

Minutes of the Friends of Laham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
October 18, 2022 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Present via Zoom: Anne Riendl, Joanne Ziarek, Mike Graham, John McCarthy, Rich Marusinec, Rick Bjodstrup, Will Edwards, Mark Herr, Angie Meyer (guest), and Anne Korman, Advisor.

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

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the September 20 meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

Fright Hike: Online ticket sales are available for the 23rd annual event at <https://frighthike.ticketspice.com/2022laphampeakfrighthike> to sign up for a particular hour to attend. There will be a maximum of 4000 tickets sold with 2938 purchased so far. A volunteer Sign-up Genius site is available online as many volunteers are needed. Anne K. noted that the DNR is providing 1 or 2 wardens each night. Angela Meyer, event coordinator, gave updates noting that she has purchased LED lighting for some areas, that all skits are filled, and help is needed starting with setup the week of October 23 and in many other areas.

Snowmaking Funds: Anne R. shared the usual brief overview from the treasurer's report. Rich M. will have an expense summary for this past fiscal year available for the next snowmaking meeting.

Park Attendance & Income: September attendance at Lapham Peak was 35,770, which is lower than the average for that month of around 51,000. Anne Korman will be ordering a new traffic counter for Lapham Peak to replace the current calculating equipment that may not be accurate any more. The plan is to have it in place by spring of 2023. There continues to be interest in learning about the income that comes in via the internet to the WI-DNR via the CAMIS system for reservations, particularly from Lapham Peak.

Maintenance & Summer System Repairs: Rich provided the following summary of work completed the week of October 10 noting the excellent help from DNR staff and volunteers.

- B Circuit extension to A
 - Completed the underground cable from Pedestal B2 to A10. A10 is now B3 and A16 is now B9. We went from 2 Pedestals on B and 16 pedestals on A to 9 pedestals on each. This should minimize/eliminate the risk of 6 snow guns running on A circuit at one time in the future which was a problem and is an advantage for Phase 4 in the future since 200 amps will be available on each side of Phase 4 trail with less voltage drop.
 - 2.5 long days of work with excellent support from the DNR and 5 volunteers
 - Very good that we went with MC cable due to about 300 feet of very stony trenching.
 - Elect-Tech completed all the connections and assisted with cable insert

- Electrical Pedestal Repairs
 - Completed 2 high priority Pedestal connector replacement and wire clean up
 - Completed 3 Medium Priority Pedestal repairs.
 - All other pedestals are low priority with no apparent issues.
 - Lot of ants inside on the receptacle. May need to spray that next spring
- Light Post electrical box repairs
 - Two light pole broken boxes repaired as planned
- Hydrant valve replacements
 - All 4 planned hydrants were dug up and the bottom valve replaced.
- Culvert installation (John)
 - Culvert installed near the entrance of the trail per plan; some restoration needed.
- Trail locations for grooming or snowmaking using yellow chain & signs.
 - Jay, Rich, and Collin reviewed all the locations for possible trail closure during snowmaking with use of yellow chain and signs.
 - Almost all the locations can be connected to an existing light pole or post or tree with small eyebolts.
 - Rich to get eyebolts and plan to install in Oct
 - Jay and Collin to make 8 moveable posts with concrete for playground area trail
- Planned Hydrant review next week and system check
 - Conducted pump system start up and air purge from underground piping today (Oct 19). Went well. DNR assist with John and Rich
 - Reviewed middle field hydrant which froze last year. Replaced bottom sprocket and borings. Concern exists that the drain port could be stuck open which causes ground water to enter the hydrant. Will monitor this year. Also, will use pipe insulation and possible dirt around hydrant and 3 other hydrants that have had freeze issues in the lower area. Rich to talk to BJ on this for thermal analysis
- General 2023 season Prep – week of Nov 21 Meeting
 - Some activities are underway already. Also, DNR making progress on mowing of lower field already
- Hydrant Pipe temperatures and insulation – Rich and BJ
- Rich to have BJ meet him at the park to identify which hydrants to monitor and discuss insulation pipe options
- Pond Level
 - Jim M is making progress on the pond level monitoring and will have data ready for the next meeting.
- Activity to complete this snow season for phase 4 analysis
 - Jim M has been collecting info on the phase 4 equipment options. The most important thing to learn this winter is how far up the trail we can use our existing snow gun equipment. We will observe stick guns, probably at Ariens and possibly Michigan Forbush Corner Nordic. The further we can drag our fan guns the less stick guns we need to buy. We could need 15 stick guns at a cost of approximately \$9k (w/o compressor) each plus installation materials and parts. Or \$6k each with a \$20-30k 100hp compressor (or two 50 HP compressors). Jim has a contact at HDK and at a compressor company who understands snowmaking (somewhat)

- Rich emailed concept of running a snow gun up Tail End about 350 feet to determine furthest point a snow gun can be used, and about 500 feet from bottom of Hoot Owl (going east from existing last pedestals) We can create one more snow gun 100-foot extension cord for phase 4 trail if we buy another connector. Rich to check cost and availability.
- **Snowmaking Preparation/Plans:**
 - Rich is arranging for more tree trimming along a few parts of the trail in early November or December.
 - A training session for snowmakers is planned for the end of November to introduce Mike Koester as the co-leader.
 - John M. will place snow depth stakes along the trail and Jim Bostrom will be trimming around the hydrants again this year.

New RLUA: Anne Korman noted that Taylor Foster from Missy VanLanduyt's office at the WI-DNR in Madison is working on separate drafts for snowmaking and for the new lodge.

Lapham Lodge Update: Anne R. is awaiting an updated version of the letter of commitment from Waukesha State Bank for the \$300,000 loan. The October meeting of the Delafield Tourism Commission was canceled so we are still awaiting word regarding possible financial support for the Lodge project. Mark H. noted that the DNR and EDA legal teams are finalizing an agreement on the terms of the legal language so that the contract can be signed by the end of the week. The kick-off meeting with EDA is planned for November 2. John M. noted that the committee met with a representative from Sen. Tammy Baldwin's office, who offered suggestions for other possible grants. John also said that the donor brick program is rolling out and should appeal to many smaller donors.

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. and Mark H. 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