

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Zoom  
November 24, 2020, 6:00 PM-8:05 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), Anne Korman (advisor), Jim Marschalek (guest).

**Next meeting:** December 15 from 6PM to 7:45PM via Zoom until further notice.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of November 10 approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

**DNR Natural Resources Board:** The next meeting will be December 9 in Madison. Anne Korman stated that we are on the agenda for the January meeting to donate the WRSB to DNR.

**Winter Recreation Storage Building (WRSB) Update:** The exhaust/ventilation system is in place, but not hooked up. The final pieces of the system still needed are the sensors to meet the building code and a controller to turn it on when needed. The remainder of the back siding will be finished this weekend. 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 and the cost of paneling for the walls. Rich M., Anne R., and John M. will meet to decide if funds are available to cover this additional expense. Completion of the electrical work by Current Electric has been delayed somewhat with staff shortages due to COVID, but is expected to be completed by the end of the month. Scott Jackson has provided the bollards which have been installed and painted. 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. Snowmaking has paid for the first full tank of propane. Heaters have been installed near the ceiling and hooked up. Seals around the doors will be checked for any leaks. Mark H. asked if we should consider having a security camera on the building. Colton will check if this would meet DNR guidelines.

**Snowcat:** Rich M. has ordered the operator training package from the Kassbohrer company and will have Mark Janus go through it to evaluate the information. Beattle will then train the other drivers of the new snow cat. The warranty coverage cost of \$1000 for years 3-5 on the Cummins engine will be paid when Kassbohrer sends the invoice to the Friends. The company has cashed our \$200,000 check.

**Open Houses for WRSB & Snowcat:** The events planned for November 21 & 22 were cancelled after several donors expressed concerns about COVID-19. Will and Charlie had received WI DNR approval for the events and have saved all the pertinent documents for later. Sandy Sugden gave \$20 gift cards for the Lumber Inn in Delafield to the volunteers who worked on the WRSB to show her appreciation. The recipients appreciated her generosity. Charlie R. presented a list of over 30 suppliers and volunteers who donated products, services, and time to the WRSB project. He will send a thank you e-mail to them and get permission to put up their names on a thank you sign on the trail by the building.

**New Gator Purchase:** The money received by the DNR from the sale of the old LMC snowcat will be used toward the purchase of a new Honda Pioneer 1000 UTV and tracks to be used for grooming. Colton stated that the bidding process is still on-going but the tracks are purchased. He expects the machine to be available by the end of this ski season.

**Fund Raising “Home Stretch” & Finance Report:** 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, rearranging circuits on the pedestals to assure that each circuit has similar capabilities, and Phase 4 snowmaking infrastructure. These will all benefit from continued donations. The December 31, 2020, treasurer’s report will tell us if the FLP Snowmaking project is in the red or black.

**Publicity:** Chelsea Lewis from the Journal Sentinel plans to do a feature on Lapham Peak and the new snowcat. Charlie mentioned that the state tourism council is interested in advertising Lapham Peak as a winter jewel in the state. It’s unlikely that the Penguin signs will be used this year because DNR doesn’t allow signs that advertise businesses on the trails.

**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. An update is expected in December.

**Snowmaking Preparations:** The hoses have been moved into the new building, tree trimming along some of the trails will be done late next week as well as some hand trimming on the lighted trail. Rich M., Beattle, and Colton will meet before the start of grooming. Rich will send the link to SignUp.com to the snowmaking volunteers to fill the needed shifts. They are waiting for cold morning weather to test the system and do a training session with the new volunteers.

**FLP Annual Meeting:** The Zoom meeting was held November 11, 2020, with a report on snowmaking by John M. as the central theme. His presentation on snowmaking history to the present is now available via links on our web page at [LaphamPeakSnowmaking.org](http://LaphamPeakSnowmaking.org) and the video is available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WF1LzdsrxQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WF1LzdsrxQ)

**Tuesday Adult Ski Race:** Anne R. and Colton submitted the special event permit application and the COVID mitigation plan to Madison and it has been approved. Jim Marschalek is willing to do the chip timing and report the results. Currently there is likely to be a rolling start between 2PM and finish by 6:30PM. Anne R. has been brainstorming with Kris Maki, Chris Peske, and Jim Marschalek to work out plans. Jim M. explained how the chip timer with antenna would work with discussion about where to mount the antenna as well as the optimum chip size to give a larger reading area. The Tuesday race would be used to test this new format and be less competitive than the Wednesday night races. Skiers would sign up for the whole series at once and would need to keep their chips and numbers for the whole series. An announcement will be sent out to sign up after Jim M. has finished his testing. Volunteers interested in helping are encouraged to contact Anne Riedl at [LaphamSnowmaking@gmail.com](mailto:LaphamSnowmaking@gmail.com).

**Holiday Card:** Rick B. showed the design & questions to the committee and the plan is to send the cards out the first week of December.

**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. This will be set up in the spring.

**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.
- Attendance at the park has set new records these past months requiring the park to close at times when it reaches capacity. Currently the park is required to close when they have reached 75% of the parking spaces capacity. Sunny days have been a big draw.
- Colton shared information on the 2021 park and trail passes and suggested it would be very helpful if we could encourage people to order online or via telephone at 888-305-0398 as of December 1 to avoid long lines at the entrance. Joanne Z. will contact representatives from the Nordic Ski club and the Lapham Peak ski club as well as their Facebook page and ask them to share the information with their club members.
- 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**