

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Hausmann Nature Center
March 26, 2019, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Present: Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Will Edwards, Joanne Ziarek, Charlie Ritter, Rich Marusinec, Rick Bjodstrup.

Next meeting: April 16 at 6PM at *Hausmann Nature Center*

Minutes of March 5, 2019: Approved as modified. Anne R. will notify Mary Ellen B. to distribute and post the minutes to the website.

Recap of 2018-2019 Ski Season: Rich M. presented the following summary report:

We started making snow on November 26th this year. The snowmaking trails at Lapham Peak opened for skiing on December 8th. We also made additional snow in January and opened the entire Phase 3 loop on January 19th for the first time ever just in time for the Lapham Loppet. The last quality day of skiing was March 14th. This equated to a season of 93 days of skiing on manmade groomed trails versus 32 days on the natural snow trails. Volunteers logged over 700 hours making and spreading snow, with additional time spent on renovating the trail after four major rain/ice/thaw/freeze events.

Tactical Plan for next 2 years: Will E. introduced a number of topics for discussion with emphasis on 4 areas for the future: 1- Expand the number of snowmakers, both operators and coordinators. 2- Expand The fund-raising committee and have scheduled meetings dedicated to those areas. 3- Establish a grooming sub-committee using current best practices to maximize equipment and processes. 4-Support trail improvements and maintenance. He will refer to our strategic plan to focus on these key points.

Legislative Support: Charlie reported that there is continuing support from local legislators for including funding for snowmaking at Lapham Peak in the state budget. A decision should be forthcoming in June.

Snowcat Repair: The invoice from Miller Bradford for snowcat repairs and replacement parts as well as transportation to & from their facility was \$14,000. We are still looking for a mechanic in the area who would be available to cover any emergencies with the snowcat maintenance. Beattle will be evaluating options during the year. It was noted that there is a need to discuss a snowcat replacement plan at a future meeting.

DNR Revenue: Anne R. shared a report from the DNR listing their total revenue for several recent years. The average total revenue was \$650,00 - \$700,000 per year and the average income for the three skiing months of December, January, & February was around \$260,000. DNR attendance numbers indicated around 50,000 skier visits per year.

Expenses for Phase 3B: Anne R. requested that John M. and Rich M submit their list of total expenses for Phase 3B to her to compare their records.

Current Plans for Phase 3C: John M. presented detailed plans for discussion and clarification of this next phase. The proposed start dates are April 25 & 26 for fusing the pipe, and April 29 to begin excavating. These dates are contingent on trail conditions and any remaining snow cover. John also noted that the phase 3B trail restoration is to be completed this spring. It was suggested that Anne R. contact key people from phase 3B to help on work days for phase 3C.

Resignation: Anne R. announced that Joe Stuber has resigned from snowmaking and we thank him for his many years of dedicated service. Discussion ensued about how the committee functions on reaching decisions.

Snowmaking Funds: Based on the February treasurer's report on donations and income sources the funds should be sufficient to cover the projected Phase 3C expenses and the snowcat repairs with remaining funds that can be used as initial funding toward replacement of our 40yr old snowcat as well as a building to shelter it. The new donor match tally so far is at \$7057 from 59 donors toward the total of \$10,000 pledged to match by an anonymous donor. Donations of about \$19,000 (including a \$3000 match) have been received for the snowcat repair and replacement.

Penguin Sponsor Signs: Jim B. has removed the large wooden penguin sponsor signs from the trail and is storing them at his home.

TV with Scrolling Donor Names: This was borrowed from the Evergreen shelter and set up at the Lapham Peak Ski Club end of season bash on March 16. It was noted that names of individuals as well corporate sponsors now show.

Donor Plaques in Evergreen: Mary Ellen B. is working on updating the donor recognition plaques in Evergreen Shelter including a new Labraugh Foundation Plaque for their generous donations.

Sharing our Business Plan: Missy VanLanduyt sent a request for permission to share the Lapham Peak snowmaking business plan with other friends and partner groups that need to draft business plans. She noted that our plan was very well done. The committee gave the OK and Anne R. will see that Missy is sent an electronic version to distribute.

Fright Hike: Anne R. stated that this event raised \$8000 for snowmaking and \$1000 for the prairie & forest restoration group (aka Buckthorn Busters). It was suggested that Rich M. talk to John Hillmer from this group about clearing some paths for the snowguns in a few brushy areas.

Grants: John M. reported that we have received a check for \$1000 from the DeBoer Quiet Trails Fund.

Volunteer Hours: Anne R. reported that around 5000 hours were logged this past year by volunteers working on various projects to benefit snowmaking.

Report on Electrical Needs for Phase 3C: Rich M. provided the following information: Electrical materials for phase 3C have been ordered which include 3 new pedestals, 500 MCM wire and various connectors. Detailed voltage-drop tests using six snowguns were also completed by Rich Marusinec, Joe Stuber and Al Binkelman. Phase 3C will focus on the 3 new pedestal installation and not include separating the AA1 circuit during May. This circuit separation will be evaluated during the summer and completed possibly in fall. Pedestals are due April 1 and wire April 22.

Phase 3B Trail Work: Rich will contact John Hillmer to request that the prairie & forest restoration team assist with brush cutting for snowgun removal during snowmaking along the new Phase 3B and 3C trail. Later this fall we will review limb trimming work with Jay along Phase 3B & 3C to minimize snow and ice buildup during snowmaking.

Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek