



Ascutney Outdoors Acquires Burned Ski Lodge

BROWNSVILLE, VT, Dec 18th, 2016 - Ascutney Outdoors announced Saturday December 17th, 2016 that it had completed the purchase of the burned down base lodge at the gateway of the Ascutney Trails network.

“We are absolutely thrilled” stated Laura Farrell, executive director of Ascutney Outdoors. “There is so much excitement happening on our trails, yet it’s just impossible to hide the charred lodge in the center of our activities. This allows us to take it down, and start new.”

For over 50 years, the burned building served as the main ski lodge for the Mt. Ascutney ski area. In 2010, the ski area went into foreclosure and the building fell into serious disrepair. On a sub-zero night in January 2015, the lodge went up flames. “It was difficult enough when the lifts were sold off and removed from the mountain, it was heartbreaking when the lodge burned” Ascutney Outdoors board member Laura Stillson remembers. “It could have been another step backward.”

But the community never stopped moving forward. With the help of The Trust for Public Land, the Town of West Windsor acquired the ski area land in 2015 and merged this property with the current Town Forest property. A group of committed volunteers then established Ascutney Outdoors, a non-profit that maintains and manages the trail network and activities on the land. Since then a community rope tow has been built, ski trails have been mowed and restored, a warming hut is planned for this winter season, and mountain bike offerings have been expanded.

“We’re ready to grow and this gives us room” commented Ascutney Outdoors board member Steve Carihfield. No Town funds were required to purchase or demolish the building, and Ascutney Outdoors will own the property outright. Future plans include designing and building a multi-use facility which will serve as a welcoming center and base for four-season recreational activities, as well as events and gatherings.

Contact

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