



Dear Tahoe Donner family,

Some members have raised questions regarding the decision-making process for the replacement of the 50-year-old lodge building at downhill ski. The board sought the opinion and advice of legal counsel to ensure we act in a prudent, proper, and informed manner.

As stated at a recent board meeting, “This board is required to rely on expert advice, which includes staff and the industry experts we engage as consultants. Some may disagree with their analysis, and that is their right. When concerns have been raised, we have gone back to the original source to verify or adjust.”

Attached is a summary of that opinion from counsel. This letter and the attached summary are provided by authorization of the board as part of our ongoing effort to keep you informed.

The opinion speaks strongly to the value and importance of member input while still admonishing, ‘Reasonable inquiry’ does not extend to letting the members make the decision instead of the Board.

Given the opinion’s emphasis on member input, here is a summary of what the board, staff and the downhill ski task force have been doing over the past five years:

- Engaged three sets of experts over five years, progressively addressing the project, first at the “30,000-foot level” (Ecosign, 2017), the “5,000-foot level” (Ward-Young, 2020) and now at “ground level” (BSA, 2021), with all presentations in open sessions
- Held seven focus groups at the start of the project followed by 14 more in 2020, plus a member survey based on the questions and points raised in those focus groups
- Held multiple tours and open houses in the current lodge, including two with the architects present in person to directly hear member input
- Sent multiple member dedicated emails, plus articles in *Tahoe Donner News*, and a dedicated webpage to keep all members informed and provide opportunities for feedback
- Held a full-day workshop open to members and recorded for viewing, including the architects
- Continue to hold monthly member meetups about the lodge replacement project

This is in addition to open board meetings every month with updates and member comments.

[Click here to read the attorney’s summary](#). For the latest information on the lodge replacement project, please visit the [Downhill Lodge Replacement webpage](#). The page includes a [feedback form](#) for your input.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,  
Don Koenes  
President