

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
September 20, 2022 6:00 PM-7:45 PM

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the August 16 meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate

Snowmaking Funds: Anne R. shared the usual brief overview from the treasurer's report

Park Attendance & Income: July attendance at Lapham Peak was 59,675, August was 50,225. Income from sticker sales, trail passes, & special event fees in July was \$45,599 and in August was \$25,363. Colton noted that this does not include shelter rentals that are reserved online. Colton also noted that Lapham Peak is the 4th highest in revenue from sticker sales & trail passes, behind Peninsula, Devils Lake, and Willow River.

Future Expansion Going Up Two Tier: Will opened discussion asking what lessons we can learn from our current season for future expansion. John M. showed the original plans for Phase IV going up Two Tier and Hoot Owl. There are concerns about the impact of snowmaking on the trees along those heavily wooded trails. He noted they will need a field review with the DNR, then a survey. The old estimate for Phase IV was \$100,000 but now there will be the need for a contractor for some of the work, and costs have increased in general.

Snowmaking Preparation/Plans: Jim M. will look into trying to borrow a stick gun to use in some wooded, hilly areas this season. He will check with various manufacturers and will report at a future meeting. Colton mentioned that trail improvements and work are being done in those steep, hilly areas to control erosion and drainage issues. Rich is arranging for more tree trimming along a few parts of the trail in early November or December. Colton has the yellow chain that they can use to more easily close off parts of the trail during snowmaking as a safety measure.

Maintenance & Summer System Repairs: Plans are to complete the needed hydrant repairs and electrical work during the week of October 10. Wire is expected to arrive next week. Rich will work with Electek to mark line placement ahead of time. Beattle will arrange for an excavator. John M. & Colton are working on the plan to install a new 12" culvert beside the existing one. The pond berm has been restored by DNR staff to the height recorded during the well outlet project about 5 years ago. The WRSB holding tank was inspected after a big rain storm and only a few inches of water were found. Some adjustments were made to the rain gutters on the building with only a small amount of rain now coming in under the garage door. Rich is contacting Pieper Automation about the possibility of using a cellular controller app to control the lights and building security. They may come to demonstrate the system this fall.

Acceptance Certificate: The certificate of acceptance and thank you from the WI Natural Resources Board for the donation of the WRSB in January of 2021 will be framed for initial display in the WRSB until the new lodge is completed.

New RLUA: Anne Korman has obtained a draft from the WI DNR in Madison. More to follow.

Fright Hike: Online ticket sales are now available at <https://frighthike.ticketspice.com/2022laphampeakfrighthike> to sign up for a particular hour to attend. A volunteer Sign-up Genius site is available online. Many volunteers are needed.

Lapham Lodge Update: John M. is preparing a WE Energies application to bring gas & electric service for the new lodge. Mark H. announced that we have been awarded the EDA grant for \$1,299,900. Notices & press releases will be forthcoming, including from the governor's office, social media, the Friends website, and local publications. The final status of the award contract needs to be signed. John M. has prepared an updated project schedule with construction to begin May 15, 2023, and completed by July 1, 2024. Charlie and Will are working on a fall fund raising push to raise the final \$400,000 needed due to increased construction costs. They are awaiting word after the October meeting of the Delafield Tourism Commission regarding possible financial support for the Lodge project. John M. also mentioned an idea that he is pursuing for a brick sale donation program for the new patio. More details to come.

Friends Annual Meeting: Committee members were reminded by Anne R. of the annual meeting of the FLP on November 9 at 6:00PM at the Hausmann Nature Center. John M. will be giving a presentation on the new lodge.

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.

Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek