

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Zoom  
April 26, 2022 6:05 PM-7:45 PM

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

**Next meetings:** 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 April 12 meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

**Snowmaking Year in Review:** Charlie will submit the review article along with photos to the committee for final comments. Initial suggestions were made to publish it on the web site, Facebook, as well as to both the Lapham Peak and Nordic ski clubs.

**Winter Recreation Storage Building:** Colton noted that two large oaks near the building haven't shown any signs of life so far this spring. Rich suggested that if they need to be removed, that could be done with the fall tree trimming. John suggested painting the doors to match the original rendering of the building using either DNR green or tan paint vs the current white. He and Colton will discuss this and John volunteered to paint the doors.

**Pisten Bully Grooming Hours:** Rich reported that Mark Janis completed 51 PB grooming hours for Feb and March for a total of 140 hours (average of 3.5 hours per grooming outing). Grooming was excellent through the end of the season! He noted that they were not able to use the Pisten Bully to groom the entire lighted trail very often, and this increases the time to groom each night when needed. Beattle will report on his grooming hours in May

**Planning for Snowmaking Phase IV:** John showed some preliminary drawings of the Phase IV site showing proposed connections, piping, hydrants, and some fixed snow guns from previous planning, noting that there are some different considerations now. There was much discussion concerning how to safely expand in an area with narrower trails, some steep hills, and erosion problems. He also showed a cost estimate from 2019 for Phase IV of around \$100,000, which will likely be higher with today's costs. There is also consideration to use a paid contractor on this steep section and that will increase the costs. Impacts to trees along the trail, especially on the Two-Tier segment, is also a concern. Jim is interested in researching the technology of fixed (stick) snow guns and perhaps using one as a demo this season. There are many details to consider including future power needs, but this presentation served to start the discussion.

**Publicity/Fund Raising:** Charlie and Will are compiling a list of major donors and stakeholders to notify for future major events.

**Maintenance & Summer System Repairs:** Colton has received the purchase order from the DNR for the B to A circuit electrical wire from Titan Wire and is forwarding this to Titan Wire. John M. has removed all the stakes he had placed to mark snow depth. Rick B is in the process of

removing the re-usable snow depth marker bands he placed around light poles and other fixed features. Rich reported that snow gun and pumphouse maintenance is planned for mid-May with DNR. Rich and Jay will inspect the phase 1 and 2 pedestals for determination of replacing old connector blocks and any wire spacing issues. Rich and Jay will review playground lights for repairs or replacements. Rich will also coordinate a day to review hydrants that had leak or freeze issues and to discuss possible actions, as well as the planned October pedestal changeouts on Phase 3A that have issues.

**Pond Volume Discussion:** John M. shared diagrams of the pond along with revised volume computations from the original in 2006 to this year. He also showed a detailed table of pond volume during snowmaking under various usage circumstances. Rich confirmed that the estimate proved accurate for this season and this can be used as a guide for future snowmaking. Jim M. is investigating an electronic system that could be used to measure the water depth in the pond for next snowmaking season. The group agreed with recommendations from previous discussions that the most reasonable way to increase the volume of water in the pond will be to increase the height of the berm on the northwest side of the pond to the height it was 4 years ago. Longer term options will be discussed next year, or as time permits.

**New RLUA:** Anne Korman & John McCarthy will try to meet in May to discuss amending the existing LUA document vs switching to a whole new document.

**Donor Recognition:** Mike G. has done some preliminary checking of the equipment in Evergreen to accommodate some sort of continuous display of donors on the TV monitor. Some of the equipment will need to be updated, perhaps to be motion activated. He asked for suggestions of content display and will continue to work on this.

**Kiosk Signage:** Charlie will remove the snowmaking signs/information from the Summer Stage section of the kiosk and store them for next ski season.

**Lapham Lodge Update:** Mark H. reported that the committee received 3 proposals to complete the archeological study. They chose the Commonwealth Heritage Group which is expected to submit their report within 25 days for DNR input. This will then be submitted to the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) for approval to comply with requirements for the EDA grant. They hope to hear about the grant approval status within 60 days. Soil borings were done on April 18 and a report is expected in the next week. The committee expects to receive a revised cost estimate for the project soon. Colton is looking into the cost of switching from propane to natural gas use for the park facilities.

**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**