

New Boston Village  
Sandisfield, Massachusetts  
April 10, 2026

Sandisfield Board of Selectmen  
66 Sandisfield Road  
Sandisfield, MA 01255

To the Members of the Select Board:

We, the homeowners and taxpayers of the New Boston Village would like to bring to the attention of the Town of Sandisfield the conditions that are currently affecting all of the homeowners and taxpayers in the area. For quite a long time, several homes along Route 8 in the area of the Historic District have fallen into a state of severe deterioration and neglect. Upon information and belief several of those homes are currently without running water and at least one of them has an uninspected wood burning stove used for heating. This should not be what visitors first see of Sandisfield when traveling north along Route 8, especially after the hard work of the Historic Commission to preserve some of the history of our town.

One property in particular has now become a junk yard. The person or persons dwelling in that run down house have been actively soliciting house clean outs where they will take your junk and dispose of it. It seems that they have been disposing of it and several broken-down vehicles on the side and rear of the home which is obvious from the road. The junk, including discarded tires seem to be encroaching on the wetlands at the back of the property and the river which flows into the West Branch of the Farmington. **Per the zoning by-laws of Sandisfield, Section 3 – Use Regulations c) Prohibited uses, the following uses are expressly prohibited: 1. Junk Yard.** It is believed that by-law was written in the 1960s when the property currently owned by the Beardsley's was turned into a junk yard. Additionally, **the general by-laws of Sandisfield, Chapter VIII Miscellaneous Provisions, Section 5: No person or corporation within the Town shall be a collector of ..... junk, old metals or second-hand articles unless licensed.....** And **Section 11: "Upon a complaint the owner of any open area upon which dilapidated motor vehicles and/or parts thereof has been allowed to stand thereon shall remove said dilapidated motor vehicles and/or parts within four weeks of being informed of said complaint.....property shall be considered an "open area" for the purposes of this bylaw if the vehicles and/or parts are plainly visible to abutters or from a public or private way.** Not only are the abandoned vehicles at more than one of the properties, they are clearly visible from Route 8, Tolland Road, and Carpenter Lane. **Consider this a complaint,**

Without this issue being addressed, we the undersigned will be prepared to file for tax abatements for our properties. According to the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, "homeowners can apply for a tax abatement if surrounding environmental facts (e.g. proximity to blight or hazardous conditions) negatively impact their property's fair market value. MGL Ch. 121B, Sec 1 defines blighted areas as those that are detrimental to safety, health or welfare due to deteriorating

