

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
November 23, 2021, 6:05 PM-7:35 PM

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

Next meetings: December 14, January 11 & 25, February 8, March 8 & 22, April 12 & 26 from 6PM to 7:45PM via Zoom until further notice

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of November 9 meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

Park Attendance: Anne R. noted that park attendance continues to be above 50,000 visitors each month.

Winter Recreation Storage Building: John M. has purchased the extensions for the new gutters and will install them in the next week. Colton K. noted the request for the DNR to again bring in a port-a-john to the WRSB for the winter season. We have at last received the final \$10,000 payment from the WI-DNR Knowles Nelson Stewardship grant #FR3-20-14, and it has been deposited. Anne K. will continue to 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.

Pump House: Jim M. reported that the fan and thermostat have been installed and the intake vent will be installed in the coming weeks.

Expenses: Anne R. and Karl Timm, FLP treasurer, met and discussed the “big picture” of how to keep all the financial records of the FLP. These records include the snowmaking project and many other projects of the FLP. Karl Timm agreed that we will use the services of a bookkeeper who is facile with QuickBooks. The bookkeeper will create records beginning with this fiscal year of October 1, 2021, and will also supply monthly reports to the FLP board. John M will continue to monitor and approve all expenses related to snowmaking. Approvals by John M. will be sent via e-mail to the bookkeeper (when hired), as well as to the treasurer and to Anne R.

Map of Man-Made Snow Ski Trails: Colton has placed an order for the permanent aluminum signs to mark the snowmaking ski trails. John M. will provide a large map of the trails to be posted in the kiosk.

Kiosk Update: Colton noted that he found there were no standard lock boxes available from the DNR. He and Charlie R. will look into sources for a secure lock box. Colton verified with Summer Stage that snowmaking can use their panel for information during their off season. The donations sign for the winter season is being finalized and will include a QR code linked to the snowmaking donation area on the website. There were suggestions made about possibly moving the current donation tube or adding a secure, bolted lock box to the kiosk for donations.

Snowmaking Rich M. and Mike Koester plan to begin to move the snow guns out to the playground area. They will continue to monitor the weather forecast for appropriate temperatures to determine an approximate snowmaking start date. Rich M. has initiated the

Signup.com session for 2021/2022 season and will populate it with all the volunteers the weekend of the Nov 28. He will then send out an initial email on the snowmaking season from Signup.com which will also include the link to be used for signing up. Rich will work with the tree trimming company to do final tree limb trimming the week of Nov 29th. Rich has also set up a new volunteer and DNR training session for Nov 30th. The new snow gun (#7) arrived on November 21 and was placed in the WRSB. Rich noted that two large caution signs are ready to be used whenever the groomers are out on the trails. Colton reported that there is no funding in the current state DNR budget for a new Honda gator for this season so they have installed the new \$11,000 tracks on the current gator for now. They will be removed and installed on a new gator in the future. Rick B. has placed most of his markers along the snowmaking trail to indicate the snow depth needed and will finish his work this week. John M. has placed some snow depth stakes in other areas, and will add more in the near future, along with the tape to mark the desired snow depth. Colton mentioned that there is a new Volunteer Management System available through the DNR that may prove to be useful to keep track of all volunteer hours. He will share more as he becomes familiar with the system. Rich and Colton also noted that electrical work/replacement had been completed on the south panel that controls 8 lights along the non-snowmaking trails.

New RLUA from WI DNR: Colton sent a draft to the committee members of a new **Recreational Land Use Agreement** document that had just been sent from the state. The RLUA addresses use of the Piston Bully (owned by the Friends) for grooming, and the use of DNR equipment (most of which was previously donated by the Friends) for snowmaking operations. Members are asked to review the lengthy document and route any comments pertinent to their areas of interest through John M., who will then forward a summary to Colton.

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 has finished an article detailing the winter activities at Lapham Peak and sent numerous photos along with it. Charlie R. also mentioned that he had met with Chelsea Lewis from the Journal/Sentinel. She plans to feature the new Lapham Lodge plans in an article in a Sunday edition of the paper in December. An on-line presentation about working effectively with our legislators is being planned by the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks. More information will be shared later.

Annual Holiday Card: Rick B. e-mailed the proposed idea to the committee showing a cartoon of "Piston Billy" and the information to be included. He has obtained a QR code through John Hillmer to include for ease of donating. Anne R. and Rick will meet later to work out details.

New Topographic Map: Rick B. reported that he has completed this project and has framed it and installed it in Evergreen Shelter. It was noted that the fine frame really sets it off and that it may well be a nice item to display in the new Lapham Lodge.

Lapham Lodge Update: The design committee sent out Requests for Proposals to five architectural firms with a request for responses to be returned by November 17. Three proposals were received and reviewed by the committee. After review, the committee set up interviews with two of the companies for today, and will make their recommendation to the FLP board. Charlie R. reported that the fund-raising group brochure with a rendering of the lodge is ready to

be sent and will include pledge cards. A new fund-raising banner that will include a donation goal tally will be placed on the current bulletin board by December 1. John M. completed a grant request for \$20,000 for the building and forwarded it to Colton who confirmed that the state grant committee has received the request.

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