

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Hausmann Nature Center
January 21, 2020 6:00 PM-8:10 PM

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

Next meetings: February 25, March 10, March 24, April 14, April 28 at 6PM at Hausmann Nature Center. **Note that we will use the lower driveway door to enter and leave the building for all meetings.**

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of December 17 approved. Joanne Z. will notify Mary Ellen B. to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

Meeting Set Up Duties: Anne R. requested help with setting up for the meetings and asked that committee members try to arrive at 5:45 in order to complete set up to start the meetings at 6:00PM. Joanne Z. will request the DNR to have the building ready for meetings with lights and heat. She and/or Anne R. will unlock the downstairs doors and lock them after the meeting. Rick B. will set up and put away the large screen. Mike G. will set up and put away the projector. Charlie R. will arrange tables in a U shape for meeting and return tables to MPS set up after the meeting. Anne R. will set up and put away the computer. Any committee member may assist with any task as needed.

Sandgren Sign at Birkie Trail 3K Marker: A notice has been received from Andun Mikkelson with the Birkie that as of January 31, 2020, there will be a charge of \$300 per year to keep this sign on the Birkie trail. A 3-year commitment is required. The group decided not to recommend paying this fee and to ask to have the sign returned after its removal for possible placement at Lapham Peak. One idea would be to place Paul's sign somewhere near the trail head, perhaps in a new kiosk with a map of the trails. This idea will be pursued later but the wording on the sign would be very appropriate for such a location. The sign reads, "**Paul Sandgren, The heart, soul, and laughter of Nordic skiing in the South Kettle Moraine.**"

Snowcat Demo: Beattle presented considerations for choosing whether to purchase a Prinoth Husky or a Pisten Bully 100 snowcat. We had the use of a Prinoth for 19 days and it performed very well. Beattle is still working with the Pisten Bully rep to get a demo of their machine. Considerations include maintenance costs, availability of a mechanic, warranties, preventive maintenance plan costs, snow spreading ability of the large man-made snow wales produced for cross country skiing, and obtaining a formal price quote. Rich M. showed a comparison chart with focus on torque and horse power, weight and blade size of our current ancient LMC, Pisten Bully 100, Prinoth Husky, and two models of Snow Rabbit. This showed that the Prinoth Husky and the Pisten Bully 100 (2019 model) were clearly the machines with the qualifications needed for our use which is primarily for man-made snow making. The next step is for some of the committee members to meet with the reps from both companies within the next two weeks. Beattle will arrange these meetings on a more informal basis.

Snowcat Financing: Will E. presented a sample snowcat financing scenario noting that the loan would be re-set annually at the prime rate. His example used annual snowmaking income of \$75,000, minus \$10,000 for operating expenses, leaving \$65,000 available for capital and debt. It was proposed that a deadline for snowcat donations be set as February 15 this year. This would allow time to present a summary to the FLP board with the goal of ordering a new machine in March to be delivered near the

end of the year for the 2020-2021 season. Rick VonHaden sent a document listing questions from the FLP board. These will be answered by Rich & Beattle with input from other committee members.

Snowcat Building: Beattle has access to equipment for site prep and a contact for a mason to pour the concrete pad. Jason Parmann is interested in putting up the structure for only the cost of materials and labor along with the use of volunteer labor. Currently the thought is for construction to begin in late spring or early summer of 2020. Beattle plans to follow up with Jason on this option. Beattle mentioned that old rubber conveyer belts can be used as an inexpensive option to drive the snowcat on for storage in the shed to avoid damage to the concrete.

HWY C Pedestrian Safety Crossing: It was noted that there is an initiative by a Peak Nordic parent to increase safety for pedestrians and roller skiers when crossing HWY C near the Evergreen parking lot.

Finances: Anne R. gave a general estimate of snowmaking funds starting with \$65,000 as of the end of September plus new deposits through January 18, 2020, for a total of \$130,400 noting that expenses still need to be subtracted and the profits from Fright Hike still need to be added. There was a good response from the December 23, 2019, holiday mailing with address corrections received for 17 people. Of note, individuals, not businesses, are the largest source of snowmaking income as donors.

Veterans Group: John M. reported that CXC will be bringing another group of veterans from the Zablocki VA center recreational therapy group to try skiing on the man-made snow on January 27.

Outdoor Wisconsin Filming: The crew plans to film at 11:00 AM on January 22, 2020, with January 23 as a back up date. Rich will have a snow gun ready to demo, Beattle will be available to run the snowcat, Charlie R. and Anne R. will be interviewed, John M. and a few others will be there skiing.

Fund Raising/Publicity: Charlie R., Anne R. and John M. met with John Budzinski, DNR Field Integration Leader for southeast WI and Sara deBruijn, DNR Grant Project Manager/Community Financial Assistance for southeast WI on January 13 in Waukesha to discuss possible funding sources for the snowmaking project. John M. requested that the DNR consider covering operating expenses for snowmaking which average about \$10,000 per year. Charlie R. is working with the Birkie office to determine when they will send the pay it forward e-mail blast. Charlie and Will E. will make a presentation to the Delafield Tourism Commission on February 11 requesting a donation of \$10,000 for the snowmaking project.

Grooming Ideas from Skiers: An e-mail account, LaphamSnowmaking@gmail.com, has been set up for public use to submit ideas/suggestions from skiers about grooming and possible event planning regarding the ski trails. These will be funneled through Beattle, Kris Maki, and Anne R. and given to the DNR as appropriate.

Bike Doc Ski Shop Fun Meal: The Bike Doc would like to throw a little "thank you" party for the snowmaking group. Beattle will follow up and get details for a date in April or May.

Events: The "Out Wi Go" DNR sponsored event scheduled for January 11 was cancelled due to icy roads. The January 1, 2020, Celebrate Man-Made Snow event recorded 2308 K by 159 skiers plus another 208K covered by 39 people by bike, hike, run, etc. Tom Davenport & John Hillmer were the photographers. Peak Nordic and Lapham Peak Ski clubs helped to make this day a tremendous success.

Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek