

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Zoom  
May 11, 2021, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

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

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of April 27 approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

**Park Attendance:** Anne R. reported that the monthly attendance at Lapham Peak for April was 55,000, the highest April total in the past 6 years. With 2 months to go for the DNR's fiscal year they have already logged 624,339 visitors to the park. The January 2021 total was an all-time record number of 84,403 visitors.

**Snow Cat:** Beattle reported that Paul Scanlon of Kassbohrer Implements in Jordan, MN., came to the park on May 5 to show us how to prepare the Pisten Bully for summer storage including raising it up onto blocks. He fixed the bent track setter, removed the snow cutter blade and the tiller, installed the pusher blade, and jacked up the machine onto blocks to decrease the weight on the tracks. Paul's May 5 visit was done at no charge. A group of volunteers washed and waxed the cab on April 30. Beattle reported the Pisten Bully had around 250 usage hours from this first season. He plans to pick up a 24V battery tender to keep the Pisten Bully battery charged. He reiterated that the plan is still to purchase a new snow cutter blade when available.

**Snowmaking Season Summary:** The Pisten Bully was first used on December 15, 2020, and the first trail was opened on December 17. Due to favorable weather conditions Rich M. and his crew of volunteers made snow continuously from December 23-26 which resulted in being able to open the whole man-made trail system on December 27, 2020. Rich M. & Beattle discussed some of the safety guidelines for using the Pisten Bully. It can only be used from 9PM to 6AM when the park is closed to avoid skiers. This means that early morning snow can't always be groomed with the Pisten Bully due to time constraints and safety concerns, but the DNR may be able to use smaller equipment to groom the trails in those circumstances. It was also noted that when skiers follow right behind the groomer it can ruin the newly groomed softer surface and should be discouraged when possible. Rich M. presented a proposal to purchase a seventh snow gun. The committee recommended that he proceed with plans to purchase a new Standard Polecat snow gun. Rich will obtain a price quote from SMI and order the gun. Rich also agreed to continue as head snowmaker for the 2021-22 season and will work with several coordinators to share the duties. He and Jim M. will complete the pump house maintenance.

**Electrical:** Rich is reviewing the January-March WE energies bills. He noted that two pedestals still need to be repaired. A fan-controlled exhaust system will be added to keep the pump house cool.

**Hydrants:** John M. has placed new valve castings on the two hydrants that were replaced to have them in reserve. He has placed them and the two remaining new valve castings in the WRSB for storage.

**Insurance:** Will E. verified again that the Friends have liability coverage for volunteer snowcat operators and snowmakers. We have very collaborative agents and insurance companies. Rich reiterated some of the points used for safety training for all volunteers.

**Evergreen Shelter Replacement Planning:** John M. shared a conceptual site plan showing the location of the proposed building as well as all electrical, drainage, and sanitary sewer locations. The current building is approximately 1400 sq. ft. and the proposed one is currently about 5900 sq. ft., though this may change. There is a core committee working on this with plans to get input from all user groups. Will E. and Charlie R. will be working on fund raising.

**New Kiosk:** The concrete pad has been poured for the Eagle Scout kiosk project. It is being built off site with plans to install it at the end of May.

**Fright Hike:** The sub-committee met twice via Zoom and it was decided to cancel it for 2021 due to the uncertainties related to the pandemic and the difficulty in making any long-term plans. Various alternative options were discussed.

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

**Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek**