

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
June 15, 2021, 6:00 PM-7:25 PM

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

Next meetings: June 29, July 13, August 10 & 31 from 6PM to 7:45PM via Zoom until further notice.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of May 25 approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

Seeding: John M. reported that the seeding & straw placement at the WRSB site have produced results with new grass. It is currently too hot & dry so further seeding will be delayed.

Lapham Lodge Planning: John M. reported that the core committee has now gotten input from all user groups and has incorporated that into a proposed building option. Bruce Wydeven has provided a conceptual layout for the building which John shared with the committee. The core committee is meeting again on June 22 & 23 to consider possible revisions. John M. has placed stakes at Lapham denoting the 4 corners of the current proposed site. It is hoped that architectural renderings will be ready by early July that can be used for fund raising. The current idea is to keep the existing Evergreen Shelter to be used for rentals which would allow Peak Nordic to have full use of their own building.

New Kiosk: The new kiosk was installed over Memorial Day weekend and Charlie R. plans to send a letter of thanks to the eagle scout who completed this project. DNR staff will reach out to the scout to see if he can add piano hinges to each panel for ease of access. At some point it may also need to be stained to protect the wood. For now, the original kiosk will remain in place to be used to post fund raising information for the new Lapham Lodge building.

Updated DNR Guidelines: Anne K. provided an update stating that the office & buildings opened June 15 at Lapham and all parks have until June 25 to reopen their buildings. She further stated that there are no longer any restrictions to the number of participants allowed for any event but that safety precautions should still be kept in place. She also noted that MPS indicated their intention last fall to end their lease of the Hausmann Nature Center in September of 2021. It will then revert back to DNR control.

Weather station: Jim M. had raised the question of a need to establish an internet-connected weather station, perhaps as an enhancement to the new building. He will discuss this further with the groomers. A trail cam would not be not allowed due to DNR public privacy rules but skiers could be encouraged to post their own photos of the trail conditions on the Snowmaking website as well as Skinny Ski. This discussion will be revisited in the fall.

Central Repository for Documents: Jim investigated using Google cloud storage as a place that is accessible to anyone needing documents related to the Friends or snowmaking. He noted

that it is free for non-profit groups and could be used initially to organize information for snowmaking that is currently on the computers of many of the committee members and could serve as a secure back up system. He will provide more information about training and use of such a system at a future meeting.

LUA Update: The LUA is due to be revisited this fall of 2021. Anne K. and John M. will review the document and send any updates to the WI DNR.

Groomer Option: Charlie R. suggested contacting Pisten Bully groomers at local alpine resorts as an option if additional groomers were needed in an emergency situation that couldn't be covered with our current snowmaking groomers. No action taken at this time.

State Budget Support for Friends Groups: Everyone was encouraged to reach out to state legislature members to request more support for Friends groups in the current budget process. Charlie, Anne R. and Jim M. will consider drafting a letter for others to use as a format.

Volunteer Hours: Everyone was reminded to keep track of all volunteer hours during 2021. Hours can be documented on the Google docs snowmaking volunteers spread sheet.

Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek