

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Zoom  
April 27, 2021, 6:00 PM-7:45 PM

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

**Next meetings:** May 11 & 25, June 15 & 29 from 6PM to 7:45PM via Zoom until further notice.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of April 13 approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

**CCSAA Zoom Meeting:** Charlie reported on the cross-country ski area assoc. meeting that he “attended” via Zoom on April 14 & 15. There were 60 ski areas represented with Lapham Peak being the only site operating at a state park. This generated interest from the group and Charlie felt that it was a good net-working experience. The web site has more information for anyone who is interested [www.CCSAA.org](http://www.CCSAA.org).

**Park Attendance:** Anne R. reported that the monthly attendance at Lapham Peak for March was 52,465. With 3 months to go for the DNR’s fiscal year they have already logged 568,507 visitors to the park. This will likely be a record year.

**Peak Nordic Donation:** The Peak Nordic ski club donated \$2000 to the Friends Snowmaking project this month bringing their total contribution over the years to \$13,023. We continue to explore ways for Peak Nordic, Lapham Peak Ski Club and Snowmaking to support each other.

**Snow Cat:** It was reported on Beattle’s behalf that Paul Scanlon will be coming May 5 to show them how to prepare the Pisten Bully for summer storage including raising it up on blocks. They hope to wash & wax the cab before then. Charlie & Mark will check with Beattle to see when they can do this.

**Winter Recreation Storage Building (WRSB) Update:** Mark H. reported that the security camera was installed the morning of April 14 followed by orientation and training in its use with Mark, Colton K., and Rich M. The DNR will post a surveillance sign notification. Rich noted that there is now a file cabinet inside the building which will contain all the documentation about the building. The garage door company is coming next week to install new front windows and add a garage door opener. John M. mentioned that the water level in the holding tank was higher than expected. He and Colton K. are working on a plan to empty the tank and observe for any signs of seepage. John will also talk to Colton about seeding the areas around the building and cleaning up the area.

**Snowmaking:** The snow gun maintenance has been completed and the guns stored in the WRSB. Jim M. will help with the pump house maintenance. Most of the stakes and markers have been removed. The two leaking hydrants were dug up and both had cracks in the casting. John M. contacted Rogers Hydrant Co. and they are shipping two replacement hydrants fully

assembled plus 4 casting pieces to replace at no cost the castings on the other four hydrants purchased in 2018. He will work with DNR staff to replace the hydrants and fill the holes with stone & dirt. John has removed the handles from all the hydrants in the Phase III section to keep curious hikers from opening them. Rich M. has finished the wrap up information on snowmaking to be used for next season. He is also reviewing the electrical charges from the season and will meet with Rick B. and Anne R. to discuss them.

**Fundraising:** Will E. shared an anecdote about introducing two donors who happened to be at the same place but didn't know each other. They were quite pleased to meet. This was an example of the importance of personal contact and expressing thanks to our donors. He and Charlie still plan to have some sort of thank you event for our donors later this year, whenever the DNR increases the number of people who can gather at an event from the current 100.

**Sample Space Needs:** Anne R showed a preliminary space needs program developed by Mark H for the proposed replacement of the Evergreen Shelter.

**Insurance:** Dan Wiley mentioned at the April 7 FLP Board meeting that he would like to see our current insurance policy. Will E. will send him a digital copy of the policy.

**Possible Snow Gun Purchase:** Rich M. showed a document for considerations to be discussed at the next meeting showing why we should purchase a new Standard Snow gun sooner than shown in our Development, Operation, and Maintenance Plan for Snowmaking.

**Donor Recognition:** An additional name of Snow Diamonds has been suggested as a designation for donors >\$50,000. There was some discussion of the most efficient way to recognize our donors such as a rolling, digital display if someone would maintain it. The current plaque system is cumbersome and costly.

**Volunteer Hours:** Everyone was reminded to keep track of all volunteer hours during 2021.

**Recognition of Don Taylor:** The committee noted the passing of Don Taylor who was president of the Waukesha State Bank for many years and a very strong supporter of the Friends.

**Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek**