

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Zoom  
April 12, 2022 6:05 PM-7:55 PM

**Present via Zoom:** Anne Riendl, Joanne Ziarek, Rick Bjodstrup, Mike Graham, Rich Marusinec, Jim Marschalek, John McCarthy, Will Edwards, Mark Herr, Anne Korman, Advisor.

**Next meetings:** April 26, May 17, June 14, August 16 from 6PM to 7:45PM via Zoom until further notice. **Note: July 12** -possible pot luck cookout with FLP board at Mike Fort shelter; Joanne Z. will coordinate.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of March 15 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 March was 37,450. She also shared the usual review of snowmaking income & expenses.

**Winter Recreation Storage Building:** Colton Kelly inspected the holding tank and found that it was very full. It was emptied and they will monitor it during ski season. It's likely that the Pisten Bully brings in a lot of snow after each use that melts and drains into the tank. The snow guns & hoses also add to the water going into the tank.

**Certificates from Natural Resources Board:** Anne Korman reported that the certificates of thanks and acceptance for the WRSB and the 7<sup>th</sup> snow gun have been received and are hanging in the WESB.

**Allocation of Funds:** Anne R. reported that the FLP board voted at their April 6 meeting to place all the profits raised from the 2022 Wednesday night ski league, Tuesday time trials, and the Lapham Loppet into the Snowmaking project as had been advertised.

**Snowmaking Work Crew Plans:** It was agreed that there was good snow cover all season along the entire man-made trails. January snowmaking touch up was a key part of this. Will E. & Rich M. met with some key people to begin plans to find a replacement head snowmaker for Rich. Rich will remain as a key assistant during the transition and for detailed training for this season. We currently have 9 shift coordinators (plus Jay) and would like to add a few more during the upcoming season. Typically, a snowmaking assistant needs 60-85 hours of experience before being added to the coordinator list. Rich will follow up with Mike Kester and Jim Marschalek for more input. The head snowmaking position could possibly be a partial volunteer/partial paid position with many details still to be worked out. Jim M. noted that he will continue to help with the off-season maintenance and continue as a snowmaker to reach the coordinator level. John M. will continue to be a resource for technical questions. Rick B. would like to look into weather data predictors and historical weather data as a possible aid to calculate a consecutive 48hr period with ideal conditions to make snow. Jim M. showed a chart that he gets from the weather at the Waukesha airport to give the group an idea of what is available.

**Planning/Setting Goals for Snowmaking:** At the previous meeting, Will presented a preliminary document for discussion designed to identify the stakeholders and their wishes. The initial list included Peak Nordic, competitive skiers, recreational skiers, volunteers, DNR, non-

skiers, donors, blind skiers, and the Lapham Peak Ski Club. This was sent out for additional comments and added discussion points and goals. John M. added another goal to the document: the expansion of snowmaking to Phase IV which will include plans, power needs, possible use of stationery stick guns to cover the hills and avoid having to move guns & hoses in those areas.

**Publicity/Fund Raising:** Charlie R. and Anne R. attended the meeting this morning of the Delafield Promotion & Tourism Commission. Unfortunately, they did not have a quorum so could not have an official meeting. Charlie & Anne did present their information to the members present and are hopeful that at the May meeting they will announce a \$20,000 donation to the Lapham Lodge.

**Maintenance & Summer System Repairs:** Rich plans to meet with key people in May to determine the repair/maintenance needs and work out a plan for completion throughout the summer months. Snow gun maintenance will occur in mid-May. Colton submitted the paperwork to the DNR for the electrical wire from Titan Wire and is awaiting word on purchasing it. John M. removed all the tape and stakes he had placed to mark snow depth, and also removed the hydrant handles & stored them in the WRSB. Rich M. will complete a form to request a refund of the tax on the diesel fuel as the Friends group is tax-exempt. The Pisten Bully will be put up on blocks in May and end of season maintenance will be done. Rich has documented the steps needed for snow gun maintenance and will make a similar document for the pump house.

**New RLUA:** Anne Korman & John McCarthy plan to meet in May to discuss this.

**Donor Recognition:** There was some discussion about updating the donor plaques in Evergreen or converting to a TV monitor with a continuous display in Evergreen. This could be stored on a thumb drive and the display could be set to automatically start and shut off at specified times. Mike Graham expressed interest in setting up and maintaining such a system and will report back at a future meeting.

**Annual Survey:** Mike G. mentioned that the annual survey of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress for items to be discussed their spring meeting is on line and ends April 14. He will send a link to the survey for anyone who wishes to complete it.

**Lapham Lodge Update:** Mark H. reported that they have received preliminary approval of the EDA grant application. The next step is to complete an archeological survey. They are awaiting information from the DNR. They also have to post a notice in case there are any tribal concerns regarding the building site. Soil borings are scheduled for April 18. John M. has marked the appropriate areas.

**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.

**Miscellaneous Items Deferred for now:** Fright Hike is in discussion. In the fall, check on logistics of reporting Lapham Peak trail conditions on the state snow report website. Pumphouse plans will be developed in the summer.

**Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek**