

Minutes of the Friends of Laham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Zoom  
January 17, 2022 6:00 PM-7:40 PM

**Present via Zoom:** Anne Riendl, Joanne Ziarek, Mike Graham, John McCarthy, Jim Marschalek, Mike Koester, Will Edwards, Mark Herr, Colton Kelly and Anne Korman, advisors.

**Next meetings:** February 14, March 14, April 18 from 6PM to 7:45PM via Zoom.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the December 13 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 profit from the event allotted to the Friends will be shared between Snowmaking and the Buckthorn Busters.

**Park Attendance:** December attendance at Lapham Peak was 40,005.

**FLP Snowmaking Funds:** Anne presented a brief summary of snowmaking funds from the December treasurer's report.

**Snowmaking Results, Round 2:** Rich M. submitted the following detailed report:

\* Since the last meeting **Snow making** occurred for 4 continuous days from 12/19 through 12/21 which successfully completed the trail. Volunteer support was excellent for this round of snowmaking, and snow output was very good.

\* Snow making touch up due to extensive rain and warm weather for 2 weeks, occurred Jan 6 and Jan 7 for about 15 hours each day requiring start up and shutdown each day. The playground and part of Beattle's Way were also completed. DNR snowmaking support was excellent but Volunteer support was a bit short both days (likely due to making snow on a weekend). Thanks to the volunteers who did help during this weekend! Humidity was at 85% during this period which made for wetter snow than normal and less output, but still very important snow was made in many areas.

**Next Snowmaking Plans:**

\* It looks favorable for a good snowmaking period around Jan 24 to Jan 28 to do trail touch up in various locations and complete playground and Beattle's Way if weather cooperates. We will need good volunteer support for this period, especially if we can run for 3 or 4 days. The pond is close to full at this time so good water will be available. Rich or Mike will email all volunteers later this week on this time period if the weather forecast holds for cold temps and also meet with the DNR to discuss their availability per Rich M.

\* Mike Koester's Coordinator training took place the past month and he is now capable of coordinating [signup.com](http://signup.com) and communications with all volunteers and the DNR team.

\* Collin Bergholtz (DNR Staff) is now well trained in snowmaking and shift coordination. Thanks to Jay, Mike and Rich to conduct thorough training for Collin.

Mike K. made additional comments regarding some issues with the system taking longer to reach pressure recently. This issue will be added to the list of summer projects to check.

Mike also noted that in this next phase they plan to add about 6 inches of snow to the entire machine-made trail system so will need 3 volunteers per each time slot.

**Water Usage Alternatives:** Jim M. presented detailed information that he had gathered about a snowmaking additive called Snowmax that can be mixed in with the water during the snowmaking process to enhance the volume and amount of snow produced by about 40%. This was presented as an alternative to the need for more water availability for peak snowmaking results such as a second or deeper well or deeper pond. There was discussion about the cost, environmental concerns, DNR approval, ideal temperature for use, checking with other X-C ski areas and local downhill areas that might use this product. These things will be clarified for a future meeting. In addition, John M. mentioned that he had talked to a representative from our well company who suggested a new pump might be needed to reach the lower water table. This will be pursued in the summer. Meanwhile, information on the current pump needs to be located.

**Direction of Skiing:** There have been requests from frequent skiers to consider changing the direction of skiing from time to time for variety. Anne K. and Colton explained that the DNR needs to keep the direction consistent for safety reasons. They also have no resources for new signage nor scheduling. Colton noted that eventually the whole state park system will have new signage with arrows and codes embedded for users to determine what direction to go.

**Department of Tourism:** Colton announced that people from the Dept. of Tourism will be coming to Lapham tomorrow morning at 9AM and would like to show some skiers, including sit-skiers, using the machine-made snow trails.

**DNR Park Management Meeting:** Anne K. announced that the quarterly meeting of all DNR park management, including all the district supervisors, will be held at Lapham Peak in mid-February. They want to see a snowmaking demonstration. Anne K. will notify the appropriate people when the date is set.

**New FLP Officers Elected:** Anne R. reported that new officers were elected at the January meeting of the FLP board. They are President-John Hillmer, Vice President-Melissa Jarecki, Treasurer-Karl Timm, Assistant Treasurer-Anne Riendl, and Secretary-Mark Fischer.

**Lapham Lodge Update:** Mark H. reported that the required first quarterly EDA report has been filed. They received the initial LUA for the Lodge from the DNR. Once finalized, this document will be used for the basis of site certification. He reported that with funds raised and anticipated they are at around \$2.2 million of the \$2.4 million goal. The Friends of Lapham Peak also have a loan commitment for \$300,000 from Waukesha State Bank.

**Volunteer Hours:** Everyone is reminded to keep track of all volunteer hours during 2023. Hours can be documented on the Google docs snowmaking volunteers spread sheet. Any remaining volunteer hours from 2022 should be forwarded to Anne R. or John Hillmer.

**Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek**