

Minutes of the Friends of Laham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
November 15, 2022 6:10 PM-7:15 PM

Present via Zoom: Anne Riendl, Joanne Ziarek, Mike Graham, John McCarthy, Rich Marusinec, Rick Bjodstrup, Will Edwards, Mark Herr, Charlie Ritter, Mike Koester.

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

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the October 18 meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

Fright Hike: Anne R. reported that the event sold out on both nights and that there were enough helpers for the most part. Will E. and Mike G. mentioned an incident on Friday night with 2 heavily armed men whose presence caused the park to shut down for a time until police arrived. No one was injured and the park reopened without further incident.

Park Attendance: October attendance at Lapham Peak was 71,000.

Options for Donations to Snowmaking: Mike K. suggested using a QR code that would link to the snowmaking website for skiers to donate easily, as well as possibly adding other ways to pay electronically, such as Venmo. Charlie will work with Mike to see if this can be streamlined. Charlie also mentioned that he will be putting into the kiosk the ski trail map showing the snowmaking trails as well as the flyer with links to donation information. Colton is having a more permanent version made of the ski trail map, and will post that when available.

Snowmaking Preparations: Rich M., John M., and Mike K. plan to meet at 10:00 on November 23 for final preparation plans for this season. Then they will meet with Colton & Jay from the DNR and check the forecast for possible initial snowmaking dates. Tree trimming along some of the trails is planned for the end of November. Rich reported that the initial sign up for snowmaking volunteers is going well with several new volunteers joining. He and Mike K. will plan the training session. The DNR is in the process of filling the pond in preparation for making snow. It was noted that in the past the trails usually open sometime between December 9-15, depending on weather conditions. Rick B. presented some concerns about finding water in one of the hydrants and will drain it. He will join the November 23 meeting at 11:00.

Annual Holiday Greeting: Rick B. and Anne R. plan to work on a holiday greeting this year in place of the usual holiday card.

Bike Doc Nordic Night: Charlie reported that the Bike Doc is having an open house event on December 1 from 6-8PM for all volunteers involved with snowmaking.

CCSAA Membership: Charlie recommended not renewing our membership in this organization for the \$450 fee. After the past year his assessment was that our organization didn't receive enough benefit from the Cross-Country Ski Assoc. of America.

Tuesday Time Trials: Mike Graham announced that he will again run the Tuesday afternoon time trials.

Ariens Facility: John M. Reported that the new Ariens facility may be opening the second week of December.

State Snow Report Website: Charlie R. plans to attend a seminar on how to add the Lapham Peak trail conditions to this site.

New RLUA: No further information was available beyond what Anne Korman had noted at the previous meeting. 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: Mark H. gave a concise report of progress. The Friends board has approved having the treasurer sign a letter of commitment for a \$300,000 loan from Waukesha State Bank. The DNR has signed the EDA grant. The kickoff meeting with EDA was held via Zoom on November 3. The committee met with the architects last week and will be meeting with the Graef engineers this week. DNR secretary Preston Cole visited Lapham Peak the first week of November. With volunteer help, 1200 fund raising flyers were mailed last week. John M. is close to the final version of the brick donation form. John M. has submitted the Phase II Stewardship Friends grant application to the DNR.

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.

Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek