## Agenda for

## OH Steering Committee Meeting,

## December 15, 2020, via Zoom

**Members Present: Alex Ziko, Moose Meserve, Kim Schroeder Steward, Emma E.B. Brandt, Richard Stetson, Elizabeth Seabury, Stroker Rogovin, Carter Bascom, Phoebe Howe, Emily Benson, Brian Post Emily Griffin, Holly Chase, Doug Hotchkiss, Bethany Taylor, Doug Shaffer, Bill Barrett, Dan Strodel, Miles Howard, and Brian Post.**

**1) Approve Minutes of Last Meeting, Sept. 29 (Carter Bascom)**

The approval of the minutes from September 29th were moved and seconded and passed by a unanimous vote.

**2) Treasurer’s Report (Alex Ziko)**

Alex presented the budget for November 2020. The dues mailings will come out and be reported in December. Alex is waiting to hear back from the appraiser before submitting a payment. A QR code was added this year to the mailing notices to incentivize a paperless method of payment. Moose suggested that $7,500 to $10,000 be added to the projected cabin maintenance expenses for 2021.

**3) Cabin (Carter Bascom, Stroker)**

 Gervais cabin: maintain or demolish?

 Next steps for acquiring Gervais property

 OHA Cabin status, plowing

Carter summarized the results of the OH Future Use Survey. The survey was sent out from November 19th, 2020 – December 11th, 2020 to all OH members and on social media. Approximately 203 OH members responded to the survey. There were 6 questions. The purpose is to gain an understanding from OH Members on the Future Use of the land abutting the existing OH Cabin.

There are approximately 2,280 OH eligible to become members.
Approximately 960 OH Members with emails are currently on record. Of the 960 OH, approximately 43.2% of those members opened the email and 24% responded to this survey. 5 emails bounced and 0 people unsubscribed.

50% of the respondents to the survey support a combined use of the Gervais Land. 38% support tent platforms. 22% Support Weekly Rentals. 60% would pay >$15/Day for exclusive weekend use. 33% would pay $5-$15/Day. 45% would pay between $100-$175/week for exclusive use of a cabin. 40% would pay >$175/week. 50% would pay between $199-$499/month for exclusive use a cabin. 35% would pay >$499/month. 52% would pay between $5-$15/night for tent platforms. 32% would pay between $0 and $5/night. Overall, most OH are generally favorable or indifferent and need questions answered about the Gervais Property. The survey results are available upon request.

Members had an opportunity to speak and make comments.

Moose mentioned that most were in favor of the Gervais acquisition.

Stroker agreed that there was strong member support, but in order to move forward, the subcommittee must make a recommendation to the Steering Committee with a management and fundraising plan.

Elizabeth Seabury thought that the rate of response was good.

Holly Chase emphasized that the Gervais property may help solve a need for affordable housing in the Jackson Valley for OHA seeking housing after the huts. She asked what the current condition of the property entailed and if an option for caretaking would a possibility.

Carter Bascom described the cabin from his visit in the Fall of 2019. Overall, the cabin is in decent condition. It is used for seasonal use and requires upgrades and work to the chimney, siding and is overall outdated. Other areas of unknown concern are the existing well, septic and road/bridge up to the cabin. Stroker explained and emphasized that we need to gather more information before moving forward.

Doug Hotchkiss questioned if this cabin fit into our mission and wants more information on the financial and maintenance plan. Doug also asked if any of the other neighboring parcel owners wanted to purchase the property.

Stroker emphasized that no other 3rd parties are interested at this time in purchasing the land.

Bethany Taylor would like to see the land protected from development.

Bill Barrett shared that the original building was built by Bradford Washburn and considers it to be of historic significance. He also shared that a caretaker used to watch over the cabin in the winter.

Doug Shaffer asked if there was a timeline for this acquisition, what the road easement consisted of and supported a phased purchase of the property by asking Gervais to give the OHA an option to purchase. Stroker explained that the road is split in the middle between the OHA and Gervais. Carter reemphasized that the Gervais are in no rush to sell and that we are moving forward collecting more information to make sure the OHA makes an informed decision moving forward. Dan Strodel emphasized that he and many other YOH are ecstatic for this development and is available to help with future planning. Moose explained that historically, the OHA has paid for the maintenance of the road up to the bridge. The major issues are that fire equipment may not be able to safely pass the bridge and maneuver the curve in the road. Schroder also mentioned that heating vehicles would need to able to get up the road. Doug Shaffer suggested that the Steering Committee make a quick decision in purchasing the property and tier the various phases of the project.

After everyone had opportunity to comment, the Steering Committee voted and unanimously agreed that the subcommittee should meet again and present a more formal plan for the scenarios of how to move forward with the land. Any questions or comments should be sent to Carter Bascom at chbascom@gmail.com.

The cabin is still closed until further notice. Harvard Cabin is not open this winter and they basically pay for the plowing, so there is no place to park. The pull off on Route 16 and the lot had been done by a private contractor which is not being done this winter. Emily Benson mentioned that she will get out there again to check on things.

**4) Fallfest Report (Phoebe Howe)**

50 folks joined Zoom for the 2020 Fallfest Reunion. Erik presented on White Mountain art. Overall, the meeting went really well and Phoebe has suggestions for future events via Zoom. The general consensus is most people enjoyed the meeting and it was great to pull it off. As a result from the virtual meeting, there is now a general need and want from OHA members to organize other virtual activities. One event that gained a popular attendance was the Lakes reunion. Brian Fowler and Thom Davis offered to present on white mountain geology in the future. If you have suggestions, please reach out to Phoebe Howe – phoebe.howe@gmail.com. Bill Barrett complimented those that hosted satellite activities outside of the Fallfest virtual meeting.

**5) Cabin Work Day Report (Emily Benson)**

Emily Benson reported that the Fall work day at the cabin went well. The weather was great and Emily complimented a huge thank-you to the Stetsons for the feast. 10 folks showed up to help remove trees and clean up the upper trail from the cabin. Liz Seabury did some preemptive wood movement. The closing team put up the storm windows, raked leaves, and stacked the remainder of the wood. Richard Stetson thanked everyone who attended for their efforts.

**6) 501(c)3 Status (Josh)**

The OH has received their 501(c)3 status. The OHA will officially make a change to the by-laws, which was already voted unanimously by the Steering Committee. Phoebe Howe will check in with Josh Alper as the State of NH will need the revised changes.

**7) 2020 Joe Dodge Award Committee Report (Stroker)**

The Joe Doge Award Committee decided on a recipient. They are very deserving of the award but couldn’t be announced yet due to award protocols.

**8) By-Law Revisions**

Submit proposed changes

A motion was made to approve the By-Law changes. A vast majority (10 of 13) Steering Committee Members approved the change. Bill Barrett asked if dues can be written off as a tax benefit. One of the Steering Committee members will bring the answer to the next meeting. It was suggested that Josh Alper provide more information on this topic.

**9) Website (Schroeder, Brian Post, Stroker)**

New merch design(s)?

 New fulfillment option (Printful)?

Brian Post reported that records are being updated, as well as improvements made to processing orders from members. There is a new option to pay for a lifetime membership. Brian is working on a more efficient and easier system for paying dues and selling merchandise. Schroeder has received a flurry of new inquiries from OH members. Moose will plan to share any zip files of artwork from OH past with Schroeder and Brian Post. With the new nonprofit status, the OHA has a new G-Suite workspace which includes new email addresses. This is a free service due to the 501(c)3 status. Alex reported that as a result of the change of status, the bank is not charging us any fees. The consensus is that the change of status will have an impact on the capital giving campaign.

**10) Hut System Report (Emily Griffin)**

Emily Griffin reports that all huts are closed and empty. There have been no weird break-ins at Mizpah or slippers left in bunkroom number 9. The plan for now going into Summer 2021 is to return to a normal program. There are strong leaders planning to return, which is a huge benefit given the surprise season they had in 2020. That being said, there are positions open for anyone interested. Anyone can apply by visiting the AMC website https://www.outdoors.org/jobs-employment, or directly inquire to Emily Griffin – egriffin@outdoors.org.

Emily is hopeful that the huts days off room will be available at Pinkham in 2021. Out of the 20 people hired for 2020, 18 of the hires want to work Summer 2021. AMC’s initiative in DEI is being rolled out including hiring for the huts in the 2021 summer season. Thatcher Carter wrote an awesome article in the Outdoors Magazine. <https://www.outdoors.org/articles/amc-outdoors/no-ordinary-croo-diary-of-a-hut-caretaker-during-covid-19>.

EB also wrote an amazing article - <https://www.outdoors.org/articles/amc-outdoors/thank-you-for-your-service-a-veterans-day-encounter-at-lonesome-lake-hut?fbclid=IwAR3P4G0yd_PFodFPW-IuBERoQZfa1_ucEbEbdLNAIbmhYUbmSUESkU98AI0>

Emily will reach out if she needs assistance from the OHA, especially with questions and reference to BIPOC and other minority communities. Bill Barrett asked what the general consensus was on having caretakers in the huts over the summer. Emily thinks that overall, there were a lot of positive feedback, including donors, that were happy about the summer. Bill spoke up about his volunteer experiences. He felt strongly that having the hut open may have saved some people’s lives; he thought it was great to have the huts open.

**11) Hut Croo Photo Project**

Status of Greenleaf Hut Croo photos? Photos at other huts?

Greenleaf photos should get to the hut either by fly or by person.

Phoebe will check on the status of the other photo projects for other huts.

**12) Trails Report (Bill Barrett)**

Bill Barrett reports 6 trips on the trails this year; he was on 4 of them. As a result, the trails are probably in the best condition they have ever been in. Bailey from the Saco District trails coordinator is requesting the names of any volunteers who have spent 16 hours or more; they will receive a free annual parking pass. A huge shoutout to Stu Johnson and others who helped remove and move the widow maker that Stroker had warned about. Phoebe spoke highly of her work with Bill; you can work and hike at the same time! Please reach out if you want to contribute to the trails now or in the future – any and all welcome!

**13) Resuscitator (Miles Howard)**

Miles Howard reports that AMC Outdoors Magazine is requesting publications from any interested OHA writers. The deadline will be before the next Resuscitator deadline. Miles is planning editorial content and photos for the next issue. Miles asked if there are any upcoming Steering Committee issues that should be addressed in the Resuscitator. A page will be dedicated to the Gervais Land update. The content submission deadline will be the end of March with the publication dropping live in mid to late April. Miles would like to hear from anyone who has experiences caretaking in the woods during the pandemic. EB would like to report on an OHA BIPOC narrative as well as explore its origins. Social media can be a great tool to gather an interest from BIPOC OHA.

Phoebe will share her experience hiking the COOS trail. The Steering Committee is being mindful of the resuscitator being sent out virtually. There is a new informational email for the Resuscitator - Tator@ohcroo.com

**14) New & Other Bidness**

Interested in winning up to $1,500?

Enter into The Waterman Fund Essay Contest. See details below:

<https://www.watermanfund.org/essay-contest/enter-essay-contest/>

*Essay Prompt*

*2020 was an unusual year. A once-in-a-century global pandemic has affected almost all aspects of how we live our lives, forcing us to change how we relate to the world and to one another. In this historical moment, in what ways has your connection to nature changed–and in what ways has it remained the same?*

Essays will be accepted from emerging writers through March 2, 2021. The winning essay will be awarded $1,500. The runner-up essay will receive $500. Both will be published in online and in Appalachia. Essay winners will be selected and announced by mid-summer 2021. For the purposes of this contest, an emerging writer is considered someone who has a solid writing background or interest but has not yet published a major work of prose on this topic or been featured in national publications. The Waterman Fund welcomes all inquiries at essays@watermanfund.org.

**15) Next Steering Committee Meeting:** 1/12/21, 6:30 PM, Zoom

Stroker, 12/10/20