

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Hausmann Nature Center  
February 25, 2020 6:15 PM-8:15 PM

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

**Next meetings:** 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 January 21 approved. Joanne Z. will notify Mary Ellen B. to distribute and post to the website as appropriate and copy John Hillmer who will take over in March. Mary Ellen is resigning to pursue new career interests. We thank her for her many years of service.

**2019 Volunteer Hours Needed:** Louise B. noted that many of the committee members still need to compile their hours related to snowmaking and give them to her. Anne R. collected the numbers at the end of the meeting to give to Louise B. to report them to the Wisconsin DNR.

**Sandgren Sign at Birkie Trail 3K Marker:** Anne R. brought the sign back after the Birkie. Discussion will be held at a future meeting as to the best location. We still hope to pursue the construction and placement of a new kiosk near the trail head and this would seem an ideal place for it. The sign reads, *"Paul Sandgren, The heart, soul, and laughter of Nordic skiing in the South Kettle Moraine."*

**Snowcat Recommendation:** Beattle A. and Rich M. presented their recommendation for a snowcat purchase based on a large amount of information that they collected from talks with operators at many ski areas in Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, and Colorado plus meetings that some of the committee members had with the sales reps from both Prinoth and Pisten Bully and from Beattle's experience operating both demo machines. Both companies had provided a demo machine and both machines performed well, though the weather didn't cooperate equally. Rich passed around copies of a spread sheet summarizing similarities, differences, and advantages between the two machines. There was also discussion about why we should buy a new machine vs a used or demo one due to possible pre-existing damage to the machine with little financial savings and lack of a warranty for service. There was a lengthy discussion covering many points including service and support. The conclusion was to select the Pisten Bully for our purchase. Beattle was asked to obtain the final quote from Pisten Bully based on a few requested items in order for the committee to proceed with their recommendation to the FLP board on March 4. A discussion on the future use of the current LMC machine took place and will be further discussed later in the year.

**FAQ Regarding Snowcat:** Questions had been received from the Lapham Peak Ski Club and from Rick VonHaden of the FLP board. Will E. presented a short document addressing these questions and asked for any corrections or additions before it will be published on the web site for our many donors to see.

**LUA Amendment Proposal:** John M. presented a proposed amendment to the LUA that he has sent to the DNR that would allow the Friends to retain ownership of the new snowcat while operating it on DNR property. We are awaiting their approval.

**Snowcat Financing and Insurance:** Will E. will confirm the snowcat loan details from an individual snowmaking supporter to share with the committee members who will meet with the FLP board on

March 4 to obtain their approval for the financing plan. Rich showed a detailed spreadsheet of several scenarios indicating that in all cases we would be able to maintain a sufficient balance in the snowmaking funds while paying off the loan in 8 years or even less, depending on any significant increase in donations from supporters. It was noted that snowmaking already has a good track record of using funds wisely and was able to pay off the \$240,000 for the total Phase III project in the 3 years it took to complete it. Will continues to look for appropriate insurance coverage for the snowcat and other machinery and welcomes any leads.

**Snowcat Building:** John M. and Rich M, along with input from Beattle A., have been working with architect Bruce Wydeven who is revising the plans to more closely match those from Menards. Hartland Overhead Garage Door company, one of our supporters, would likely be contacted to install the door. Rich M. will be meeting with Steve Joda who might be willing to coordinate the project working with several volunteers. Rich will also have Steve review the detailed plans for input and possible changes. We are also waiting to hear if we will receive any funding toward the building from our grant proposal that John M. submitted. Rich and John will be meeting with the DNR on March 16<sup>th</sup> to review the plans and then have Bruce W. make a final set of changes during the following weeks.

**Snowcat Operators and Groomers:** Sean Becker will be joining Beattle and Mark Janis next season as groomers. It is anticipated that Pisten Bully will provide training for the operation of their machine.

**Fright Hike:** The committee agreed to extend the same contract to Angie for the 2020 Fright Hike. Anne R. gave final financial information including the ticket sales from WePay showing a profit of \$46,000. Of this amount the Friends' net is \$11,500 with \$10,500 going to snowmaking and \$1000 to the Habitat Restoration group. These funds still need to be transferred in the treasurer's report.

**Fund Raising/Publicity:** The ABSF sent out our email blast on February 3, 2020, requesting donations for a new snowcat in support of snowmaking near us. Ten donations for a total of \$570.50 have come in via PayPal as of February 17. Charlie R. made a presentation to the Delafield Tourism Commission who said they would likely provide some funds for snowmaking in the fall of 2020.

Outdoor Wisconsin filmed on January 22, 2020. We are to be notified when it will air.

Travel Wisconsin.com filmed cross country skiing at Lapham on February 1, 2020 to use on their website for winter getaway ideas. It was also noted how busy the park has been on weekends this winter with 976 cars counted in one day on February 16, 2020, with many people enjoying the snow and the skiing.

**Bike Doc Ski Shop Fun Meal/Wax Clinics:** The Bike Doc would like to throw a little "thank you" party for the snowmaking group. A date of May 12 was suggested and Anne R. will contact Megan at the Bike Doc to work out details. Anne R. & Rich M. will coordinate the list of volunteers to invite. The donations to snowmaking from the wax clinics held at their shop are estimated to have raised \$600 and we thank them for their support.

**Moving Forward:** The decision reached is to go forward in the process to purchase a new Pisten Bully 100 once a final quote is verified. A presentation will be made to the FLP board on March 4 requesting approval for financing. The proposed LUA amendment needs to be approved by the DNR and we need to find the right company to provide insurance. The building plans are moving along as noted above.

**Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek**