

SKATIUM 2015 Report

Skatium is a community ice skating facility located adjacent to the Mad River Green Shopping Center in Waitsfield. It is owned by a non-profit (501.c.3) corporation, Skatium, Inc., and managed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Daily operations are handled by paid staff.

The 2015/2016 winter season marks the 23rd year that Skatium has been offering public skating, stick time, youth skating programs (including free ice-time for elementary school recreation programs) and a venue for parties and events to Mad River Valley residents and visitors. It has become an important option for winter recreation in the Valley.

Skatium was initially created by a group of parents as a venue for youth development, and is now attempting to expand its facilities to provide a multi-functional indoor/outdoor venue for a variety of sports activities and community events, with a goal of attracting new activities to the Valley. It is poised to realize its goal by virtue of having obtained fee simple ownership of its 5.4 acre site, and having obtained most of the necessary development permits. Fundraising is the remaining major hurdle. In the meantime, Skatium will continue to operate as a seasonal facility by working with its existing, but aging, equipment. The following improvements were made this fall: replaced several sections of the Dasher Boards, thanks in large part to several builders in the Valley; purchased new clear poly-carbonate plastic to protect these boards; made critical repairs to the Zamboni; replaced the hot water heater; and re-leveled the crushed stone ice-making surface in order to expedite the ice-making process.

Skatium typically operates with a \$30,000.00+- winter season budget. Major expenses are payroll, utilities, land taxes, and equipment maintenance. Income sources include revenues from operations, donations, advertising on the boards, miscellaneous fundraising events, and funding from the Towns. Initially, the latter was provided directly by each of the Towns of Warren, Waitsfield and Fayston. More recently, this funding has been received via the Mad River Valley Recreation District. This year Skatium will be receiving funding from the Recreation District in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Skatium Board of Directors
Don Swain, Zeke Church, Mike Eramo, Bill Moore