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Longtime Sandwich Historical Commission Volunteer Announces Departure

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Longtime Sandwich Historical Commission member and history lover William Daley announced his plans to step down last week after volunteering in town over the last 18 years.

After retiring from the financial services business in 2001, Mr. Daley, who majored in history and never lost his passion for it, chose to move to Sandwich after taking a walk through the village and learning snippets of its history, falling in love with the town and the area immediately.

Throughout his time volunteering in town, he led walking tours through the Sandwich Glass Museum and the historic district—telling tales of the Irish immigrants who industrialized the small town—and researched historic homes where these immigrants and their families lived, helping to mark and preserve them.

“I have mixed emotions because I have been involved for so long but everything has its season and I thought, ‘Well, my season has been a long one and it’s time to step away,’” Mr. Daley said.



William Daley

His announcement to retire was met with sadness from other members of the historical commission and praise for the incredible work and research he has done.

While volunteering as a commissioner, Mr. Daley helped create the Jarvesville and Spring Hill historic districts, researched the history of the glass district homes, helped identify original owners of old homes in town for the historic marker program and worked to preserve portions of the former Henry T. Wing School, the Sand Hill Community Center and the Deacon Eldred House, which recently went up for sale.

“My favorite part was researching the markers and doing the walking tours,” Mr. Daley said. “You meet some interesting people and hear some interesting stories.”

With his new free time, Mr. Daley hopes to be playing golf and poker more regularly, spending time with his friends and family and meeting with his old Boston buddies, he said. At the age of 77, he still feels good and is excited to enjoy the downtime.

But he will not give up on his love of history just yet and offered to help with walking tours and research as needed.

“I want to work with the archives people and still have my fingers in something historic as well,” he said.