

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Hausmann Nature Center
December 17, 2019, 6:10 PM-8:00 PM

Present: Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Joanne Ziarek, Rick Bjodstrup, Mike Graham, Will Edwards, Charlie Ritter, Rich Marusinec, Beattle Adelmeyer, and advisor Colton Kelly.

Next meeting: January 21 at 6PM at Hausmann Nature Center.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of November 19 and record of June 25 charette approved. Joanne Z. will notify Mary Ellen B. to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

New Park Manager: Colton Kelly was introduced as the new park manager for Lapham Peak. He noted that he started his career with the DNR in 2015 and is getting married this January.

Snowcat: Beattle reported on multiple problems from the past week with the current old snowcat including 20+ wires chewed by mice, shorted out solenoid, issues with hydraulics, and welds cracking in the blade causing it to fall off. All issues were fixed and the man-made loop was opened at 3:30 PM on Friday, December 13. Beattle also reported that we will be able to have a demo of a new snowcat from Prinoth called the HuskyXC3.1 early next week. The representative from the company is Bill Cox and several members of the committee will meet with him at 8AM on December 18 at the park to solidify plans and clarify any need for liability insurance for the demo machine.

Outdoor Wisconsin: Filming is scheduled for 10AM on December 18, weather permitting.

Snowcat Financing: Will E. gave preliminary details of a loan source and continues to look for the best rates and terms for the Friends. He will report at a future meeting. The actual loan will be the responsibility of the Friends of Lapham Peak as the official organization and will need to be approved by the FLP board.

Snowcat Building: Beattle has access to equipment for site prep and a contact for a mason to pour the concrete pad. Jason Parmann would put up the structure for only the cost of materials using volunteer labor. Currently the plan is for construction to begin in late spring or early summer of 2020.

Finances: Anne R. gave a general estimate of snowmaking funds with \$65,000 as of the end of September plus new deposits and expenses leaving around \$77,000. The annual fund-raising mailing will be sent to all donors within the next week.

Snowmaking Report: Rich noted that they hope to complete making snow on sections 3b and 3c of the snowmaking loop in the next two days. So far 467 volunteer hours have been logged for snow making. It was also evident as they moved "into the woods" that more tree trimming will be needed in some areas before next season.

"Out Wi Go": This DNR-sponsored winter activity event will be held at Lapham Peak on January 11, 2020, from noon to 4PM. They are looking for volunteers to provide adult and child ski lessons on the snowmaking loop.

Veterans Group: John M. reported that CXC brought a group of veterans from the Zablocki VA center recreational therapy group for mental health and homeless veterans to try skiing on the man-made snow. REI provided the equipment and lessons were also provided. They plan to return on January 27 with another group. This is an excellent example of the wide variety of ways this snowmaking project has grown to benefit the community.

Fund Raising/Publicity: Charlie R. reported that Chelsea Lewis from the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel visited the park on December 11 to gather information for a segment on her outdoor column. She rode in the snowcat with Beattle and walked the whole snowmaking trail. The paper will send a drone to take overhead pictures for her article planned for the end of December or early January. Charlie R. & Will E. met with Joe Liebau, Secretary's Director for Southeast Wisconsin DNR, to discuss the overall plan for snowmaking and invited him to join the efforts to find funds to support this ongoing project. The e-mail blast to be sent by the Birkie office was reviewed by Charlie Dee of the ABSF and will be sent now and again later in the winter. He stressed that our fund-raising message needs to be consistent, professional, and convenient offering an opportunity for those who have the means to make a difference. Charlie R. also noted that after checking with the Waukesha State Bank it was decided that a Venmo account for donations would not be feasible at this time.

Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek