

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Zoom  
January 11, 2022 6:05 PM-7:50 PM

**Present via Zoom:** Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Joanne Ziarek, Rich Marusinec, Mike Graham, Jim Marschalek, Charlie Ritter, Anne Korman, advisor.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of December 14 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 December was \_\_\_\_\_??.

**Snowmaking Thank You:** The committee expressed thanks to Rich M. and his team of groomers and snow makers for doing a great job of making snow and grooming the trails.

**Winter Recreation Storage Building:** The extensions for the new gutters will be installed later in the spring. 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:** John M. reported that the leaking pump gasket was replaced by DNR staff in December. Rich M. will order an additional one to have on hand as a backup. It was noted that historically there have only been problems with the pump when making snow, and not during the off season. John M., Rich M. & Jim M. will work together to find an easier method to determine the water depth in the well pond for next season. Jim M. has the additional thermostat for the pump house, and will install it later this week.

**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, and Anne Korman reported receiving many positive comments, especially from new users of the trails. Charlie R. brought up a proposed map of all park ski trails for discussion but no action was taken on this idea.

**Kiosk Update:** The donations sign for the winter season has been posted and includes a QR code linked to the snowmaking donation area on the website. Charlie R. has painted the red donation tube green to match the new sign in the kiosk and it looks very professional.

**Tuesday Time Trials:** Mike G. is the race director for these Tuesday daytime events with 14 participants currently signed up to ski.

**Snowmaking:** Rich M. commented that it's a good thing we had the foresight to build Phase 3A and 3B with hydrants close enough together to enable snow makers to switch to a different hydrant or pedestal if one malfunctions. He also noted there have been more system and equipment issues this year than in the past. Two hydrants were fixed in December and one is still freezing up. One snow gun fan shut down on the A circuit due to a voltage drop when 6 guns were on it. The inner trails were created on the field loop after more snow was made. Rich noted

that after 3 years of trimming trees along the trails there is now little accumulation of ice on the trees. So far this season there has been no need to use the loaner renovator blade attachment. Rich reported that, though it had been a bit challenging to find enough volunteers for all of the shifts during the holiday season, he could still report 494 volunteer hours and 96 DNR hours so far.

**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 later on this topic.

**Publicity/Fund Raising:** Charlie R. asked if Lapham Peak could be added to the Travel Wisconsin snow report. Anne Korman will check to see if DNR sites can be listed. Jim M. will contact John Hillmer about adding information about volunteer hours needed for snowmaking as a possible donation bulletin. He also suggested that it might be helpful if we could find a volunteer to post weekly on Face Book with a link to donate. Mike G. mentioned the Ski Wise app and web page as a relatively new place for people to explore for trail reports. He noted that this seems to work best for smart phones and it does accept photos.

**Annual Holiday Card:** Anne R. will share the donation summary information at our next meeting. She will also request the monthly park attendance and revenue to be shared from DNR.

**Lapham Lodge Update:** John M. reported that contracts have been executed with the architects (GCA) and with Graef for civil and structural services. The committee will hold a design update meeting this Thursday. The next step in the building process is to obtain soil boring samples. John will coordinate the timing of this with Anne Korman. John noted that he has sent updates to the DNR for Phase I funding from the Stewardship grant. He is also assisting Mark Herr in the application for a federal grant of 1.3 million dollars through the Economic Development Assoc. to be submitted in cooperation with the DNR. A key requirement for this type of grant funding is to show that the building will improve the economic impact on the community as a whole. The fund raising for the building has increased to \$668,000 so far.

**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**