



Craftsbury

OUTDOOR CENTER

August 23, 2021

To the past, present and future runners of Craftsbury,

I am honored and excited to take over as the Director of Running at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

Many of you know me as a biathlete, but I was a runner first. I raced through the mud pits of Thetford for Vermont State High School XC championships and I fought up the hills of Van Cortlandt Park at Regional Collegiate championships. I've logged hundreds of running miles as part of my ski training the past decade. I've explored every mile of road in Craftsbury and the surrounding towns and I look forward to sharing the best of the running here with you.

The Outdoor Center is nestled in a runner's paradise. An endless network of gravel roads surrounds our extensive and beautifully-maintained trail network. The dining hall showcases nutritious food grown on the local family farms that line those roads.

Interpersonal community matters as much to us as our physical community. I once heard former COC Running Director Lynn Jennings tell her group of high school campers that "Craftsbury is a place where you can be yourself." That is a quality I plan to continue to foster in our running camps and programs.

Running at Craftsbury is growing! Heidi expanded the community running programming by introducing new elements such as the creative summer challenges and weekly track practice. For race experiences, the Outdoor Center hosts a variety, ranging from the weekly trail 5k to the Beer Run half marathon to high school events. In the past year we've added a running division of the Green Racing Project to support elite runners. I look forward to building on all of these elements.

This fall and winter I will continue to train to represent the USA in biathlon on the world stage with a focus on the Beijing Winter Olympics. Throughout this time I'll be in frequent communication with Heidi about running programs so I can hit the ground running next spring. Please join me in thanking Heidi for her wonderful work these past few years and wishing her well on her future endeavors,

I can't wait to see you on the trails,

Susan Dunklee