

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Zoom  
October 12, 2021, 6:05 PM-7:45 PM

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

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of September 21 approved as corrected. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

**Winter Recreation Storage Building:** Rich M. reported the gutters will be installed Oct 15-30 or so. Estimated cost is \$842. The garage door company will come later this week or next to install the new door window panels and an additional garage door opener for the west side door. John M. and Colton will check the holding tank. Additional stone has been spread in the parking area near the building. We are still awaiting the final \$10,000 payment from the WI-DNR Knowles Nelson Stewardship grant #FR3-20-14 after completing an additional form requested by the DNR. Anne K. will again check on when the WI DNR will likely send the framed thank you certificate to the Friends for the donation of the building. The certificate and a duplicate will be framed to hang, one in Evergreen and the other in the WRSB.

**Expenses:** Rich M. showed his listing of upcoming expected expenses for the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking project for 2021. The total is estimated to be in the range of \$16,000 to \$25,000. He will update it with expenses anticipated from January-March of 2022 for the season and present it at one of the next meetings.

**Park Attendance:** Anne R. shared that the September attendance was 56,347 and the total for the last 6 years was over 3.5 million.

**Fundraising:** Charlie R. noted that he is currently busy working on fundraising for the new lodge so we will need to rely on raising donations through the holiday card and the donation box/tube for the coming snowmaking season. Anne R. reported that all thank you receipts have been sent to snowmaking donors. A suggestion was made to encourage “employer matching funds” for donations by mentioning that on the web site and any posted signs.

**A & B Pedestal Circuit Changes:** Rich is continuing to work with Colton on this project. Rich reported that the pedestal repairs have been completed and he is working on a plan for the use of the B circuit on half of the A pedestals. Rich and John M. have reviewed the wire path options from B2 to A3 and have selected the best option. John M. has completed a detailed project layout for use in the project plan. 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. Elect-Tech will provide electrical support and work on the project.

**Pumphouse:** Jim M. has all of the parts and will work with Colton and Rich to install them. Rich noted that the pump is run every 6-8 weeks and plans to run it again in late October and will purge the lines and add anti-freeze to the lower hydrants at that time.

**Ski Conditions Web Page:** After trying a few options Jim M. has suggested we continue with the current web page for now but suggested adding an Instagram account for people to follow and more easily post photos. He will look into this.

**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 ordered the scout recognition plaque. Next step is to get our FLP Snowmaking information up there. Mark H. and Charlie will meet with Colton to work on details for new signs for the kiosk as well as adding a donation box on or next to the kiosk. Anne K. will check with Summer Stage to see if snowmaking can use their panel for information during their off season. Rich M. showed a sign from the WinMan kiosk that they use for donations. Colton will check into the availability of a similar sign for us.

**Snowmaking:** Rich M. is working to arrange a meeting on Oct 18 to discuss grooming for the coming season with Rich M, Beattle, Colton & Anne R. An additional meeting will be held with Beattle, Mark Janis, Rick Hase, and Rich to plan snowcat coordination details among groomers. Rich will also set up a meeting in late October or November to plan trail preparation and snowmaking details 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:** At their October 6 meeting the FLP board accepted the proposal from snowmaking to contract with Hase Landscape to hire a Pisten Bully operator. Charlie mentioned that we can reach out to the Cross-Country Ski Areas Assoc. for information on hiring/paying groomers.

**Publicity:** Charlie announced that Silent Sports magazine plans to feature Lapham Peak skiing in their January issue along with a side bar about the new lodge. Suggestions should be sent to Charlie for inclusion in the article. Anne R. or Charlie will contact Dan Small from Outdoor Wisconsin to see when they plan to air a previously filmed episode on skiing at Lapham Peak. They will also check if an addition to the original film could be made mentioning the new Lapham Lodge.

**Income and Expenses for Snowmaking:** Rich M. will have available at the next meeting a summary of snowmaking expenses for the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2021. At some point Anne R. and Joanne Z. will review the snowmaking income for the fiscal year.

**Lapham Lodge Update:** John M. reported that the Business Plan has been accepted and approved by the WI DNR for fund raising to begin. The committee has met to start planning fund raising. John noted that they will be working with Anne K. and Colton on building details.

**Trail Repair after Logging Operations:** Colton reported that the DNR staff has been working to restore, rake, fill ruts with soil, and spread chips on disturbed areas. They will continue to make repairs throughout November.

**Annual Holiday Card:** Rick B. noted he has been working with an artist and will have something to present to the committee at the next meeting.

**Fright Hike:** John Hillmer and Angie Lorbach have updated some online announcements to say “Postponed to Oct 2022” with no firm plans at this time.

**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.

**FLP Board Position:** Anne R. announced that Melissa Jarecki plans to run for the open position on the FLP board. She also noted that the November 3 annual FLP meeting will be in the Zoom format this year. FLP members will receive a notice to sign up for the Zoom link.

**Volunteer Hours:** Everyone is reminded to keep track of all volunteer hours during 2021. Hours can be documented on the Google docs snowmaking volunteers spread sheet where Joanne Z. documents hours for all snowmaking meeting attendees.

**Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek**