

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
January 25, 2022 6:05 PM-8:40 PM

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of January 11 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 51,450.

Winter Recreation Storage Building: Rich M. has attached the gutter extensions. John M. & Colton plan to check the amount of water in the holding tank at the end of February. Anne K. noted that the Friends will be on the agenda for the Natural Resources Board meeting Feb 22-23 to formally donate the seventh snow gun to the DNR. At that time, she plans to request a duplicate of the certificate of appreciation from the DNR for the Friends' donation of the WRSB.

Pump House: John M., Rich M. & Jim M. are continuing to look for an easier method to determine and maintain the water depth in the well pond during snowmaking for next season. One suggestion was to increase the berm wall on the pond which would increase the pond capacity. Jim M. has determined that the additional thermostat for the pump house is not needed as the original one is working well. Plans will be developed this summer for review.

Expenses: Anne R. reminded everyone to turn in the receipts for their snowmaking expenses to John M., who approves them and sends them on to the treasurer for payment, with a copy to Anne R.

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 noted that some of the sponsors have requested to have some of the tri-fold maps to hand out in their business.

Tuesday Time Trials: Mike G. reported that self-timing is working well at this time.

Snowmaking: Rich M. reported that 20% more snow was made this season than 2 years ago (our previous high), and 90% more snow than 4 years ago during the 2017-2018 season. Back then, we didn't have Phase 3A & 3B completed. In addition, now the trails are wider to accommodate more skiers, and next to the playground, they now spread snow in the entire center of the field with groomed trails called "Beattle's Way." So, you can see that they really make a lot more snow now than 4 years ago! Mid December snow this season was affected by a warmup and rain, which required more spots to be touched up in January. December 29-January 7, cold temperatures allowed us to make a lot of snow during this period. We made snow on 22 different days over 38 shifts and completed all snowmaking on Jan 21. There were more

frozen/leaking hydrant issues than normal which will be reviewed this summer as well as issues with a few older style pedestals. Volunteers provided 536 hours this season to make snow. The DNR provided 104 snowmaking hours so far and covered all the 3AM to 7AM shifts, and many of the afternoon touch-up sessions (special thanks to Jay on the early morning shifts). The number of volunteer coordinators for snowmaking has increased from 6 to 9, and it takes approximately 80 hours of experience for a shift coordinator to obtain solid experience. The number of active volunteer snowmakers has increased from 23 to 39 over the past 3 years.

Beattle and Mark Janis have been conducting all the spreading, grooming and maintenance/prep on the Pisten Bully and have logged 154 machine operating hours so far. PB 100 training for Andrew Straka has started and is going well. Special Thanks to Beattle and Mark for all the early morning PB100 grooming activity to date! Beattle and Mark coordinate all grooming responsibilities with Colton. Colton coordinates DNR grooming using the Ginzu groomer on nights that the PB100 is not used.

Rich also announced that he will not be the Season Coordinator next year and recommended having 2 or 3 season coordinators to handle all of the work, and also to consider paying one or two coordinators to do the job. The Season Coordinator role has become quite time consuming and has a lot of areas of responsibility and time demands. After 3 years he will step back from the season coordinator role but feels we have a lot of well-trained shift coordinators in place. He will continue to help with preparations for next season, maintaining snow guns and pedestals, and plans to be a shift coordinator when not traveling. Rich will provide training and support to the new Season Coordinator(s) when available.

The committee expressed their thanks for all his hard work and the preparations Rich has made to pass on information to the next Season Coordinator(s). Jim M. is considering taking on more responsibilities and will help to be a part of the 3 Season Coordinators who will share the work load. Will Edwards volunteered to help with finding the Season Coordinators for next year. A small group will meet in the next months.

New RLUA from WI DNR: Discussion on this topic has been deferred to spring.

Publicity/Fund Raising: Charlie R. asked if Lapham Peak could be added to the Travel Wisconsin snow report. Colton received a request from them looking for a contact to post skiing reports, and John M. was suggested as a contact for the Lapham Peak Friends. Jim M. reported that John Hillmer has added a link from the ski trail conditions page to make donations. 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. Charlie R. reported that Channel 4 filmed a recent piece at Lapham and will be back on February 11 to film the morning weather forecast from 4AM-7AM. They would like to have some skiers in the background from 6-7AM after seeing the Pisten Bully in action. They are interested in filming segments with Olympic themes. Anne R. reported that a donor had submitted a \$1000 check to be used toward the new lodge or snowmaking, whatever would be most helpful. After discussion, the group agreed to donate the full amount toward the new lodge. Anne R. then shared the DNR information showing park attendance from December of 2020 to November of 2021 was 628,643, but did not have the revenue amount collected at the entrance.

Anne Korman will provide the list of all state park income & attendance to see the ranking of Lapham Peak. This is useful information for the fund-raising team. Anne K. clarified that the park income figure is only what is collected at the entrance building. It does not include passes purchased online nor money paid online to rent the various structures at Lapham Peak. Such rentals are nearly all done now using the online system.

Annual Holiday Card: Anne R. shared the donation summary noting that PayPal donations have increased this season, likely due to the use of the QR code.

Lapham Lodge Update: John M. reported that he had a request from Graef engineers to schedule the soil boring samples for the next step in the site work. Since they would need to drill 3 holes about 20ft deep and 4-6 inches in diameter Anne Korman requested that this be postponed until at least mid-March to avoid having dirt & stones dug up so near the snow on the ski trails. Mark Herr is working on the application for a federal grant of 1.3 million dollars through the Economic Development Assoc. to be submitted in cooperation with the DNR. Both John M. and Anne K. are assisting him. Mark is aiming to submit the request as soon as possible for consideration as there are many requests being made for these funds. After submission of the request, a decision is expected within 60 days.

Fright Hike: Anne R. reported that she had an inquiry from Angie Lorbach as to what the status of the Fright Hike was likely to be this year after postponing it for 2 years. There was a lengthy and lively discussion covering many aspects of the event. It was then decided to defer further discussion to a small group of John Hillmer, Mike Graham, and Charlie Ritter to set up a meeting with Angie to clarify the whole situation and report back.

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