2018 Candidate Statement, Bio, and Q&A

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Candidate Statement:

My first memories of skiing at Mad River Glen are from my days as a student at Middlebury College, a little intimidated by the reputation of a hard-core mountain, and pleasantly surprised at the great day skiing with my friends. After college, my husband Jamey and I rented ski houses in the Mad River Valley, and then moved to Shelburne, Vermont for 6 years and continued to ski as much as we could. After leaving Vermont for Boston (with a 3-year stint in France interspersed in there from 2013-2016), we knew we wanted to find a way to make skiing at Mad River Glen a central part of our family’s life, and an experience we can all share together during the long New England winters. Since we’ve been back in the States, our winter weekend routine is like that of many other out of state skiing families: we fight the traffic and drive to our place in Fayston so our kids (Christopher – 11 and Drew – 7) can improve their turns in the season-long Saturday ski school program, and we can enjoy skiing as a couple or as a family all together. We all love the authentic, low-key, family-friendly atmosphere at Mad River Glen, and our boys show us more and more of the mountain every week from what they learn in ski school.

In my professional life, I work in GE Healthcare’s Women’s Health (mammography) business as a Global Product Manager. I love leading teams to meet bold goals, whether it is creating brand-new products via large-scale programs, or whether it is finding ways to drive big changes in the business to delight our customers. As a candidate for the Board of Trustees, I would like to use these same skills and experiences to give back to the co-op and be part of executing the vision of helping us modernize while maintaining the spirit that makes Mad River so unique and wonderful.
**Brief Bio:**

After stints at two software consulting companies and leading the development of business software systems in Financial Services, Erin Brenner came to GE in 2004 as part of the Healthcare IT business. She held positions of increasing responsibility in Software Engineering, Product Management, Program Management, and Product Operations at various GEHC sites in the US. She has also been very active in the Women’s Network, including co-leading two geographic Hubs of the network.

While completing a GE leadership program in late 2013, she took an international assignment in Buc, France. As Program Managing Director, she led the large (250+ people) multi-functional team in the design, development, and launch of the new Senographe Pristina mammography system. She moved back to the U.S. at the end of 2016, and has been leading the mission-based team responsible for the Pristina launch in the US. Erin was awarded the Edison Women in Technology award in 2017 by the Chairman of GE.

**Q&A:**

1. What brought you to Mad River Glen initially? What keeps you coming back today?

The first time I skied at Mad River Glen was because my college friends liked the mountain, and wanted to share it with me. The enthusiasm for our special mountain that I gained that day many years ago has stayed with me as I have transitioned from college student to mom of 2 skiing boys. When I think of Mad River Glen, I reflect on the varied and challenging terrain, the long top-to-bottom runs, the peacefulness of the rides up the Single Chair, the low-key but upbeat atmosphere at the Basebox, and the family-friendly environment. I am glad to pass that enthusiasm along to our boys and to our friends and family who come up to ski with us... or to hike with us in the summer. We have also enjoyed hiking on the mountain and enjoying Friday night fish fry while the kids kick soccer balls out in front of the Basebox.

2. Why are you running for the board? What strengths would you bring to being a Trustee? Is there an officer role or committee chair in which you’d be interested in serving sometime during your tenure?

In my professional life, I work in GE Healthcare’s Women’s Health (mammography) business as a Global Product Manager. I love leading teams to meet bold goals, whether it is creating brand-new products via large-scale programs, or whether it is finding ways to drive big changes in the business to delight our customers. As a candidate for the Board of Trustees, I would like to use these same skills and experiences and donate my time to give back to the co-op and be part of executing the vision of helping us modernize while maintaining the spirit that makes Mad River so unique and wonderful.

My program management background gives me a lot of experience bringing people together, charting a path toward a future state, organizing tasks, resolving issues, and driving progress. I would be happy to be engaged with any of the committees in this capacity, to be part of the team that helps Mad River Glen move into the future and modernize its infrastructure so our future grandchildren can enjoy it as much as we do.
3. The co-op has entered its third decade. We have new leadership and are undertaking a significant philanthropic campaign. Where do you see the co-op in five years? Ten years? What is your vision of the Board’s role in this future?

Our co-op is so unique in that it allows our community of skiers who value the Mad River Glen experience to take a direct role in driving its future. I believe that having local/in-real-life communities is becoming increasingly important in the virtualizing world we are living in, and that the co-op members have a great opportunity to reach out into their networks to attract other people who might also love Mad River Glen to come and Ski It! The Board can help bring people together in pursuit of growing our skier base in this way, as well as in providing its guidance for the vision and stewardship of the co-op’s resources.

4. We are half way to the goal of $6.5M with the Preserve Our Paradise capital campaign. What are you prepared to do to ensure the campaign meets its goal? How can you help the campaign succeed between now and April 2019? What role do you see philanthropy playing in the Co-op’s future?

Certainly, ticket prices alone will not support the infrastructure modernization that will be needed continually over time to keep Mad River Glen running. Philanthropy will need to continue to play a role for these big capital improvements, as we don’t have a corporate umbrella over us to fund those types of projects. This being exactly what keeps Mad River Glen’s character unique, I expect that our skiers and other local community supporters will keep playing a strong role going forward. And as one of our skiers and local community members, I will certainly be part of the campaign between now and its completion.