

Minutes of the Friends of Laham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Zoom  
February 14, 2022 6:05 PM-7:00 PM

**Present via Zoom:** Anne Riendl, Joanne Ziarek, Mike Graham, John McCarthy, Mike Koester, Rick Bjodstrup, Rich Marusinec.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the January 17 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 Friends profit from the event was \$16,029.16 and will be split evenly between Snowmaking and Habitat for both the 2022 and 2023 events.

**Park Attendance:** January attendance at Lapham Peak was 53,900.

**FLP Snowmaking Funds:** Anne presented a brief summary of snowmaking funds from the December treasurer's report. She also shared the figures for snowmaking income for all past years.

As of Feb 1, 2023

SM Income in past fiscal  
years

\$1,000.00	2005
\$68,074.21	2006
\$55,092.14	2007
\$49,627.90	2008
\$37,730.33	2009
\$38,021.04	2010
\$43,671.00	2011
\$43,666.11	2012
\$47,045.32	2013
\$50,436.44	2014
\$49,578.99	2015
\$70,608.23	2016
\$53,291.45	2017
\$70,849.98	2018
\$114,648.89	2019
\$144,972.54	2020
\$245,096.76	2021
\$74,129.14	2022
\$33,612.79	2023
<b>\$1,291,153.26</b>	<b>SUM</b>

**Thank You/Receipts:** Anne R. was pleased to report that she has finished sending thank you receipts to all donors who contributed money to Snowmaking during 2022.

**Snowmaking Report:** Rich M. and Mike K. provided a current report noting that the latest round of snowmaking was 1/28-1/31. It went well due to the cold temps but was hard to keep up with the snow piles in the evening. We may need 3 volunteers when using all 7 guns overnight when it's extremely cold (or run fewer snow guns). They also found that it was more difficult to maneuver the guns with 10 inches of fresh snow on the ground and the gator was stuck several times. There was also some discussion about the need for a new gator and this is being looked into with DNR.

Ideas were discussed for recruiting and committing volunteers, especially later in the season, and on weekends. They will also discuss DNR snowmaking availability for next season so we know what shifts they will be able to cover during the evening shifts and where we need to evaluate volunteer availability.

Mike K. and Rich M. are looking at different snow guns nozzles and considering some modifications that can be made for our climate of more moderate temperatures with higher humidity in December. SMI has recommendations for different nozzle sizes for use in "moderate conditions" and they plan to switch some nozzle sizes early next year to evaluate these ideas. They also had numerous nucleator freeze issues and are researching the best way to thaw the nucleators in below zero temperatures or prevent them from freezing. Rich M. has an SMI contact who is the Lead Engineer for the snow guns. We are discussing special needs for Nordic snowmaking and things we can do differently with nozzles, valves, compressor, and water filters. They are making a list and will be checking the guns for needed maintenance along with Jim M. and Jay. We will need to order a moderate number of parts this year for items not working (gauges, lights, filters).

Mike K. mentioned that they may run the snow guns briefly for 6-8 hours this Friday morning, February 10, to repair the worst spots on the trails unless mother nature provides enough fresh snow. He will know more Thursday. They will have a more comprehensive season summary in April and attempt to summarize the various actions needed prior to next season.

**Channel 58 Special:** Tomorrow, February 15, Channel 58 is scheduled to air a feature on Lapham Peak snowmaking that was filmed on February 6. That day a cameraman and reporter interviewed Rich M., Beattle, and Jay and filmed a demonstration of the Pisten Bully and a snow gun.

**DNR Park Management Meeting:** The state quarterly meeting of all DNR park management, including all the district supervisors, will be held at Lapham Peak February 15. John M. will be making a presentation on snowmaking and on the Lapham Lodge with Mark H. followed by a snowmaking demonstration by Rich M. and a tour of the WRSB to see the Pisten Bully.

**Lapham Lodge Update:** Mark H. and John M. reported that the Lapham Lodge project was awarded a Phase II Friends Stewardship Grant in the amount of \$20,000. Thanks to John McCarthy for submitting the grant application. He will be applying for a Phase III grant in November. The design team is busy working to have all of the information needed such as the LUA and site certification documents in order to submit plans next week.

**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.

**Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek**