

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
December 14, 2021, 6:05 PM-7:35 PM

Present via Zoom: Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Joanne Ziarek, Rich Marusinec, Rick Bjodstrup, Mike Graham, Mark Herr.

Next meetings: 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 23 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 for November was 51,800.

Winter Recreation Storage Building: The extensions for the new gutters will be installed soon. It was noted that a port-a-john is in place next to the WRSB for the winter season. A suggestion was made to replace some of the loose stones outside the north service door, and to consider installing a cement slab this summer. 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.

Pump House: Jim M. has installed the fan, intake vent, and thermostat. There may be a need for an additional thermostat for the ceiling heater. Rich M. will check on this.

Expenses: Rich M. will submit his miscellaneous expenses for snowmaking this season.

Map of Man-Made Snow Ski Trails: A large map of the ski trails is now posted in the kiosk.

Kiosk Update: The donations sign for the winter season is at the printers and will include a QR code linked to the snowmaking donation area on the website. Charlie R. is seeking DNR approval to paint the current red donation tube green to match the new sign in the kiosk.

Tuesday Time Trials: Mike G. has volunteered to be the race director for these Tuesday daytime events, and is working with Jim M. to utilize his equipment for chip timing.

Snowmaking: Rich M. reported that the Lupo pond loop was completed in the first round of snowmaking. In 2.5 days, they put in 150 volunteer hours and used about 1.2 million gallons of water with all 7 snow guns running. This depleted the pond somewhat, but it is being refilled. Rich & John M. are measuring the fill volume per time as part of water management. Rich shared a temperature guide for making snow that he uses to determine the best time to make more snow considering optimum dew points and temperatures. Rich also mentioned that Paul Scanlon is coming December 15 to service some issues on the Pisten Bully. Jim M. has volunteered to use his professional expertise to trouble shoot any diagnostic issues. Paul will train him on the specifics of the Pisten Bully. It was also reported that the Friends board approved the agreement with Hase Landscaping to contract for paying and insuring a groomer.

New RLUA from WI DNR: John M. reported that he has discussed this with Anne Korman and recommended amending the current LUA instead of drafting a second one. More to come on this topic. John will reach out to Beattle and Rich M. for their comments in their areas of interest.

Publicity: Charlie R. has sent an article to Silent Sports magazine. They plan to feature Lapham Peak skiing in their January issue along with a side bar about the new lodge. Chelsea Lewis from the Journal/Sentinel wrote an article for the December 12 issue that featured the new Lapham Lodge plans. The on-line version on December 9 also included some interesting videos.

Annual Holiday Card: Anne R. and Rick B. have completed the mailing of 824 cards to our list of donors and to the FLP members.

New Topographic Map: Rick B. explained that his map shows a total distance for ski trails of 9.8 miles vs. the 17 miles listed on the current park map where trail distances were added up despite many of the loops overlapping and being counted more than one time.

Lapham Lodge Update: After interviews were conducted by the building committee the firm of Galbraith-Carnahan Architects (GCA), was chosen along with the firm of Graef for civil and structural services. John M. will submit contracts to these firms. The fund-raising group for the lodge has been very busy. Approximately 1100 fundraising brochures were sent out December 14 with the help of some of the Peak Nordic skiers and coaches to stuff the envelopes. Their help was much appreciated. A new fund-raising banner that includes a donation goal tally has been installed on the current bulletin board at the trail head. They will also check about getting some reprints of Chelsea Lewis' article from the Journal-Sentinel. Mark H. will inquire from the Birkie Foundation about the possibility of obtaining some federal grant funding for the building.

Volunteer Hours: Everyone is reminded to keep track of all volunteer hours during 2022. 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