

Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA)  
Temple, NH

Dear Members of the Temple ZBA,

We are submitting the following information regarding Sound and Traffic pertaining to the Application for a Special Exception by Isabella Martin on behalf of the Stepping Stones Farm and Event Center, LLC. According to Article IV, Section 13A(3) of the Temple Zoning Ordinance, the burden is on the Applicant to prove that its proposal will not limit the use of adjacent property by causing problems such as "excessive...noise...(or) traffic..." associated with the intended use but not typical of permitted uses in the area."

#### SOUND

The Wedding and Event Center activities that the Applicant is seeking approval for are incompatible with the neighborhood where these activities are to be located. The Temple Sound Ordinance, by its terms, describes in quantified terms, the "quiet background noise levels" the Temple Master Plan describes in its vision statement. (Temple Master Plan, Vision Statement, Page 1, Paragraph 6, attached) Weddings and similar events where music is an integral component, and where large groups gather to celebrate, are loud affairs. To put an event center in a quiet, rural neighborhood, puts the Event Center in an area of Town where such a late evening use is not typical of permitted uses in the area, putting the Event Center at odds with the abutting neighbors because of this fundamental tension.

The event participants seek a louder experience than the Event Center can offer. The Temple Sound Ordinance limits sound on neighboring properties to 35 dBA (10-M in L10) from 7 PM to 7 AM, and to 45 dBA (10-M in L10) from 7 AM to 7 PM. What this means is that 90% of the sound over a given period of time (here, 10 minutes) must be below the set threshold, i.e. 35 dBA or 45 dBA, as set in the ordinance. For example, a short duration noise, such as a shotgun blast, would exceed the noise level, but 90% of the 10 minute time period would be within the noise level.

The Temple Sound Ordinance also provides for a reduction of 5 dBA in each limit where a low frequency component exists in the sound being measured. Therefore, where a music event in the Barn has music with a low frequency component, the 35 dBA 7 PM to 7 AM threshold, is lowered to 30 dBA to compensate for the low frequency noise. (See Herbert Singleton, Jr., Sound Engineer, dated 8/31/21)

Attached is a print out from a company that supplies wedding bands for events in the UK, a Wedding Venues chart. As you can see, 70 dBA, which is the maximum sound allowed in the Applicant's Barn in order to meet the evening sound level of 30 dBA, as lowered for the prevalent low frequency component in music, WILL NOT WORK. According to the Wedding Venues chart, 95 Decibels is "the minimum live entertainers need to perform well", but 120 Decibels is "highly recommended."

Stated another way, from an Event participant's perspective, louder is better. We've all had the experience of not being able to carry on a conversation on the dance floor, or at a table, during a wedding or other event when a band or DJ is playing. If the music is at a level where the participants want it, the sound could not meet the Temple Sound Ordinance.



## TRAFFIC

The Traffic data from the Traffic Counter West of the intersection of Burton Highway and Davisville Road in Wilton, NH (at Frye's Mill and attached), when coupled with the Webster Highway/Putnam Road Traffic Data from the Temple Master Plan (attached) , demonstrates that this area, up to now, has had very little traffic at night. This change in proposed Event Center will drastically change the evening rural character of the neighborhood. As stated in the SouthWest Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) Study, SWRPC projects that the proposed Event Center will double the traffic to the area, by adding 271 to 299 additional vehicles per day to the existing approximately 280 vehicles per day. Approximately 1/2 of this increase (135/150 vehicles) will occur in the evening hours. This increase is almost a tenfold increase over the existing Traffic distribution from 9pm to 5am which is currently approximately 10 to 20 vehicles per day. (See attached Traffic data sheets for 2016 (Temple) and 2019 (Wilton).) This change in evening Traffic generated by the proposed Event Center will drastically change the evening rural character of the neighborhood, and is not typical of the Traffic generated by the permitted uses in the area.

For these reasons the Application should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alec MacMartin  
Arlene Laurenitis



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# VISION STATEMENT

(2018)

## VISION:

- Temple should remain a rural town with a mix of forests, streams, wetlands, open space and farmland. Agriculture, forestry, trails and outdoor recreation should be encouraged to maintain Temple's rural character.
- Temple should have a sense of community that is the core of its rural character. The village should be retained as the center of the town's social, political, and cultural life. The town common, historic buildings, monuments, and cemeteries should be preserved for future generations. The town's public elementary school should be retained as an integral part of the community.
- Temple's residents should have a diversity of socio-economic backgrounds and ages. Housing stock should be primarily owner-occupied. Housing types and costs should vary. Temple should provide reasonable housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents.
- Home businesses should be allowed and encouraged. Other businesses which have a scale and impact compatible with the town's rural character should be allowed when authorized by special exception. All business, housing and other structures should be developed and integrated into the town's working landscape, be environmentally suitable, and be acceptable to neighboring residents. Sustainable practices, including renewable energy, should be encouraged.
- Temple should provide for fire, police, and emergency response support for its residents and businesses. Temple should provide a sound infrastructure of roads, bridges, and public buildings. Temple should coordinate with electrical and communications utilities to facilitate meeting the needs of its residents and businesses.
- Temple should provide protections for its natural environment including surface waters, aquifers, mountain ridges, view sheds, dark skies, and quiet background noise levels. Permanent preservation of undeveloped or sensitive land or water areas should be encouraged through conservation easements and purchases by private and public entities. Creative land development processes requiring permanent open space and agricultural uses should be encouraged to support the town's desire to retain open space.



# WEDDING VENUES

60 DECIBELS

A normal conversation



70 DECIBELS

A busy restaurant

80 DECIBELS

An alarm clock or dishwasher



Live entertainers can rarely perform at this level and sound limiters set at this level should be avoided



90 DECIBELS

A tractor or chainsaw

Live entertainers will struggle to perform at this level too and sound limiters set at this level should also be avoided

100 DECIBELS

A motorcycle or blender



This is a decent level for live entertainers to perform at

110 DECIBELS

A baby crying or headphones



Another good level for live entertainers and you will experience a good live performance

130 DECIBELS

A power drill



65 DECIBELS

A business office or electric shaver



75 DECIBELS

A barking dog or vacuum cleaner



85 DECIBELS

A noisy restaurant or crowd applause

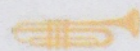
Live entertainers really can't perform at this level either and sound limiters set at this level should be avoided



95 DECIBELS

A brass instrument or lawnmower

This is the standard limit on most sound limiters and is the minimum live entertainers need to perform well



105 DECIBELS

A truck or large vehicle

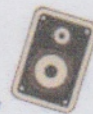
This is a good level for live entertainers to perform within



120 DECIBELS

A rock concert or gun

This is a great level for any live entertainment and is highly recommended. Anything higher than this is a bonus!



140 DECIBELS

Low flying aircraft





# Nashua Regional Planning Commission

30 Temple St, Suite 310  
Nashua, NH 03060

BURTON HWY WEST OF DAVISVILLE RD  
Town: Wilton  
HPMS - 2019  
August, 2019

Site Code: 824850590000  
Station ID:

Latitude: 0' 0.0000 Undefined

Start Time	Mon 19-Aug-19	Tue 20-Aug-19	Wed 21-Aug-19	Thu 22-Aug-19	Fri 23-Aug-19	Average Day	Sat 24-Aug-19	Sun 25-Aug-19	Week Average
12:00 AM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01:00	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
02:00	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
03:00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
04:00	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	0	1
05:00	0	4	4	2	4	4	3	1	3
06:00	0	9	15	16	11	13	6	7	11
07:00	0	12	17	16	15	13	15	2	12
08:00	0	16	16	14	18	16	15	18	16
09:00	0	19	14	8	17	14	13	20	15
10:00	0	11	16	19	27	18	20	13	18
11:00	0	19	15	24	15	27	33	19	21
12:00 PM	0	19	29	32	27	24	29	26	27
01:00	0	22	29	18	25	24	49	19	27
02:00	0	29	20	26	25	25	29	27	27
03:00	0	18	24	19	33	24	31	22	26
04:00	0	18	23	25	24	24	35	25	26
05:00	0	22	28	24	34	29	17	19	26
06:00	24	21	28	31	25	26	10	13	22
07:00	9	7	13	21	13	13	10	14	12
08:00	10	9	7	6	12	9	11	4	8
09:00	7	8	8	5	5	7	3	1	5
10:00	2	1	4	3	2	2	10	1	3
11:00	2	3	2	3	3	3	1	1	2
Day Total	112	284	306	327	343	310	342	255	307
% Avg. WKDay	36.1%	91.6%	98.7%	105.5%	110.6%	101.0%	111.4%	83.1%	
% Avg. Week	36.5%	92.5%	99.7%	106.5%	111.7%				
AM Peak Vol.	-	09:00 19	07:00 17	11:00 24	10:00 27	10:00 18	11:00 33	09:00 20	11:00 21
PM Peak Vol.	18:00 24	14:00 29	12:00 29	17:00 34	17:00 37	17:00 29	13:00 49	14:00 27	12:00 27
Grand Total	112	284	306	327	343	310	342	255	307
ADT		ADT 302		AADT 302					



**Local Roads** - These include all locally maintained and private roads that are not otherwise considered arterials or collector roads. The primary function of these roads is to provide direct access to individual properties. This system offers the lowest level of mobility. Through-traffic is usually deliberately discouraged. Temple has approximately 35 miles of local roads and 9 miles of roads that are not classified into the functional system.

**Roadway Usage and Conditions**

Roadway usage and conditions have an effect on our everyday enjoyment, or frustrations, of traveling through town. As the population increases within the state and region, so will the amount of traffic. Careful planning of our roadways, including alternative routes will give users options to get to their destinations. A heavily travelled road during peak hours or a road with poor maintenance can be avoided making our travel experience more desirable. The next chart shows the Average Daily Traffic Counts that NHDOT has been tracking in Temple over the last eight years. This is an important factor in planning the location of future land uses as well as access points. The changes in traffic counts can be attributed to a variety of factors including but not limited to new subdivisions, new businesses opening, closing of businesses, and road construction.

**Temple Average Daily Traffic Counts**

	Counter #	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
NH 101 west of Old County Farm Rd. (EB)	445001	7675	7629	7575	7223	7208	7229	7353	7389	7486
General Miller Hwy at Wilton TL	445052	*	*	1300	*	*	1300	*	*	1500
NH 45 south of Old Peterborough Rd.	445053	*	*	1100	*	*	1200	*	*	1100
Hadley Hwy north of Mansfield Rd.	445054	*	*	520	*	*	960	*	*	540
NH 45 north of Mansfield Rd.	445055	*	*	840	*	*	800	*	*	900
North Rd. north of Converse Rd.	445056	*	*	150	*	*	140	*	*	130
East Rd. south of General Miller Hwy.	445057	*	*	170	*	*	160	*	*	140
Webster Rd. west of Putman Rd.	445058	*	*	190	*	*	300	*	*	280
Nashua Rd. at Sharon TL	411050	*	*	890	*	*	990	*	*	1000
NH 101 at Temple/ Peterborough TL (EB-WB)	363055	*	8000	*	*	7500	*	*	8100	*

Source: NH DOT 2016. Traffic counts above 1000 are rounded to the nearest 100<sup>th</sup>. Traffic counts below 1000 are rounded to the nearest 10<sup>th</sup>.

The traffic count locations are shown on the accompanying map entitled *Town of Temple Transportation Infrastructure Map*. Counter numbers in the table above correspond with the numbers found on the map.

**Commuting to Work**

Understanding commuting patterns is a useful planning tool when proposals are presented to the Town. According US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, Temple had an estimated 763 working residents in 2016. Of these working residents, 14 commuted to work within town and 551 traveled to work outside of town. The top