

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Zoom  
September 22, 2020, 6:05 PM-8:00 PM

**Present via Zoom:** Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Joanne Ziarek, Mike Graham, Rich Marusinec, Rick Bjodstrup, Will Edwards, Charlie Ritter, Mark Herr, Colton Kelly (advisor), Anne Korman (advisor).

**Next meetings:** October 13, October 27, November 10, November 24, December 15 from 6PM to 7:45PM via Zoom until further notice.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of September 8 approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

**Attendance Numbers & Revenue from Lapham Peak:** Anne R. showed a table provided by the DNR with attendance numbers from the last 5 years showing that for the months of May, June, July, & August the attendance was the highest this year. Anne Korman noted that this did not correspond to an increase in revenue during that time as the entrance window was closed until September 4, 2020, relying on visitors to self-register or pay on line. The revenue figures were not available at this meeting and will be presented at the October 13 meeting of the snowmaking committee.

**Promotional Signs about WRSB and Snowcat:** The signage is now up along the road leading up to the tower and along the trail near the building site, thanks to Mark H. and Charlie R. It looks very professional. A donation box and envelopes are up on the trail side and will be added to the sign along the road too. There will also be an additional sign about the “Home Stretch” fund raising posted near the Evergreen shelter once details are finalized, particularly about payment methods. The plan is to update it as the funds come in.

**Winter Recreation Storage Building (WRSB) Update:** As noted in previous minutes approval was obtained from WI DNR via telephone and confirmed by Anne Korman via e-mail. Great Lakes Concrete & Masonry will be pouring the concrete slab for the building starting at 7AM on September 23. Rich M., John M., & Beattle will assist as needed. The insulation panels are on site so Beattle will be able to prepare the site to install them by the end of the week. The building materials are to be delivered by Bliffert on September 29 with the plan to start building on October 3 using a group of select volunteers approved by Steve Joda. John M. has been working on meeting the remaining WI DNR compliance requests and will be ordering a holding tank instead of the oil/sand separator. The plan would be to use the same company as the DNR uses to empty their holding tank and coordinate the scheduling. Rich M. reported that they have obtained the electrical permit from DSPS. The exhaust fan intake/ventilation system will be incorporated into the design plan by Bruce Wydeven. Mark H. plans to cover the cost of the WRSB signage and Rich M. will do the same for the building windows as donations to snowmaking for those amounts.

**Current Snow Cat Status:** Arrival is expected at Lapham on November 4 with Paul Scanlon and a technician. Beattle will help with the final assembly.

**Lapham Peak Ski Club Fall 2020 Newsletter:** John M. wrote a snowmaking report update. The “Home Stretch” fundraising flyer will be included as well. The newsletter will be mailed September 29 to approximately 200 members.

**Waukesha State Bank Loan Status:** Per a phone call on September 21 to Anne R. from Dan Flood at Waukesha State Bank the bank has approved a \$50,000 loan if needed. The snowcat is collateral for the loan.

**Insurance Coverage Update:** The inland marine coverage is in place for the Kobelco excavator from Miller Bradford & Risberg via Richards Insurance in Watertown, WI using our Secura policy. The premium was paid on September 15 for coverage as well for both the Link Belt Excavator and the Gehl Skid Steer. The payments will be \$300 monthly until the work is finished and then the coverage will be changed to specify the Pisten Bully 100.

**Volunteer Hours:** John M. needs all volunteer hours recorded in proper format with signatures for each task performed to fulfill requirements for the 2018 Enhancement Trail Restoration Grant and for Stewardship Grant # FR3-20-14. It was noted that some of the hours that will be spent in November trimming trees along the trail can be applied toward the trail grants.

**Fund Raising “Home Stretch” & Finance Report:** Will E. has visited some potential donors and received varying pledges. Charlie R. contacted Bruce Steinberg, editor of “Silent Sports” magazine which goes out to about 18,000 subscribers. They will do a feature article on us this fall after the WRSB is completed and the PistenBully 100 has been delivered. Will and Charlie also plan to meet with potential “significant” donors. Anne R. has also been in contact with some donors. She reported that since August 18 the FLP has received \$2433.76 designated for snowmaking. Our anonymous \$50,000 donor has been transferring stock to our FLP brokerage account at Waukesha State Bank. Anne R. reminded the group that a different donor has requested the addition of a donor category for \$50,000 and up.

**Reconciliation of FLP Snowmaking funds:** Joanne Z. and Anne R. met to compare the list of snowmaking income funds with the FLP treasurer’s reports from December 2019 - August 2020. One small discrepancy was found & cleared up with all other numbers matching. As of the August 2020 report the available snowmaking funds = \$127,780.91 which does not include the \$10,000 advance from the Stewardship Grant # FR3-20-14.

**Bike Doc Appreciation Event for Snowmakers:** This event will be held September 29 from 6-8PM at their shop on Main St. in Dousman.

**Possibility of Virtual Birkie at Lapham:** The snowmaking trails at Lapham Peak could be a viable location now that the ABSF has said that they will offer the option of a virtual Birkie. There was much discussion and sharing of ideas but it is impossible to make any plans at this time as we await the decision about the Birkie as well as dealing with the DNR rules regarding group size and events. Charlie R. and John M. will stay in touch with Ben Popp and Charlie Dee of the ABSF as more details are available.

**Fundraising Via Birkie Volunteer Hours:** Charlie R. and Anne R. will brainstorm for ideas when more information is available from the Birkie. It was noted by Mike G. that most Midwest and national ski races have been canceled and/or changed to virtual events for the 20-21 season.

**Bicycle Storage:** Mike G. and Rich M. sold the 3 best ones. Mike G., Anne R., Colton K, and Jay Abts delivered all the remaining bikes to Wheel & Sprocket in Delafield where they will be donated to and picked up by Dream Bikes. The FLP no longer have any used bicycles remaining from previous bike swaps stored on DNR property. Many thanks to all for their help.

**Kiosk:** This project will likely be planned for spring. Colton K. knows of a boy scout interested in this as his Eagle Scout project and has sent him the information. Mark H. is working on a master plan for the Evergreen trail head area which will include consideration of the optimum location for the kiosk. Some of the current signs will be replaced as needed since they are too old to be moved. It is possible that Summer Stage may wish to have an information panel on the kiosk and that will be considered when the time comes.

**Miscellaneous:**

- 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 PistenBully 100. This is for any donations after April of 2020 and for the next fiscal year.
- The Peak Nordic annual ski swap will be held outdoors on October 31 at the Bike Doc. Items can be dropped off at the store from October 1-23.
- Colton K. noted that more loads of chips have been delivered for spreading. He also said that the fire ring is nearly completed and will make a key gathering place for skiers at Evergreen this winter, especially while the building remains closed.
- Charlie R. will submit a written request for funding to the Delafield Promotion and Tourism Commission. At their latest meeting he reported that hotels in the area are starting to see an increase in business.
- Colton K. is continuing to work on finding a buyer for the old LMC snowcat. It is up for sale at this website: <https://www.wisconsinsurplus.com/cgi-bin/mmlist.cgi?rlust150/42015> . Bidding will end at 10AM on October 20, 2020. A \$5000 bid has already been received.
- Anne R. will send a request for a grant to the Nordic Ski Club of Milwaukee as they are planning to make a few smaller grants this year to various groups and have supported snowmaking for many years.
- The WI DNR Natural Resources Board website shows that meetings are planned for October 28 and December 9 in Madison.
- Sam Edwards continues to work on the details for using Facebook as a conduit for donations to the FLP snowmaking project.

**Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek**