

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
September 21, 2021, 6:05 PM-7:20 PM

Present via Zoom: Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Joanne Ziarek, Jim Marschalek, Rich Marusinec, Rick Bjodstrup, Mike Graham, Anne Korman and Colton Kelly, advisors.

Next meetings: October 12 & 26, November 9 & 23, December 14 from 6PM to 7:45PM via Zoom until further notice

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of August 31 approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

Winter Recreation Storage Building: Rich M. reported gutter installer will put them on Oct 15-25 or so. Estimated cost is \$842. John McC reported the seeding near the WRSB is done and starting to sprout. We are still awaiting the final \$10,000 payment from the WI-DNR Knowles Nelson Stewardship grant #FR3-20-14. Anne K. will check on when the WI DNR will likely send the framed thank you certificate to the Friends for the donation of the building

Expenses: Rich M. showed his listing of upcoming expected expenses for the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking project. The total is estimated to be in the range of \$16,000 to \$25,000.

Park Attendance: Anne R. and Colton indicated attendance in August was the lowest August attendance in 6 years. Colton explained that the logging along the Plantation Path probably contributed to this decrease

Fundraising: Three donations to FLP-SM have come in recently. One is in memory of a man who died this August. The note from the donor indicated he was an avid skier and loved Lapham.

A & B Pedestal Circuit Changes: Rich is continuing to work with Colton on this project. John McCarthy showed us a plan he has made showing the proposed work. It will be used to show the project to WI-DNR engineers, including Eyad Omari, and the WSPS inspectors. Rich reviewed the reason for doing the project, which will solve an issue with too many pedestals on the "A" circuit, occasionally leading to the shutdown of an operating snowgun. The project will shift several pedestals from the "A" circuit to the "B" circuit. The work will not be done till next year, when hopefully the price of the wire will drop from its current high to something closer to what we have previously paid.

Pumphouse: Jim M. has ordered some items from Home Depot for the fan & thermostat. During the coming weeks he will get and install them. He will update Home Depot records so they continue to have the Friends of Lapham Peak in their list of organizations exempt from Wisconsin sales tax.

More Snow will be made on top of the stones between the WRSB and the ski trail this coming season.

Ski Conditions Web Page: Jim M. is targeting having some improvements in place by Oct 12.

Tuesday Race Event: Jim M. will coordinate with Kris Maki on rolling out the plan for the Tuesday afternoon flexible timing race event for the coming season.

Kiosk Update: Colton reported he has the information needed for the scout recognition plaque. Next step is to get our FLP Snowmaking information up there.

Snowmaking: Rich M. is working to arrange a meeting on Oct 18 to plan grooming for the coming season with Rich M, Beattle, Colton & Anne R. Rich will also set up a meeting in late October to plan trail preparation and snowgun running with Colton, some lead snowmakers and Anne R. Rich's early season "list of things to remember" will be reviewed at this meeting.

Snowcat Operators (Groomers) Pay Recommendation to be forwarded to the Board of FLP: As was planned at previous meetings Rich M, & Anne R, have put together a proposal to have a contractor provide PistenBully Snowcat Operators for the 2021/22 ski season. John McC has improved the text of the proposal to be clearer and more concise. The current draft of the proposal was circulated to our active FLP-SM committee attendees via email by Anne R. today. All present were encouraged to review and send all suggestions to Anne R. no later than end of day Wed Sept 22. The proposal is scheduled to be considered at the Board of Directors of the Friends of Lapham Peak October 6 meeting. Anne R. plans to circulate it to all Board members before the meeting for their consideration. In the proposal the FLP Snowmaking Committee is requesting Board approval of this proposal to contract with Hase Landscape, Inc.

Colton will continue to learn what he can about possibly using a LTE of the DNR for some Snowcat Operators in future seasons. Rich M. will facilitate communication between a current LTE of the DNR (who is a nordic skier and has expressed interest) and Beattle. Rich also noted a goal to provide the needed training for potential snowcat operators, and his and Beattle's intention to get information on this topic from other similar operations, such as ABR, the Birkie, and Minneapolis Parks. He referenced the snowcat operator job description that he has prepared.

Lapham Lodge Update: John M. showed a new rendering of the building which has fieldstone on the outside. All agreed it looked very nice! We Energies has provided an estimate of \$8700 to relocate the electrical. The Business Plan was approved at the Sept 8, 2021 special meeting of the FLP Board. The Board agreed to designate \$100,000 of cash on hand to this project. The Business Plan was sent to Missy Vanlanduyt and Anne Korman on Sept 9, 2021. Anne K reported she has a meeting scheduled for Wednesday Sept 29 with Steven Schmelzer (WI-DNR Parks Director) and Brian Hefty and other DNR decision makers to discuss this project. We should know more about the time line for fundraising and next steps after that meeting.

Track Marks and minor disturbances to the manmade ski trail surface by recent logging operations: John McC brought up this topic. He and Colton will discuss options to address.

Annual Holiday Card from FLP Snowmaking Project: Rick BJ mentioned some ideas he has for a card this coming season. The Committee encouraged him to create his ideas on paper and bring them to our next meeting.

Fright Hike: Recently Anne R. learned some online announcement says “Postponed to Oct 2021” Anne R. will ask John Hillmer and Angie Lorbach to update to “Postponed to Oct 2022” or some better wording. Joanne Z reminded the group that currently there are no firm plans for the future of Fright Hike.

Membership in the Friends of Lapham Peak Unit Kettle Moraine State Forest: Anne R reminded the group that membership in the Friends of Lapham Peak helps support the Park and all the many initiatives of the Friends. The Snowmaking Project is a project of the Friends of Lapham Peak. All who ski/hike/bike (or use the park as they find satisfying) are encouraged to join as members of the Friends of Lapham Peak. <https://laphampeakfriends.org/membership/> has details. Lifetime membership is \$105. Individual one year membership is \$15.

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: Anne Riendl