

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Zoom  
June 30, 2020, 6:00 PM-7:47 PM

**Present via Zoom:** Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Joanne Ziarek, Will Edwards, Mike Graham, Rich Marusinec, Rick Bjodstrup, Mark Herr, John Hillmer (guest)

**Next meetings:** July 14, July 28, August 11, August 25 from 6PM to 7:45PM via Zoom until further notice.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of June 16 approved. Anne R. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

**Fright Hike:** Anne R. reported that she and Angela Lorbach had brainstormed about possible alternatives with so many events having already been postponed due to the pandemic. At this time it seems that it would be best to postpone the Fright Hike to October of 2021. John Hillmer then led a discussion about holding a different event in the fall as a possible fundraiser. It could involve a hike in the woods, some sort of lighting on the trails, online ticket sales to manage the capacity and spacing of attendees, and a different name to avoid any confusion with the Fright Hike expectations. John will meet with Anne K. and Colton to propose this idea. A subcommittee of Mike G., Joanne Z., and Anne R. will assist John with planning if DNR gives their approval. One of the main concerns is the requirement for physical distancing and the announcement by the DNR that as of July 13 groups of up to 50 may gather for camping but further clarification will be needed. The group will solicit input from other interested members if the plan can go forward. The group is to report to the committee at the July 28 meeting.

**Stewardship Friends Grant:** John M. announced that the Friends have received a \$20,000 grant from this fund to use toward the cost of the Winter Recreation Storage Building (WRSB) construction. It will be matched with cost of materials and volunteer labor hours and John verified that he will keep track of both items. The first \$10,000 has arrived. After we spend \$40,000 on the WRSB John M. can submit proof we have spent that amount including equity from volunteer hours. Then the WI DNR will send us the remaining \$10,000.

**Winter Recreation Storage Building Update:** John M. presented detailed drawings and description of the site plan. He will set the stakes to guide Beattle in excavating the site. John explained the process necessary for the site preparation sequence. The committee thanked John M. for his detailed work. We are still awaiting state government approvals from DOA and DNR. Beattle, Rich M., and John M. met with the general contractor and the mason on June 22. Rich M. expects to have estimates for the cost of materials in the next 2-3 weeks from Menards and Bliffert Lumber. It was noted that the trusses need a 6-week lead time so need to be ordered in mid-July with the rest of the building materials to be ordered in August. The service door is being donated and will be ordered in the next week. The plan is to use a keyed lock with a box. Rich M. will follow up on electrical needs.

**Volunteer Update from WI DNR:** Per an e-mail sent 6/19/2020, volunteers can work if no instruction is needed and if DNR staff will not be using the same equipment after used by volunteers.

**New Kiosk:** Mark H. reported that the Eagle Scouts are ready for this project when plans are approved & completed. The DNR is awaiting plans once they are received from WinMan. It was suggested that brush should be cleared out at the trail entrance where the kiosk is to be placed. Rich M. will discuss with DNR as the Friends can use funds from the trail restoration grant.

**Fundraising Offer:** The Peak Nordic Ski club has offered to help raise funds for snowmaking via volunteering at the Birkebeiner which pays volunteers up to \$1000 per organization. This generous offer is much appreciated. Anne R. will follow up with the Birkie office.

**Building Site Sign:** Mark H. noted that once we receive DNR & DOA approval for the building he will present a mock up of a sign that could be used for publicity in a “Coming Fall 2020” and placed near the site of the new building announcing the construction and requesting fund raising support. He will solicit input from committee members to present at the July 14 meeting.

**Fundraising Campaign Fall Timeline:** Will E. will work with Charlie R. to start publishing information in late August about the new Pisten Bully 100 and the building progress along with donation opportunities to help pay for both of them. They will also have everything in place for a loan if needed to pay for the balance due on the Pisten Bully and the building. Other ideas for publicity would be to coordinate a “showing” of the Pisten Bully at a late fall meeting of the Lapham Peak Ski Club and also to hold some sort of ground breaking event for the building with donors invited and possible newspaper coverage. Information can also be shared in the annual holiday mailing.

**Website Update:** John Hillmer and Steve Davis have updated the LaphamPeakSnowmaking.org website. Many thanks to them! Please look through the changes and forward any suggestions to John H. or Anne R.

**Snow Cat Status:** Our new machine has arrived at the Pisten Bully facility in Jordan, MN where accessories are being installed. It will then be stored until we are ready for delivery in late fall. Beattle has discussed the sale of the current old LMC snowcat with Anne K. and will present more information at the July 14 meeting.

**Miscellaneous:** Beattle was authorized at the June 16 snowmaking meeting to pay for transport of the back hoe to Lapham Peak in August if payment is required.

- Reminder that Rick B. has offered to match the fifth largest donation from anyone who considers themselves a snowmaker up to \$5000 to help pay for the Pisten Bully 100. This is for any donations after April of 2020 and for the next fiscal year.
- Anne R. noted that the WI DNR Natural Resources Board website still says that they plan to meet on August 12, 2020, in Madison, though their approval is not needed to begin construction on the building.

**Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek**