

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Zoom  
November 10, 2020, 6:10 PM-8:25 PM

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

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of October 27 approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

**Insurance:** The new Pisten Bully snowcat and the WRSB are covered including for liability. The Friends are awaiting acceptance of the donation of the WRSB to the DNR at their December 9 meeting in Madison. John will provide Anne Korman with building value information by November 15. Once the WRSB has been donated to the DNR it will be covered under WI DNR insurance.

**Winter Recreation Storage Building (WRSB) Update:** The garage doors are all in place but the two side doors are not yet operational. Steve Joda has finished the front gable and Rich M. has painted it. The exhaust/ventilation system is expected to be delivered on November 17 and, once it is in place, the remainder of the siding can be installed. They plan to blow insulation into the ceiling in the next few weeks. Rich is checking on the price for adding insulation to the walls as well. The electrical lines are in place and the electrical wall panels will be installed around November 23. Rich M. has had ten keys made and plans to have a lock box installed on the building. Scott Jackson has provided the bollards and John M., Colton, and John Hillmer will place them this week and secure them in the holes with concrete. John M. will paint them yellow. The propane tank is in place and the WI DNR will add it to their account at Milton Propane as soon as the donation of the building to the WI DNR is accomplished. Colton and John M. identified areas around the WRSB site needing annual rye grass. Other areas will be evaluated in the spring for wild flowers and tree planting.

**Current Snow Cat Status:** It arrived at Lapham on November 4 with Paul Scanlon. Beattle helped with the final assembly and signed the delivery paperwork. A check for the \$200,000 balance due was given to Paul Scanlon by Anne R. after inspection of the machine. Pictures were taken with those present in masks and 6 feet apart, including Sandy Sugden, a past snowmaking committee chair. Beattle drove the new machine into the new WRSB before dusk. Paul Scanlon has sent digital copies of all the signed delivery paperwork. The Kassbohrer company can provide ProAcademy training for up to 4 operators of the snow cat for \$340. The courses are available online for 12 months after this fee is paid. The committee agreed to pay for this training.

**Engine Warranty for Cummins Engine:** An extended warranty for years 3-5 for the snowcat engine at a cost of \$1000 was discussed. Beattle recommended this purchase which must be put

in place before the first use of the machine. The committee agreed to purchase this warranty. Any repairs would be done in Oak Creek. Colton will verify that the fuel used complies with the warranty specifications.

**Sale of LMC Snowcat:** The machine was loaded onto a transport truck on November 4 with assistance from two men from the Nub's Nob ski area that purchased the machine. The check for the \$18,000 purchase price has been received by Colton for the DNR. The money will be used by the DNR toward the purchase of a new Honda Pioneer 1000 UTV and tracks to be used for grooming. Colton noted that the WI DNR has offered to help pay for the remainder needed for the new machine. Colton also noted that Nub's Nob builds their own snow guns and has a patent for them.

**Fund Raising "Home Stretch" & Finance Report:** Anne R. sent an e-mail fund raising request to all donors on October 21 with the "Home Stretch" flyer attached. There has been a big response to the personal contacts, e-mails, and the publicity for the "Home Stretch" fundraising campaign toward raising the needed funds. Enthusiasm is everywhere in the Lapham Nordic Ski community and donations continue to come in helping us to pass our initial goal of raising \$72,000. Funds available were discussed and we will have an update in December when most of the WRSB expenses should be known. Will E. shared his postings from Facebook including videos of Mary Eloranta and Beattle. Charlie R. and Will E. will work on pivoting from a successful Home Stretch campaign to our next initiative. They will move the arrow on the sign at Lapham past the \$310,000 goal and leave the sign up through March. Funds will continue to be needed for operating expenses, completion of the WRSB, and Phase 4 snowmaking infrastructure. These will all benefit from continued donations. Plans for a large celebratory open house at the WRSB for the new PistenBully will have to be postponed till next year due to current COVID-19 restrictions.

**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. Colton has contacted Ben Popp to clarify if an event at Lapham could be held on dates that differ from the live Birkie February 24-28. Once everyone has chosen their Birkie race day Ben Popp will let Colton know the number of people who plan to ski the race virtually. Skiers have until mid-January to switch from live race to virtual.

**Snowmaking Preparations:** Rich M. noted that about 7 or 8 new volunteers plus one more DNR employee are ready for training and intend to work at least 4 shifts each of 4hrs in length in addition to the experienced volunteers on the schedule. Rick B. and John M. will work on placing the depth marking tape and stakes on the sides of the trails. Jim Bostrom has completed all the weed whacking around all the pedestals and hydrants and the DNR has finished mowing. Rich M., Mike Koester, and Anne R. met with Colton and Jay Abts on November 8 to discuss snowmaking plans. Rich will use SignUp.com for volunteers to sign up for shifts and will be sending a link to this site to his list of volunteers. Rich noted that tree trimming along the trails is planned for the last week of November.

**FLP Annual Meeting:** The Zoom meeting will be held November 11, 2020, with a report on snowmaking by John M. as the central theme. Anne R. suggested it would be good to have a large presence of the FLP snowmaking volunteers at the Zoom meeting. Minutes and reports from past annual meetings are published at <https://laphampeakfriends.org/about>.

**Corporate Donors Subcommittee:** Will E., Charlie R., Mark H. and Anne R. plan to meet to develop a new approach to advertising for our corporate donors including whether or not to continue to use the Penguin signs. WI DNR has restrictions for signs on trails so Charlie will check with Colton for future planning. Will E. and Charlie R. continue to investigate ideas for premiums for our larger donors.

**Tuesday Adult Ski Race:** Anne R. and Colton have submitted the special event permit application and the COVID mitigation plan to Madison. Jim Marschalek is willing to do the chip timing and report the results. The chip method with an antenna at the start/finish line needs to be tested. Currently there is likely to be a rolling start between 2PM and finish by 6:30PM. Anne R. has been brainstorming with Kris Maki and Jim Marschalek to work out plans with many more details needed to be worked out. Input from groomers is needed too. Mike G. suggested using a digital camera as a supplement to chip timing. Volunteers interested in helping are encouraged to contact Anne Riendl at [LaphamSnowmaking@gmail.com](mailto:LaphamSnowmaking@gmail.com).

**Lapham Peak Ski Club Fall Newsletter:** The LPSC has printed more copies of this well-designed newsletter for use in our fundraising. Charlie, R., Will E., and Anne R. will be using the majority of these copies for their contacts. Many thanks to the LPSC for donating these additional copies of their newsletter.

**Rick Bjodstrup Challenge Met:** Rick B. had offered to match the fifth largest donation from anyone who considers themselves a snowmaker up to \$5000 to help pay for the PistenBully 100. The challenge has been met raising \$40,000 with those six donations.

**Volunteer Hours Recording:** Anne R., Colton, and Jay plan to place a dry box with clipboard, pencil, and forms somewhere on the property so volunteers can record their name, task, date, time spent, and signature each time they do volunteer work.

#### **Miscellaneous:**

- 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 were received from Joanne Z. for consideration such as Polar Vortex, Ice Berg, Ice Cap, Everest, Yeti, Thundersnow, Arctic Cap, Snowcat. More suggestions are welcome.
- Karl Timm approved the plan by Anne R. and FLP board president Louise Borzynski has changed the address on the FLP monthly bank statement to the usual address of FLP to comply with Facebook's requirements to accept donations as a charitable organization.
- Rick B. plans to work on the holiday card and will send out the list of questions for the card.
- Charlie R. has submitted his request to the Delafield Promotion and Tourism Commission for \$10,000 per year starting in 2021.

- Teri Landowski, Susan Nakigane, Anne R., and Charlie R. are all working on thank you receipts to keep up to date with donations.
- Attendance at the park has set new records these past months requiring the park to close at times when it reaches capacity.
- Various signs have been ordered for snowmaking, safety around the snowcat, how to become a member of the FLP, etc.
- Paul and Rita Keber have continued to spread chips when Jay Abts notifies them that piles have been placed on the trail.
- The site for fundraising via Birkie volunteer hours is not open yet and it is unknown how many volunteers will be needed for this year's event. Charlie R. and Anne R. will follow.
- Mark Herr continues to work on the Evergreen area layout plan for the future.
- The Kiosk is planned for spring of 2021 with Mark H., Charlie R. and a possible Eagle Scout.
- The Fright Hike subcommittee plans to meet in February of 2021.

**Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek**