

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
January 12, 2021, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

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

Next meetings: January 26, February 9, March 9 & 23 from 6PM to 7:45PM via Zoom until further notice.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of December 15 approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

DNR Natural Resources Board: Anne Korman noted that we are on the agenda for the January 27 meeting to donate the WRSB to DNR. She will provide details to the committee so that John M. can “attend” virtually as our representative.

WE Energies Bill: Rich M. will compile a summary of our average electrical costs per ski season for the past two years.

Snowcat Operators: Beattle & Mark J. are the only two operators allowed in the cab at this time due to COVID restrictions. Beattle noted that it takes about 3 hours to groom the whole man-made loop. To date they have logged 115hrs and 8.5 miles on the snowcat. There has been great feedback from the skiers about the excellent grooming and trail conditions.

Winter Recreation Storage Building (WRSB) Update: The final electrical inspection will be completed in the next month after the interior walls are closed in and the sensors are working. Rich M. noted that the wall boards and insulation are on order and installation work will start in the next couple of weeks. The sensors for the ventilation system have been installed and tested, but they will need to be calibrated every year. Anne K. will notify the committee when Madison DNR has given approval to place a security camera on the building. The Port-A-John has been placed next to the building as requested. Will clarified that once the WRSB has been officially donated to the DNR their insurance will take over coverage for the building and everything inside it except the Pisten Bully which the Friends policy will continue to cover. John M. shared a spreadsheet showing the various expense categories for the WRSB so far for a total of \$81,760. Note that \$20,000 dollars of this cost are covered by the Friends Stewardship Grant, and another \$10,000 is in the value of donated materials and equipment usage.

Thank You Sign: Charlie R. & Mark H. announced that the thank you sign has been placed on the trail by the WRSB listing over 30 suppliers and volunteers who donated products, services, and time to the building project. Charlie reported that everyone that he contacted said that they were happy with the building and enjoyed working on it and/or contributing to it.

Fundraising: Will and Charlie proposed an appreciation campaign while noting that there are still opportunities for donating. They will work on details. The sign pointing to the donation tube

at the trailhead at Evergreen is now up. Anne noted that many donors have included thank you notes with their checks. Donations continue to come in and will be needed for operating expenses, hydrant repairs, rearranging electrical circuits to the pedestals, completion of the WRSB, and Phase 4 infrastructure. Rick B. sent out another 175 holiday cards to donors who were “new” from 2018-2020. He reported sending out a total of 685 cards.

Publicity: Charlie reported that PBS has canceled any new episodes of Outdoor Wisconsin due to COVID and that the footage they shot in early 2020 will likely be saved for 2021. Charlie also reported that he had been in touch with Bruce at Silent Sports who indicated that they would like to help with our fund raising both in their magazine and on their website. He will work with them on this idea. It was decided that no more local publicity was needed at this time as the park has had periods of closure on weekends due to reaching their allowed capacity. Charlie will postpone contacting Chelsea Lewis at the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel for now.

New Trail Map on Kiosk: Charlie R. & Mark H. posted an updated overall park trail map on the current kiosk for this winter to help skiers and hikers. It was also suggested that more signage for the snowmaking loop would help skiers and a separate map showing the length of each segment of the man-made loops would be useful.

Snowmaking: Rich M. noted that snowmaking has gone very well. They worked steadily for 72hrs from 12/24-12/26 and are mostly done for the season. They will check for any low spots and make additional snow during the next cold spell. He has sent thank you e-mails to all 34 volunteer snowmakers. He will also provide a summary of their hours that is needed for the annual FLP report to the WI-DNR.

Tuesday Time Trial Race: Jim Marschalek still has some openings for this event with a rolling start between 2PM and a finish by 6:30PM. The chip method has been working to time skiers as they are becoming more accustomed to using it.

Virtual Birkie on Snowmaking Trails at Lapham: Anne K. noted that she and Colton Kelly will be in touch with Ben Popp this week to discuss various options including having Lapham Peak be one of their partners for the virtual event and the possibility of extending the time frame for the virtual Birkie.

Miscellaneous:

- Anne R. expressed thanks to John Hillmer for his help with signage and reporting for the first day hike/ski on January 1, 2021. Participants logged 549 K skied, 78.1 miles hiked, and 6.4 miles snowshoed.
- Rick B. suggested “Snow Angel” as a possible name for the new category which will be needed for donors who give >\$50,000.
- A phone call was received by Louise Borzynski, FLP President, from Jim K. requesting that someone contact him at 217-502-0430. He is a representative of the Muskegon, MI, Winter Sports Complex that is a concessionaire with one of the Michigan state parks and would like information about our snowmaking operation. Anne R. is looking for a volunteer to contact him.

- Anne K. noted that the purchase of the new Honda gator by the DNR has been delayed for now, partly due to the bidding process currently in place.

Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek