



Brownsville, VT – January, 20 2018

Ascutney Outdoors (AO) a local non-profit, based in West Windsor Vermont, is pleased to announce many exciting project updates.

Cunningham's Ski Barn Donation

Ascutney Outdoors (AO) has accepted the donation of the former Cunningham's Ski Barn property from Mr. Dan Purjes of MFW Associates. AO is keen on securing the use of the property for large events given its proximity to the new Ascutney Outdoors Center (AOC) currently under construction.

AO does not intend to retain ownership of the Cunningham's property long-term. A purchase and sales agreement is expected to be executed soon with Orange Lake Resorts (OLR), who owns and operates the Holiday Inn Club Vacations Mount Ascutney Resort and has committed to supporting AO's objectives for the Cunningham's property. AO board Chairman Steve Crihfield says "while the purchase price is nominal, it allows use of the property by AO under a long-term license. This is the best of both worlds for Ascutney Outdoors – the donation by Mr. Purjes and our subsequent sale to OLR will advance the charitable mission of Ascutney Outdoors in ways we had not considered possible a few months ago."

The additional benefit of the Cunningham's property is that it allows AO to nudge its proposed tubing lift slightly eastward, skirting wetlands to avoid a costly and uncertain state permitting process. The tubing park is scheduled for construction in the Spring of 2018.

Ascutney Outdoors Center

Build-out of the Ascutney Outdoors Center (AOC) is well underway. The AOC will be a multi-use facility, which will serve as a welcoming center and base for four-season recreational, educational and cultural activities at Ascutney Trails and for the surrounding community. AOC Building Committee lead, Glenn Seward, has confirmed that the interior masonry work is nearly complete and the exterior building panels will be ready to install by the end of January or early February. Contractors have been selected for the electrical, plumbing and exterior construction work. Seward states, "AO continues to fine-tune the remaining details related to heating, sprinklers and other interior work and progress will continue through winter as long as 'Mother Nature' cooperates."

Expanded Lift Access at Ascutney Trails

Ascutney Outdoors is working with the community on a fundraising project to expand lift access further up the former ski area for skiing and snowboarding. AO was presented with an exciting opportunity this fall and is committed to raising the funds needed in order to accept the donation of a used Doppelmayr T-Bar lift. AO is working with a tramway engineer to plan a route for the T-bar that is best-suited to the existing terrain to optimize user experience and natural snowfall conditions.

Ascutney Outdoors is delighted to announce that they received a "challenge grant" of \$34,000 for the T-bar fundraising campaign in December. With \$51,000 already in hand, AO needs to raise **only \$15,000** more from the community to "unlock" the \$34,000 and meet the goal of \$100,000 for the installation of the T-bar!



Capital Campaign

Excellent progress is being made with the 'Building for our Community' capital campaign with over \$600,000 raised to date. Several generous donations have been received from family foundations and AO continues to reach out to a number of public foundations who support strong communities, recreation and conservation in the Northeast. With high permitting costs and an increase in certain construction estimates, AO is estimating an additional \$100,000 is required to complete the campaign. Board Chair Crihfield continued, "We are pleased to be far ahead of our expectations and even more pleased that we have been able to build a solid foundation for AO for generations. The Ascutney Outdoors Board of Directors wishes to extend their gratitude to the community, partners and foundations for all of their support to date."

For further information please visit www.ascutneyoutdoors.org or email info@ascutneyoutdoors.org