

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Hausmann Nature Center
August 13, 2019, 6:05 PM-8:20 PM

Present: Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Will Edwards, Rich Marusinec, Rick Bjodstrup, Bruce Wydeven, Mike Graham, Charlie Ritter. Joining later: Angie Lorbach

Next meetings: August 27th at 6PM. Hausmann Nature Center.

Minutes: Minutes from July 30th were approved as modified. Minutes of June 25th were deferred.

Snowmaking Committee: Mike Graham has joined the committee.

Snowcat Building: Bruce W presented more detailed plans for the building, including a plan view, elevations, and details. The following points were discussed/noted:

- Building designed with spread footing with a foundation wall and a 4-inch floor slab. Building walls would be supported on the foundation wall.
- Will E referenced Morton Buildings as a possible contractor and noted the ability of Menards to provide plans and quotes from contractors.
- Rich M noted Heminway as a possible contractor (they did the building at Scuppernong), who will work with volunteers (to save cost).
- Bruce W noted that Richard Pierce provided the structural input for the building design.
- Building components: 2 by 6 stud walls, pre-cut 12-foot studs, 12'5" clear, 12-foot trench drain – pvc, could have a sump to capture spilled fluids/oils, discharge to surface, high bay lighting – LED, 10-foot high door, floor will pitch 2-inches, towards drain.
- Discussed positioning of snowcat and other equipment in the building. Noted that a Pisten Bully would be narrower (take up less space) than the current snowcat. There will be different operating/storage modes during winter and other seasons.
- Electric power will come from the 480 Volt line, via connection to an existing snowmaking pedestal west of the building. Consideration given to having the 480 Volt available at the building, to plug in a snowgun for testing. Panel would step down the 480 to 120 for other electric power needs. The plans include interior and exterior lighting.
- Rich M looking to get a quote from Elect-Tech to do the electrical work. Bruce W suggested that we need a "scope document" for the electrical work to provide guidance on what's needed. John M suggested that Charlie R contact Chuck Smith from Current Electric to see if there was interest in being involved in the project.
- Heat for the building would come from "hung" units supplied by an exterior propane tank.
- Building exterior could be cement fiber board (Hardy Plank) or LP Smart Siding. Board and batten layout shown on plan. Metal roof – concealed fasteners. A 4-inch high concrete 'curb' will support the building walls.
- The potential for a concrete apron at the overhead doors was discussed. General consensus was 'no' at this time – compacted gravel instead. Noted that planks or other material will be needed on the concrete floor to support the snowcat and avoid damage from and to the tracks.
- Wood trusses would run north-south, facilitating potential expansion of the building (currently shown as 42 feet by 42 feet) in an eastern direction.
- Gutters would be included, with downspouts to grade and snow-guards over the overhead doors.

- Rich M and John M to meet with park rangers to review plan and obtain input.
- Potential contractors were discussed. The following list, and individuals who would contact them, were identified:
 - SCIER Construction – Bruce W
 - Heminway – Anne R
 - Morton Building – Anne R
 - CCS – John M
- It was noted that contractors are very busy now, which will impact cost and schedule. Initial thought was to get “pricing” from contractors, instead of hard bids, and to ask about availability and schedule.
- Timing of the construction was discussed -- this fall or next spring. Consensus was that better pricing and availability would be obtained for construction of the building in the spring. Site preparation may be done this fall, and possibly concrete work. Further study required.
- Consideration given as to breaking up the project into separate ‘packages’ – site prep (done by volunteers), concrete (possible donor or discount), building (contractor) and electrical (may be separate or may combine with building).
- More information and responses to some of the questions posed above will be presented at next SM committee meeting.

Replacement Snowcat Acquisition: Will E and Charlie R presented a draft flyer for the upcoming fundraising campaign for a replacement snowcat. The theme of the campaign is “All we want for Christmas”. Comments to be provided, flyer finalized, and details of the campaign work out by Will and Charlie. Will noted that he has been in contact with someone who would work with us on a loan to purchase a snowcat. Needed would be an idea of what we would be able to pay on a yearly basis, to satisfy the loan.

History of Snowmaking Expenses: Rich M presented his spreadsheet summary of expenses to date for the snowmaking project. He noted a recent increase in electrical costs, due to the increased amount of snow being made. He also noted the continuing expense of maintaining the current snowcat -- over \$35,000 in the last several years. He felt that we needed to plan for expenses of \$15,000 to \$17,000 per year, going forward, broken down as follows:

- Electricity - \$6,500
- Fuel (snowcat) - \$400
- Snowcat Maintenance - \$7,500
- Other - \$1,000

Electrical Distribution Revisions: Rich M reviewed the need for and planning of revisions to the electrical circuit loading that supplies power to the snowguns. He has determined that the current system is “unbalanced” (too many pedestals on a circuit, with another circuit having capacity for more pedestals). He noted that if too many snowguns are placed on the circuit of concern, it would result in too large of a voltage draw and cause guns to “trip” (shutdown -- should not damage the gun). The general plan is to operate the system as presently configured this coming season, and then do the work next spring, at the same time as the electrical work for the snowcat shelter. The work would involve trenching in about 800 feet of electrical cable.

Preparation for 2019-2020 snowmaking operations: Rich M is developing a list of activities in preparation for the upcoming snowmaking season, including trail maintenance (snow depth sticks) equipment maintenance, and snowmaking volunteer recruitment and training. Goal is to have 20 or so volunteer snowmakers for the season. An inquiry will be made to previous year's volunteers to gauge interest for the upcoming season.

Visit to the Pisten Bully Facility in Minnesota: Rich M had a meeting with Pisten Bully representatives at their facility in Minnesota, to discuss their equipment and what they thought would work best for our operation. Rich has previously summarized his notes from that meeting. He is very impressed with the company and the equipment, characterizing them as well organized, with a consistent application of technology and "German know-how" (the company is based in Germany). Efforts are underway to get a "demonstration" machine at the park sometime this coming season to see how it works with our system. He noted that they have annual and multi-year maintenance plans that they service from their Minnesota facility. Of particular note is the tiller apparatus that is installed on their newer machines that is well suited to efficiently break up a frozen, icy surface and create a perfect base in one pass.

Trail Restoration of 3B and 3C Areas: John M noted that snowmaking trail restoration from the recent construction is generally complete. Some seeding work is still needed. A special project to deal with the chronically wet area on Magic Carpet Ride is to be implemented in the next week.

Trail Restoration Grants: John M noted that two of the three grants we are using for trail restoration work are complete and being closed out. The Federal Recreational Trails Grant from 2017, used for the improvements to Evergreen Shelter and installation of culverts and underdrain, is complete, and awaiting reimbursement from the DNR. The \$1,000 De Boer's grant for trail restoration was used for the Phase 3B and 3C areas, and has been closed out. The DNR 2018 Enhancement Grant for trail repairs is currently in process, and is also being used for restoration of the Phase 3B and 3C areas. This grant, which is a \$12,900 matching grant is to be paid 50% by DNR and 50% by the Friends, with a portion of the Friends contribution coming from the snowmaking account.

LUA Development, Operation, and Maintenance Plan for Snowmaking: John M noted that the subject Plan is complete and was submitted to the DNR for review and record as required by the Land Use Agreement for Snowmaking.

Donor Thank You's and Receipts: Anne R noted that she and Susan N would be taking on the task of sending thank you notes and receipts to snowmaking donors.

Left-over Bikes from Bike Swap: Charlie R is working on photographing and describing the bikes in storage from the Bike Swap for sale online.

FLP Embezzlement Insurance: Anne R has proposed to the FLP Board that the Friends add a specific insurance policy to cover potential embezzlement of FLP funds (note – no embezzlement has occurred). The Board has agreed to obtain this coverage, costing \$100, with half the cost coming from the snowmaking account.

Fright Hike: Angie L provided a review of progress on the upcoming Fright Hike event (major snowmaking fundraising event). She is looking for assistance and expertise in promoting the event on "social media". She asked if anyone has leftover paint -- especially orange, that she could use for various props, including the paper mache' pumpkins she is making. She will need help with setting up

the event, in October, and has asked if anyone has a portable generator (or two) that could be used for the event. She reviewed the proposed route for this year, which will be a little different than last year, avoiding areas for the 3B and 3C trail areas that are still soft, wet, and have new vegetation. Other skit options were discussed, including the materials needed for them. She noted that the horses have been very popular at past events, she does not have a reliable source for horses this year – if you know of a source please let Angie know. She asked if anyone had thoughts on how to get an old school bus for use in a skit.

Respectfully Submitted: John McCarthy with minor changes by Anne Riendl