

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
February 8, 2022 6:05 PM-7:00 PM

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

Next meetings: March 15, April 12 & 26 from 6PM to 7:45PM via Zoom until further notice

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of January 25 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 January was 67,175. Anne Korman stated that there is a company called TraFx that could count actual skiers on the trails if someone wants to look into this at some time.

Winter Recreation Storage Building: John M. & Colton plan to check the amount of water in the holding tank at the end of the ski season. 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.

Park Income: Anne R. shared a chart with income for Lapham peak but is still awaiting information for all DNR properties. She is also looking for amounts paid online for use of Lapham structure rentals to compare with online income for other properties.

Snowmaking Income & Expenses: Anne R. shared information from December & January income of close to \$30,000, noting that \$1,066 came in via PayPal. Expenses for the same period were around \$18,000, which included \$13,700 for the balance on the new snow gun. Rich M. noted that the electrical bill for December & January was approximately \$7,100, which is similar to 2 years ago. The average is \$6,500-\$7,500 per year.

Snowmaking: Rich M. reported that everything was well covered so he did not anticipate needing to run the snow guns any more this season. Rich added padding on 4 hydrants and one pole on Magic Carpet and will get input for the best places where additional padding would be needed. He will coordinate with Colton & other DNR staff to take care of the snow gun maintenance, including checking gauges and changing oil. John M. shared a map of the Field Loop that showed the new Beattle's Way and Mark's Park that have been very popular, especially with families, children, & new skiers. Rich M. plans to have a snowmaking coordination meeting in mid to late April.

Grooming: Rich M. gave a report on trail grooming with input from Beattle & Mark Janis. Close to 200 Pisten Bully operating hours have been logged so far. Beattle is leaving at the end of the month so Mark will be the main contact along with Colton through mid-March or the end of grooming. Andrew Straka is continuing his training in grooming and maintenance and it has been going well. He may be available to help later in March. There is also a possibility that Mike

Koester, who is already a snow maker, will schedule a ride in the Pisten Bulley in the next couple weeks to see if he would be interested in training as a groomer for next year.

Snowmaking System Summer Repairs: Based on availability of Beattle & Rich these projects will likely take place in late June to July, or October. They would like to do the hydrant repairs at the same time as the electrical work. Currently the costs of aluminum & wire are 20% higher than last month. Rich hopes to get updated quotes and availability in the next 10 days. They plan to meet in April to assess the frozen hydrant issues and set up a plan to make the needed repairs.

Publicity/Fund Raising: John M. mentioned that he still needs log-in information to access the Wisconsin Tourism trail reports site. Anne K. will help him obtain the needed information. Charlie R. has been busy coordinating television visits featuring Lapham Peak snowmaking with CBS & NBC. They are interested in filming segments with Olympic themes. Charlie R. verified, based on information from the CXSki Assoc. of US, that Lapham Peak has more skiers per month than other XC trails in the USA. Charlie R. met with the Delafield Promotion & Tourism Commission and requested a donation to snowmaking and to the Lapham Lodge building. Their executive director, Deb Smith, provided a letter to be attached to our application for an EDF Grant. The Commission appreciates all the publicity to “Ski & Eat in Delafield” that snowmaking is generating. Charlie R. plans to meet with Cindy Duchow and Steve Schmelzer to contact our legislators about the undistributed DNR funds in the state treasury.

WI-DNR Grants: There is a Zoom informational meeting on Feb 9 from 4-5PM regarding grants that are available to Friends groups for 2022. Anne R. & Charlie R. will “attend.”

Lapham Lodge Update: The preliminary application information was submitted for a federal grant of 1.3 million dollars through the Economic Development Assoc. Comments were returned for Mark H. & John M. to complete. They will submit the required information by the end of the week.

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. Anne R. is finalizing the 2021 totals to report to the state DNR. It’s also useful information for potential donors/grantors to know.

Miscellaneous Items Deferred for Now: “Out-Wi-Go Wisconsin” may return next winter, per Anne Korman. Discussion on new RLUA deferred to Spring. Fright Hike in discussion. Natural Resources Board to issue certificate of thanks for the donation of the WRSB at or after its Feb 22-23 meeting this month.

Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek