot project is a success, it is possible the town will use it again, when the rest of the Boardwalk is dismantled to make way for the accessible and climate-resilient Boardwalk approved by town meeting voters.

We appreciate everyone's interest and ask you for your patience. Please follow the Town of Sandwich, MA Facebook page and website <https://www.sandwichmass.org/1531/Boardwalk-Project> for updates. All communication will be through the boardwalk@sandwichmass.org email. We are excited about this project and hope you are too!