

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
March 9, 2021, 6:00 PM-7:20 PM

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

Next meetings: March 23, April 13 & 27, May 11 & 25, June 15 & 29 from 6PM to 7:45PM via Zoom until further notice.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of February 9 approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

Lapham Peak Ski Club Donation: The LPSC plans to present a check to support snowmaking at their bonfire gathering near Evergreen shelter on March 16. John M. will accept in Anne R.'s absence.

Virtual Birkie, Kortelopet, & Prince Haakon: These events were held from February 20-28 at Lapham Peak and elsewhere. John M. and Charlie R. were there many of those days and engaged with individuals from all over. The signs and maps that were posted in the kiosk at the trail head will be saved for next winter. There were many positive comments on the excellent grooming and trail conditions. Charlie also tried to encourage fund raising from individuals. He will check with the ABSF to get the number of virtual participants at Lapham and report back to the committee. There were interesting stories from people who traveled from far away to complete their events at Lapham and/or had made several trips to ski there. One person had made six trips from Des Moines just to ski there. Another skier had been coming regularly from December 27 to March 8 making a 67-mile round trip just because they knew they could count on good grooming. Someone else had a friend who came from Hawaii to ski their virtual Birkie.

Fundraising: Charlie R. and Will E. are considering making fund raising presentations to the Northern Illinois Nordic club and the Joliet Ski Club. We hope to see some money from the ABSF for volunteering during the in person Birkie. Charlie R. continues to work with the City of Delafield to coordinate publicity for events at Lapham. They will advertise guaranteed winter skiing to bring people to their hotels. They might be interested in supporting larger races, both running and skiing. Anne K. will check if DNR rules would allow the Delafield Chamber of Commerce to advertise on our new kiosk and will report back to the committee. It was noted that Albrecht's Coffee has a brand called Lapham Peak Brew and that spurred some discussion of how to capitalize on that brand name.

Virtual Lapham Loppet & Ski Leagues: Kris Maki organized the Lapham Loppet as a virtual event this year and continued with the Wednesday night ski league in limited capacity. Jim Marshalek ran the Tuesday adult time trial events and would like to have some end of season wrap up discussion and planning for next season. Many people enjoyed the freedom of skiing during the day within a set time period. These three events brought in over \$6000 to benefit snowmaking despite the COVID 19 pandemic. This was even more than last year!!

Grooming: Grooming will continue as long as good snow conditions exist for using the equipment. There has been a lot of appreciation expressed on the trail reports to the groomers for the great conditions.

Snowcat: Routine maintenance and fluid replacement will be completed in preparation for summer storage as well as repair of one of the track setters. There will be a new supplier of diesel fuel for next season.

Winter Recreation Storage Building (WRSB) Update: Rich M. reported that the final electrical inspection has been done and everything passed. Anne K. notified Mark H. that Madison DNR has given approval to place a security camera on the building. Mark has ordered the camera which will be installed the morning of April 14 followed by orientation and training in its use with Anne K., Colton K., and Rich M. John M. noted that all outstanding bills have been paid that have been submitted. He has also compiled all the data needed to finalize the details for submission for reimbursement from the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Grant #FR3-20-14. He will submit all the paperwork to Colton K. for DNR approval. The sign thanking all the contractors will be removed at the end of skiing season and posted inside the building. There was discussion related to the need for improving the drive area from the building to the trail to avoid having gravel picked up by the snowcat. Some suggestions were to obtain more used conveyer belts such as are already in use inside the building and lay them down and cover with man-made snow. The area immediately outside the building door would need to be substantial enough to support the turning of the machine, possibly using permeable pavers. The DNR will remove the Porta Pottie that is next to the building. There will also need to be final site work such as seeding, straw, clean up, more gravel, etc. in the spring when the weather is better.

Snowmaking: Rich M. has ordered maintenance parts for snow guns #1 & 2 in order to be ready when they perform the annual equipment maintenance in April. They will thoroughly flush the system to keep debris out of the line, lock all pedestals, change oil in the guns, remove hydrant handles, remove tape & depth stakes, close up and shut down for the season.

Publicity: Chelsea Lewis did two articles this winter for the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel and will do a kick off article for next season's ski season at the end of 2021. The "Outdoor Wisconsin" segment that was filmed for Channel 10 will likely be used next season.

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. shared the topo map that he is finishing. He plans to print it in a 3ft x 4ft format to be hung in the Evergreen shelter. Comments & suggestions were offered for his consideration as he nears completion of this project.
- The new kiosk location will be discussed after checking with Digger's Hotline. John M. noted that he could help with that contact.

Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek