

John Kieley, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment
Temple Town Offices
Temple, NH 03084
RE: Stepping Stone Farm and Event Center
Sent via email to: boardassistant@templenh.org

May 18, 2021

Dear John,

I write this letter of support for the next generation use of Isabella (Boo) Martin's family farm for several reasons. And I appreciate the guidance the Temple ZBA has given this project and encourage you to take the final step to approve this request for a zoning special exception.

As a close neighbor, over the town border in Wilton, on Tighe Farm Road, it means when I take my walk along Burton Hwy, I will now see along that route, a beautifully maintained property that is restored in a way that can allow the community to celebrate this historic asset.

As a commissioner on the Wilton Conservation Commission, and a board member of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions, we work to preserve open spaces and wild places and our precious farmlands. Small rural towns in NH are under siege by uncreative developers and the acceleration of population spawl fueled by the pandemic. The fact that this property is being protected and put to a most appropriate use, is applauded by those of us trying to keep our rural environments, as we also recognize the need for thoughtful and balanced development.

As the Chair of Wilton's Economic Development Team, we're excited to see a new business venture so close to Wilton's center. This farm and event center is right in line with the types of anchor attractions we want to promote, support and expand. It integrates characteristics of history, light agriculture, animals, and tradition – all in the name of celebrating the events that make people healthier, happier and connected. Temple is fortunate to have a long time community resident willing to invest in what strong town philosophy calls "placemaking".

On a more personal note, I've known Boo through various non-profit ventures and know how she has respected the process of transforming this property into something we can all value for a very long time. I've reviewed her business, financials, maintenance and staffing plans as well as her most appropriate use of current assets. The result is an economic driver and cultural icon, Temple can hold up as an example of what a rural community can create when everyone works together.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer S. Beck
Chair, Wilton Economic Development Team
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