

**OHA Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes, November 16, 2021**

Called to Order: 6:34pm ET

Attendance:

Steering Committee: Emily Benson, Emma "EB" Brandt, Phoebe Howe, Jared Liu, Lawrence "Stroker" Rogovin, Kimberly "Schroeder" Steward, Bethany "Benny" Taylor, Gerry Whiting, Dawson Winch, Alex Ziko

Guests: Bill Barrett, Thom Davis, Doug Hotchkiss, Ari Ofsevit, Brian Post, Ray Welch

Welcome New Officers (Stroker)

- Quick introductions from
 - Dawson Winch: Director of Communications at Tin Mountain
 - Benny Taylor: replaced Emily Griffin, worked in the Huts 2003-2006, then CC, some time with Resusitator, Waterman Fund, and most recently at Bowdoin College (Go U Bears!)
 - Jared Liu: currently working at Yale School of Management, previous stops in finance, DC politics, and schools, Huts and Three Mile Island in the 90s

Approve Minutes for 9/21 (Jared Liu)

- Motion to approve by Stroker, seconded by Schroeder, unanimous in favor

Treasurer's Report (Alex Ziko)

- Current balance is \$105,879, which is up \$31,582 from the 2021 opening balance of \$74,297. This includes \$38,263 in income and \$6,681 in expenses. The three-year averages are \$19,413 for income and the \$18,198 for expenses. So income is up quite a bit, and expenses are down quite a bit. Consider a Lifetime Membership or Season Pass as a great holiday gift!
- Dues notices will be mailed soon to those who need them, with the majority of dues being collected from December through February.
- Investments Committee: TBD whether to go with active or passive manager (paid vs. not). We'll look at this in February along with the amount to invest. The Committee voted on the policy in September, which has many good safeguards.
- The cabin check was already paid, but there may be \$2,000 more in expenses for cabin maintenance. Overall doing well financially.

Cabin (Em Benson, Stroker)

- Winter Preparation: The cabin is ready for winter. A contract is nearly finalized with Valley Snow Management. However, if you come in the winter, bring a shovel just in case. Mike has now turned off the water and we are in winter mode.
- Season Pass: Originally an idea to raise additional revenue and build ownership, the Cabin Committee is thinking about moving away from this in order to head off potential squatters, despite that there has long been a one-week maximum length of stay. The Cabin is not long-term housing. Moreover, some members recognized that individuals may have misunderstood that the pass was only for them, but that their guests still had to pay separately. Currently, we only sell 1-2 family passes and around 6 individual passes per year, which is pretty low numbers. A season pass is another great stocking stuffer!
- Other ideas: At the prompting of members, the Cabin Committee will also explore a discount code that can be used in online booking, one-week passes, a guest rate that remains the same regardless of what

the member pays (including guests of non-Croo who are under 25 y/o), and whether the normal fee should be adjusted up from \$15 to \$20.

- Fee Structure: The Cabin Committee will put together a recommendation within the week, along with a plan for surveying folks who have bought long-term passes in the past. The full Steering Committee should look out for a vote on this, likely by email or Doodle.
- Major Expenses: The outhouse is a growing concern. There's not more to report on this now, but it may be something in the near future. Mike has long wanted an emergency exit off of the kitchen or downstairs bedroom, which would cost \$5,000. The roof was done 5-8 years ago and is in good shape. The road needs regrading from time to time. Otherwise, there are not major expenses coming. Note, between taxes, wood, insurance, etc. it costs more to maintain the cabin than fees alone take in. Member dues sustain the cabin.

Washburn Land (Stroker for Carter Bascom)

- No major updates from Carter. The Washburn land owners have underscored that the OHA is their focus, but are dealing with personal matters at the moment and should not be pressed.
- An anonymous OHA donor offered a 2:1 matching grant up to \$100K for purchasing the land. However, this offer expires at the end of 2021. So the main question was whether to proceed with this. The membership had a number of questions including: is it all or nothing, can OHA raise \$200K this fast, will donors respond to a deal that doesn't exist yet, would moving forward with fundraising disrupt the land owners, how to receive a gift in 2021 that extends the challenge through a future date, and more. Stroker will do some follow-up with the donor, and the Washburn Land Committee will meet offline (Pete, Dawson, EB, Alex, Stroker) and may pull in the Investment Committee, too.

Oktoberfest Report (Em Benson)

- See the report sent previously.

Fall Reunion Report (Phoebe Howe)

- Fall Reunion went smoothly, and included a great presentation about the Washburns from Becky Fullerton and conversation with Laura Waterman. We look forward to being in-person for next year's Fall Reunion on Saturday, Nov. 5, and running of the Hut Croo Hustle, capped off with Bill Barrett's chili.

Approve Changes to By-Laws (Stroker)

- A Conflict of Interest clause has now been added to our By-Laws as Article X, and Bill Oliver, our North Country legal expert, will be submitting the updated version to the State for their records. Dawson moved to approve, Gerry Whiting seconded, unanimous approval.

Joe Dodge Award (Benny and Bill)

- The Joe Dodge Award is presented annually by the AMC to a member of the AMC community who best exemplifies the type of high quality public service and mountain hospitality that became the hallmark of longtime AMC Huts Manager Joe Dodge's long and distinguished career at Pinkham Notch. Although the award is typically given to North Country and White Mountain staff, Human Resources has been talking about removing geographic barrier to spread Joe Dodge's legacy further.
- Nominations due to Benny by Friday, Nov. 19. They already have a few nominations, including four submitted by Committee members. There was some conversation around whether the nominees and award winners are too OH heavy. After some conversation about limiting nominations from the Steering Committee and OH generally, it was resolved that it's important to have a robust pool of nominees and that anyone, regardless of their affiliation, should submit any name that they want.

- The Committee that reviews includes representation from the Dodge Family (Dominique Dodge- OHA), North Country Staff (Tom Seidel- OHA and Bethany Taylor- OHA and Huts Manager), AMC North Country Volunteers from InfoVols, Trail Adopters, Alpine Stewards, etc. (Kyra Salancy- North Country Volunteer Coordinator and Scott Monroe), and OHA (Liz Seabury and Bill Barrett- both also InfoVols). They've been looking into how almost everyone on the committee is OHA, and trying to diversify that, especially among the North Country Volunteers.

Merch (Phoebe, Em Brandt)

- Abby Clark (Lakes HM this summer, abbyclark.com) made some awesome stickers. EB and Brian are looking for ways to incorporate these and other fresh design into merch. She will also be putting out a call for talented OH artists to step up for designs that may go on shirts, hats, patches, and stickers primarily.... More holiday swag! The idea isn't to change the OHA logo, but rather has some more options. Merch would be print-on-demand through printful.com
- Brian asked for approval to mark down some of the older shirts and such to 50% off to clear through it. We'd still break-even at this price point. Unanimous support from those who voted: Brian, EB, Schroeder, Stroker, Emily, Jared, and Dawson.

Website (Schroeder, Brian Post)

- Website is running fine.

Croo Photo Project (Benny Taylor, Stroker)

- Agenda item tabled

Hut System (Benny)

- The Huts are open and cold. It's tough to staff them in the winter largely due to the solitary time. It's not a week-to-week fill-in type position, and what's needed are caretakers who are mentally equipped and can be there for the whole season.

Trails (Bill Barrett)

- Agenda item tabled

Resuscitator (EB & Miles Howard)

- Effective immediately, Miles will no longer be co-editor or on the Steering Committee due to expanding personal commitments. EB will handle the Spring and Fall issues herself, with the help of those who send in Gormings! She's comfortable with the amount of work that it will be, has a good system using Canva templates, will continue to leverage Schroeder's help, welcomes additional editors, and will let the Committee know if she needs help.

New & Other Bidness

- Doug extended thanks to those taking care of cabin and to the Steering Committee. He also made a plug for the February 15 or a near-term future meeting to be at the Shannon Door. However, the Committee did not feel comfortable due to pandemic reasons, but also underscored how Zoom has expanded access in a positive way.
- Thom gave a shout out those who planned Fall Reunion and how fantastic the programming was.

Next Steering Committee Meeting:

- Feb. 15, 2022, 6:30 PM via Zoom here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3105879688?pwd=bW1NQXNNUZPaURCd9EdXBtM3hkQT09>
Other meeting dates for 2022: 4/12, 6/14, 9/13, & 11/15

Adjourned: 8:07pm