

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
August 16, 2022 6:00 PM-7:50 PM

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

Next meetings: September 20, October 18, November 15 & 29, December 13 from 6PM to 7:45PM via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of June 14 meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate. It was noted that the July 12 potluck cookout with the FLP board at the Mike Fort shelter was a successful evening enjoyed by 30 guests.

Snowmaking Funds: Anne R. shared the usual brief overview from the treasurer's report. She noted that she and FLP treasurer Karl Timm met via Zoom with the accountant who filed the FLP form 990 for the fiscal year 10/1/2020-9/30/2021.

Park Attendance & Income: June attendance at Lapham Peak was 52,815. Anne R. shared income numbers from December of 2021-July of 2022 showing that the DNR income was over the \$500,000 mark. It appears that annual sticker sales on the property are on target with the best years. Colton has requested more detailed income data and Anne K. will check on how Lapham Peak's attendance figures compare to other state parks without a campground.

FLP Liability Insurance: It was determined that the Inland Marine coverage for the snowcat is adequate. Anne R. checked with Paul Scanlon at Pisten Bully and the replacement value of a new machine is \$278,000. Our current machine has maintained its value at \$250,000 in today's market.

Diesel Fuel Tax Refund: Rich M. filed for a refund from the state for Wisconsin tax paid for diesel fuel used for snowmaking. Anne R. reported that a refund of \$181.38 was received.

Summer Solstice Event: Anne R. reported that this was a successful and enjoyable event with a profit of around \$1500 which will be used by the new lodge project of the Friends of Lapham Peak.

Maintenance & Summer System Repairs: Rich gave a very detailed report with some items highlighted here. He reported on the A to B circuit project on the Phase 3B pedestals. The wire delivery is running late and is now expected around the third week of September. Colton has submitted a proposal for a supplement to the DNR grant due to increased costs of wire, etc. and it was approved. It was noted that on the C & D circuit 5 of 16 pedestals will get new connectors. Several lights need to be replaced in the playground area (2 prototype lights have been installed on the playground for evaluation this season). The team plans to complete the needed hydrant repairs and electrical work during the week of October 10. Rich shared photos of the newly repaired lighting main control panel box that was completed August 15 by Jay, Rich & Collin. Berm repair is under review with John M. having completed the survey of the section that

eroded. The plan is to repair the berm by raising the lowest point by approximately 5 inches to return it to the original height. Colton will assist with DNR staff & vendors as needed. Snow gun and pumphouse maintenance were completed in May & June. Up to 4 hydrant valves will be replaced on Phase 3B hydrants. Rich & Jim M., along with Collin & Jay from DNR staff, have begun discussing light control needs for the new lodge, particularly different types of timers available. Another option mentioned is having a US cellular hot spot for controlling lights on the trail with a phone app called “Control by Web” that Pieper Automation may be able to install at some time (It is used at the Okauchee Lake pier parking lot by the DNR – Rich is contacting Pieper for info on this option).

WRSB: It was decided to use the DNR green paint on the WRSB doors, which may need primer or light sanding for better paint adherence.

New RLUA: Anne Korman verified with state leadership that an amendment to the current LUA will not be sufficient to meet the newer guidelines. Instead, she will work with Missy V.’s staff to create a new document.

Fright Hike: Online ticket sales are now available at <https://frighthike.ticketspice.com/2022laphampeakfrighthike> to sign up for a particular hour to attend. So far, the We Pay site has posted online ticket sales of \$3765. A volunteer Sign-up Genius site will be set up soon online.

Payment to Head Snow Gun Operators: Hase Landscape Company has agreed to be the vendor to supply some of the snowcat operators and a few snow making operators for the coming ski season. The pay rate will be determined during October and a proposal completed. Beattle is looking to groom on average, about 4 days per week vs 3 days, so there will be more grooming hours.

Donor Name TV Display in Evergreen: Mike G. has set up a motion-sensor to turn on the TV. For now, it is showing December 2018 data and runs for 10 minutes. Anne R. plans to update the data as time permits.

Plans for X-C skiing at other Venues: John M. met with Don Goldberg and Milwaukee Co Parks at Brown Deer Park to assist with initial planning steps to provide a 1 km snow making loop there. Sean Becker, manager at the new Ariens X-C Center being developed in Brillion, has invited Charlie, Will E., and John M. for a visit. Charlie is writing an article about this new facility for the Lapham Peak Ski Club magazine and he & Will may pursue the possibility of a contribution from Ariens to the new lodge.

Snowmaking: Jim M., Rich, and Mike Koester will meet in October to plan the transition for the snow making season including training, sign-ups, and to check out the snow guns. Rich, Colton, & Jay have identified 7 locations on the ski trails in need of updated barricades. Instead of the heavy wooden ones, Anne K. noted that they have plenty of yellow chain that can be attached to posts to close trails or direct skiers/hikers during active snow making & grooming.

Lapham Lodge Update: The Lodge team has received the THPO approval and have responded to additional questions from the EDA. The EDA has requested a lien/mortgage from DNR on the building and the land beneath it to protect the federal interest. DNR attorneys are drafting a document to find the right language to complete the paper work. A lien cannot be placed on the land as it is public land. The DNR and EDA are working to come to an agreement by September 30. Mark H. has drafted a press release to be ready if the EDA grant is awarded. John M. is finalizing responses to comments on the 35% plan submittal to DNR. John M. is preparing a WE Energies application to bring gas & electric service for the new lodge. The DNR may want to include the office & Evergreen shelter for gas service to replace the propane.

Lodge Publicity/Fundraising: Charlie R. & Anne R. attended the Delafield Tourism meeting in July, and reported that the group was receptive to their request for funds for the lodge. Charlie & Anne also spent August 4 at the Travel Wisconsin booth at the state fair promoting tourism in Waukesha County.

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: In the fall, check on logistics of reporting Lapham Peak trail conditions on the state snow report website. Use of stick guns for Phase IV.

Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek