

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Zoom  
October 26, 2021, 6:05 PM-7:55 PM

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

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of October 12 meeting were 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 that we are still waiting for the gutters to be installed. The garage door company has installed 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 tomorrow. 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. Colton K. will follow up with Cynthia Semmann, the new grant manager for the state, and report at the next meeting. 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 summary of anticipated snowmaking expenses from October-December of 2021 and January-March of 2022 for the coming season. We anticipate approximately \$28,000 in additional expenses by the end of March 2022. This includes the final payment for the new snow gun.

**Map of Man-Made Snow Ski Trails:** A sample was shown of a map made by John M. of the man-made snow trails showing the whole system and various loops with lengths & difficulty noted. Charlie R. had met with the Lapham Peak Ski Club for some input as to the listing of their sponsors on the reverse side of the map. A large map of the trails will be posted in the kiosk and smaller ones will be made available as a tri-fold, likely near the kiosk for skiers. The costs of printing around 2000 maps will be split between the ski club and snowmaking for this season.

**Pumphouse:** Jim M. discussed with Colton and Rich where to install most of the parts for the exhaust fan. Jim noted that he plans to install the exhaust fan on November 6 and the intake later in November.

**Tuesday Race Event:** Jim M. has confirmed that there will again be a Tuesday afternoon flexible timing race event for the coming season.

**Kiosk Update:** After discussion about the best location for a donation box Colton volunteered to check into the availability of a standard lock box from the DNR. He will also 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. Charlie R. will work with Colton on the wording & format for a similar sign for our new kiosk. There was also

discussion about the best location for the large sign that alerts skiers when the groomer (snowcat) is out on the trails at special times.

**Snowmaking:** Rich M. had a meeting on Oct 18 to discuss grooming for the coming season with Beattle, Colton, and himself. An additional meeting was held with Beattle, Mark Janis, Rick Hase, and Rich to plan snowcat coordination details among groomers. Rich will also set up a meeting around November 29 to plan final trail preparation and snowmaking details with Colton, some lead snowmakers, and Anne R. It was announced that Andrew Straka will be trained as the third groomer. Rich plans to use some of the training materials available from the Pisten Bully pro academy to compile a training document for new groomers. Rich noted that the demo snow cutter provided by Pisten Bully last season will again be available for the coming season since the new one won't be available until 2022 due to supply issues. Rich reported that Jim Bostrom had completed weed whacking around the snowmaking pedestals and commented that there has been a lot of activity on snowmaking preparations. The new snow gun is expected to arrive November 29 or 30.

**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. He is developing an article highlighting the accomplishments of the past 2 years. Anne R. contacted Dan Small from Outdoor Wisconsin regarding the segment they had previously filmed about skiing at Lapham Peak. She was told that PBS hasn't done any editing for Outdoor Wisconsin since the COVID-19 pandemic. Anne R. or Charlie R. will reach out to Dan to see if he might mention something about the new Lapham Lodge in one of his radio spots.

**Annual Holiday Card:** Rick B. noted he has been working with an artist and will e-mail the proposed idea to the committee when it is completed. A suggestion was made to include a QR code for ease of donating. Anne R. will print return address labels and Rick will order envelopes. They will meet later to work out details.

**New Topographic Map:** Rick B. reported that he has completed this project and has framed it in preparation for installing it in Evergreen Shelter.

**Fall Friends Groups Meeting:** Colton reported that the funds available to award Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grants will increase from \$250,000 to \$500,000 for 2022. He will share a link to the new Park and Recreation Management business plan from the state.

**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 design committee is getting ready to send out Requests for Proposals to 5 or 6 architectural firms. Mark H. is working on poster boards to be used for display and fund raising. Charlie R. mentioned that they plan to use a pledge card approach for fund raising.

**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 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**