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To: "Clerk, Town" <clerk@lincolnvermont.org>, "Ober, Sally" <sallyober@gmavt.net>
Cc: "Durfee, Amy" <amydurfee@yahoo.com>, "kyle" <kyle@beta.team>, "Katie Clark" <katie@beta.team>
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 8:29:09 AM
Subject: Written testimony in support of the Clarks grass airstrip application.

Dear members of the ZBA,

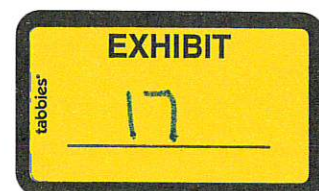
I am writing in support of Kyle and Katie Clark's permit application to establish a grass airstrip at their home in Lincoln. I would also like to add that I believe their character should have nothing to do with this appeal process. The board has allowed this to become a question of their character rather than a question of the legality of the issued permit. For the record I would like to present a very different view of the Clarks

Kyle and Katie are lifelong Vermonters. They are good people that have an extensive record in supporting community, family and important philanthropic causes. Kyle and Katie strive to make community and environment thrive on many levels and have chosen Lincoln as their home given its similar values. They are civic-minded, well-wishing people. Their company is dedicated to bringing zero carbon flight to the next generation of aviation. They are deeply involved in the Make a Wish Foundation, making dreams of flight come true for critically ill children, as well as serving on the board of Directors. They are supporters of Habitat for Aviation in Franklin County, which gives underprivileged kids from difficult situations a mentorship opportunity to enter the aviation industry as well as flight lessons. Beta Technologies has deep social roots and dedicated employees that have become like family. Kyle and Katie are good people that care about community, are doing important and significant things for our community and environment, they get involved and help make meaningful things happen. It is a very good thing that they have come to Lincoln.

As per the correct interpretation of the statute and the application process I would like to point out the following:

The Zoning Administrator asked the town lawyer what application was required for the Clark's grass landing strip and that recommendation was followed. Questioning the town lawyer's legal opinion is clearly beyond the scope of this "quasi judicial board" and clearly a matter for a court of law. Additionally, The Vermont Transportation Board has defined grass air strips as "customarily incidental and subordinate" as an accessory use to residential land use, which is also supports the town attorneys advice to the Zoning administrator.

Its also worth noting that the more rural one gets the more common it is to have an air strip. This is quite prominent in Lincoln given its small rural population, with residents landing in hay fields in addition to Heli ports and grass air strips. I would also like to note that a helicopter landing in Lincoln is far louder than an electric plane. I live in the flight path of that helicopter and it does not impact our quality of life in any way.



Planes in the sky are not a view shed issue, it is a federally regulated space so this is also not a point to be arbitrated by this "Quasi judicial board". Even so, the grass strip is not visible other than from the ROW of Orchard Road.

I have known the Clarks for three years, our children are friends and have playdates multiple times a week. My family considers them "neighbors", we may even be in their flight path. We are not concerned at all about the impact of an airstrip on their property.

Kyle and Katie are good people with the best of intentions. They have followed the statute and application process as well as the zoning administrator in issuing the permit. We are lucky to have them as part of this community and we should be working with them, not vilifying them. The process was followed correctly and under legal oversight. It is time for the board to stop hearing character assassinations and issue a decision based on the permitting process.

Thank you,

Gregor and Amy Masfield
501 Green Road Vermont.