

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
February 9, 2021, 6:05 PM-8:05 PM

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of January 26 approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

DNR Natural Resources Board: The FLP group was on the agenda for the January 27 meeting to donate the WRSB to the DNR. John M. spoke via Zoom on behalf of the Friends and snow making.

New Trail Signage & Maps: John M. provided a simple map showing various loops and distances on the man-made snow as well as information on distances and ratings for the other trails to help with skiers planning their virtual Birkie events. These were enlarged by Mark H. and he and Charlie R. posted them on the trailside kiosk. Colton sent the information to the ABSF for their website.

Fundraising: Will E. is continuing to casually talk to individuals who haven't donated yet this season. Funds will also be coming from the virtual Lapham Loppet, the Wednesday night ski series, and the Tuesday time trial series. Anne R. noted that the Friends financial records are currently being set up on QuickBooks for this fiscal year. She also noted that the number of donors has increased with over 500 names on the list. This is very encouraging to have a wide base of support.

Grooming: Beattle and Mark Janis along with the DNR staff have a well-coordinated teamwork effort to provide trail grooming nearly every day. Mark and Rick Hayes will finish out the Pisten Bully grooming season after Beattle takes a break. They have consistently been able to groom the lighted loop along with the man-made loop due to the abundance of natural snow in January. Grooming will continue as long as good snow conditions exist for using the equipment. Snow conditions should be consistently updated on the trail reports to encourage skiers to come. Colton K. noted that the park logged 84,400 visitors in January which is the highest attendance ever for any month. They have had to close briefly for part of each weekend due to capacity limitations or the count might have reached 90,000. Again, there has been a lot of appreciation expressed on the trail reports to the groomers for the great conditions.

Snowcat: Beattle reported 190 usage hours on the Pisten Bully so far. Proper maintenance is being provided. He noted that the free loaner snow cutter attachment hasn't been needed so far this winter due to lack of the usual freeze/thaw cycles that can result in boiler plate conditions. However, we will need to purchase our own snow cutter once the new model is available as it will likely be needed for our "usual" winter conditions.

Winter Recreation Storage Building (WRSB) Update: Rich M. reported that the inside work has nearly all been completed with the help of volunteers who installed and painted the walls. The electrical line for the 480 receptacle is still needed and when that is in place the final electrical inspection can be done. John M. will send the final plans for the building to Anne K. so that everything can be switched to DNR ownership, including the propane billing. Anne K. will notify Mark H. when Madison DNR has given approval to place a security camera on the building so that he can order the camera.

Snowmaking: Rich M. will order maintenance parts for some of the snow guns in order to be ready when they perform the annual equipment maintenance in April.

DNR 10 Year Plan: Colton gave a brief summary of his “wish list” that was submitted to the WI DNR under their 10-year capital development backlog for the next budget. This included a new Evergreen shelter, road & trail improvements, and expanded parking lots among other things.

Miscellaneous:

- Rich M. suggested the need for an end of season newsletter and solicited ideas for topics to include with the season summary.
- Rick B. supplied a detailed spreadsheet of trail segment distances that also included the vertical rise for anyone wishing to compete with themselves to compare their time and vertical climb for an “actual vs virtual” Birkie event.
- Colton reported that the new kiosk eagle scout project is moving forward for spring. He showed the proposed drawings from the scout and it was suggested to add plexiglass doors to the information posting sections. The plan is to build it off site and assemble it in the designated area including a concrete base area.
- It was noted that the timing shed may require some repairs in the future.
- The virtual Birkie events may be completed February 20-28 at Lapham and many other venues. The ABSF will provide banners for Lapham Peak.

Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek