

# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

*Tribunus*



*Plebis*

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November 2021

Dear Friends, Readers, Subscribers,

As the days shorten and the crisp scents of another New England fall make way for the crisper chill of the approaching winter, so we here in Sandisfield are starting to feel something that has been in all-too-short supply these many recent months: a gathering sense of optimism and promise.

We can see it on all sides: Our roads are smoother, our utility poles are strung with new magic cables, fresh paint is everywhere, new arrivals, mostly younger folk, are looking around, unpacking their cars and pledging to stay in their newfound corner of paradise.

And the evidence is more than purely physical: The town government is swiftly changing gear too – a team of new and highly-capable elected officials is in place, a fresh corps of professionals backing them up, a growing mood of cooperation and coming-together.

I'd like to think our small and feisty newspaper has played a role in helping create this altered mood.

Think of it: had we not been here these last twelve months to provide news and commentary and offer space for debate and argument, Sandisfield might well now have an enormous and highly polluting agricultural factory in our pristine northern woods; we might have in place an administration quite careless of how it collects and harbors and spends our tax monies; we might find our children facing the prospect of years of less-than-ideal education.

But in all of these areas – just as we pledged back in 2010 when, with your welcome support, we launched this newspaper, promising to take a firm stand in favor of good government, clean air and water, and a bright future for our young – so in 2021 we have manifestly stood our ground. Some few have complained: But most of the community have welcomed our reporting, our persistence, our writing – the fundamentals, after all, of good journalism.

And with your continued support – for running a regular newspaper is not an inexpensive venture, even though all of our editors, writers, and internet gurus still volunteer our time – this is what we plan to continue to do in 2022 and the years beyond.

We have survived a profoundly challenging year, just as has the community which we love and of which we are so proud. And so, as we approach another holiday season, I hope you will find it in your hearts to reach for your checkbooks or your electronic ways of paying and send us something to help us to keep to our mission, to help our newly optimistic Sandisfield become an ever more delightful place to live and work, to preserve and enjoy.

A very happy holiday to you all, and from the entire team at The Sandisfield Times the very best wishes for the year ahead.

Simon Winchester  
Founding Editor

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