

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
October 13, 2020, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Present via Zoom: Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Joanne Ziarek, Mike Graham, Rich Marusinec, Rick Bjodstrup, Will Edwards, Charlie Ritter, Beattle Adelmeyer, Anne Korman (advisor).

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

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of September 22 approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

Attendance Revenue from Lapham Peak: Anne R. showed a table provided by the DNR with revenue from the last 5 years showing that for the months of May, June, July, & August the attendance was the highest this year. However, 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. There was an actual decrease in revenue despite record attendance numbers.

Promotional Signs about WRSB and Snowcat: The sign about the “Home Stretch” fund raising is ready to be posted on the Summer Stage sign near the Evergreen shelter. The sign includes a QR code for ease of donation from cell phones that have the QR reader or App. The plan is to update the sign as the funds come in.

Winter Recreation Storage Building (WRSB) Update: Rich M. reported that the walls are up, the roof & shingles are on, and trim and door framing are complete. Steve Joda has been managing the crew along with Beattle & Rich. Rich noted that they have already logged approximately 400 volunteer hours so far. This exceeds the 300-hour requirement for the Stewardship grant match. John M. showed a spread sheet of expenses thus far toward the building that are needed to meet the expenses required by the matching grant. The garage doors are expected to be delivered in the next week from Hartland Overhead Garage Door company. Rich is still working on a schedule for the electrical work. With the remaining trim and siding left to be finished Rich estimated that the building is about 80% complete at this time. Beattle announced that he has bartered his services with a friend who will donate in kind approximately \$3000 to install the LP gas heating system for the building next season. Anne Korman expressed her appreciation to the FLP for their generosity in providing this building to the park.

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.

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. shared a photo of the building thus far and a posting for Facebook on October 14. He has been calling on donors and we still need at least \$55,000 to reach our goal of \$310,000. Anne R. will be sending an e-mail fund raising request to all donors with the “Home Stretch” flyer attached.

Open House Planning: Will and Charlie will complete a special event plan for holding an open house for the new PistenBully and the WRSB. The plan will include a COVID prevention plan. Charlie will check with Kris Maki who has submitted one for the Wednesday night ski races to get detailed information of what is needed. Currently any event is limited to a maximum of 50 people including any volunteers. Consideration is being given to invite groups of people for different dates and times.

Premiums for Major Donors: Will and Charlie brought up the idea of providing some kind of premium for major donors who have contributed since the August 18 “Home Stretch” campaign started. They are considering hats or buffs from Borah team wear and will bring more information and a plan at a future meeting.

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 for 2021. Charlie R. and John M. will stay in touch with Ben Popp and Charlie Dee of the ABSF as more details are available.

Contractor Recognition Sign: Charlie R. will get contact information, logos, and approval for the various contractors involved with the WRSB from John M., Rich M., Mark H., and Beattle. The plan is to replace the “coming this fall” signs with “thank you” signs listing the contractors after completion of the building.

Snowmaking Preparation: The group noted that we will need to find volunteers to support and help Rich M. with all the preparation work necessary to get ready to make snow.

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.

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. 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 bid of over \$6000 has already been received. It seems that a cabbage farmer might be interested in using it to gather up his crop or clean up his fields.

- 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.
- Anne R. noted that there has been a request to add an additional category for donors of \$50,000 and up to our original categories as listed on the website. These donors would be recognized with plaques in the Evergreen shelter similar to the other levels. Suggestions can be sent to Anne.
- 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