

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Hausmann Nature Center
June 25, 2019, 6:05 PM-7:15 PM

Present: Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Will Edwards, Joanne Ziarek, Charlie Ritter, Rich Marusinec, Rick Bjodstrup, Beattle Adelmeyer, Anne Korman, Charlie Dee, Dan LaBlanc, Bruce Wydeven, Mark Herr, Mary Eloronta, Terry Landowski, Dave Wedl, Paul Keber, Rita Keber, Chris Peske, Mike Graham, Boyd Coleman, Sara Ackatz, Sam Edwards.

Next meetings: July 9 at 6PM at Hausmann Nature Center, July 23 potluck cook out social with FLP board at Mike Fort shelter at 6PM.

Special Meeting Agenda: This open meeting was dedicated to gathering input from all interested parties and discussing options for the next steps in moving forward with priorities and planning for a building to house the current snowcat and the eventual purchase of a newer snowcat.

Overview, Goals, and Needs: Will E. presented an overview of accomplishments to date with completion of phases 3b and 3c now providing a total of 2.4 Km of trails served by snowmaking. The goals stated were to provide high quality, reliable skiing for 85 days of the ski season along with daily updates on trail conditions. In order to meet these goals there are several needs: expand the volunteer snow makers, have a reliable snowcat, provide housing for the snowcat, and raise money to fund the building and to purchase a newer snowcat.

Building Function and Location Workshop: John M. presented this portion of the session with help from Beattle who gave the reasons to build a shelter to store the snowcat. The current Logan 3700C is nearly 40 years old and is kept under the trees outside all year long. It was originally obtained from a downhill ski area so is somewhat larger than a newer Pisten Bully 100 that would better suit the purposes for grooming cross country trails. John noted that some primary functions of the building would be to house the snowcat, to provide a place for routine maintenance, to store accessories, and to provide a place of respite for the snowmakers. Other suggestions from attendees were to have enough room to store the snow guns and the gator, possibly have a separate area for waxing, maybe a nicer building to complement the current Evergreen shelter with more amenities for skiers. Many of these additional functions would increase the cost. Thoughts were expressed about what would attract donors as well as to consider the primary goal for now of building a shelter while also allowing for future functions. John then presented a map with seven spots as possible locations and a chart listing advantages and disadvantages for each one. These were discussed at length with one or two seeming more appropriate than the others. This will all be taken into consideration as planning goes forward. The next steps will be to analyze and assemble the input received and develop a concept for the building, as well as to explore options for purchasing a Pisten Bully or other newer snowcat.

Continued Commitment Needed: Will E. then thanked everyone for coming and proposed several ways for people to help meet these goals: continue to give feedback to the snowmaking committee, join one of the snowmaking volunteer teams, join the snowmaking committee, help raise money.

Adjournment and Discussion: The presentations ended at 7:15 and were followed by another hour or more of discussion over snacks and refreshments. Many more ideas and suggestions were shared and will be considered in forming a planning group with various experts to move forward.

Respectfully Submitted by Joanne Ziarek