

Minutes of the Friends of Laham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
May 16, 2023 6:05 PM-8:15 PM

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

Next meetings: June 13, August 15 from 6PM to 7:45PM via Zoom. July 11 to be in person potluck cookout with members of the FLP Board at the Mike Fort Shelter at Lapham Peak.

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

FLP Snowmaking Funds: Anne presented a brief summary of snowmaking funds from the April 2023 treasurer's report.

Lapham Peak Attendance: March was 34,055, and April was 43,435.

Grooming Report: Beattle gave a comprehensive report covering the many aspects of grooming. He noted that in 3 seasons of use they have logged 716 hours on the Pisten Bully. They were unable to get it started recently, but it is under warranty and they are waiting for the mechanic to come. He and Mark Janis have completed the initial training of Alex Matson to be the 3rd groomer, but he needs an additional 25-30hrs. They plan to train Mike Koester to be the 4th groomer this coming season. There was discussion on improving the driveway out of the WRSB to eliminate gravel & clay being picked up in the tracks of the Pisten Bully and dragged on to the trail. It was suggested that they look into obtaining more belts/tracks like the machine rests on in the WRSB and place them on the ground on top of the gravel and then make the first snow on that driveway on top of the tracks. Another topic of discussion was what to do with the snow cutter that has been on loan for 3 years and hasn't been used. It turned out not to be useful for our conditions. Beattle can arrange to return it to the company that makes the Pisten Bully accessories if that is agreed upon after a few more inquiries at places that may use one. He also mentioned that there is an accessory available with a mini tiller to be used only on the classic track for possible future consideration.

Snowmaking Report: Rich M. gave another detailed report on snowmaking noting that a few of the typical low areas on the trail may benefit from initially making thicker snow and even some small hilly sections with extra snow in areas that melt quickly which can be spread when needed. He had a well discussion with Anhalt Well Drilling and noted that the last upgrade was in 2017 when the output was boosted to 95 gal/min. Now the output is down to 55-65 gal/min and is possibly due to a lowered water table. We may need to go deeper and get a larger pump. Tony Anhalt will get back to Rich with well information and general cost estimates. Rich had an initial discussion with WE Energies regarding the secondary power feed. The existing feed is a 480 ungrounded Delta. Rich, along with Jim M. & Colton, will be meeting with Elektec on May 18 to check on existing grounding at the main panel and if anything may need to be modified. Initial testing has been done on the pump and hydrant with more testing to occur to investigate hydrants that freeze and the water pressure drop when the system is shut down. Snow gun maintenance will be done the week of May 23rd on the Std Pole Cats (Kid Polecats completed in early May). The

snowmaking man power sub-group of Colton, Mike, Jim, Rich, & Anne R. plans to meet in June to come up with ways to find/entice/recruit people to help with trail maintenance, snow making, and grooming. At the June or August meeting, Rich will present a balance sheet summarizing costs by month through April noting that the expenses for the season will be \$25,000-\$30,000. This yearly figure may increase in the future due to having additional paid groomers and snow makers. Rich noted that we got a credit on electricity and he and Colton will check into the availability of diesel credits too. Rich also applied for this year's diesel fuel tax credit.

Snow Max: Jim M. had sent a photo to committee members of a system set up in Quebec to show what is needed in terms of equipment and space. He reiterated that using this product is supposed to be a more efficient and quicker way of using water to make snow. Colton met with the sales rep. It would likely require a \$5000 purchase of product with free use of the set up for the first year, then there would be an equipment rental fee for future years. Rich & Jim M. will pursue more details for the steps needed to try this system for the coming season. This includes assessing our needs and determining how well it works in warm & wet temperatures as well as in cold. Colton noted that it is being used on state property so DNR approval won't be needed. Rich will check with SMI to see how this would work with our snow guns. The plan would then be for Jim M. to submit a proposal to the company

Safety Flashers on Hwy C: Colton and Anne R. applied for an Enhancement Grant from the DNR to install safety flashers at the pedestrian crossing near Evergreen on Hwy C. This will include early flashers before the crossing from both directions to give motorists ample time to slow down. The Waukesha Co. Hwy Department has issued the permit for this project and will install the flashers. The grant is a match of \$5000 from the DNR and \$5000 from the Friends of Lapham Peak. In addition, the IATA has pledged \$2000 to help cover the costs of the project. They expect to hear soon and then will have to submit 3 bids.

Snowmaking Donation of Brick to Lodge: John M. submitted the following proposal:

Proposal: The FLP Snowmaking Committee requests that the FLP Board transfer \$500 of unrestricted funds from the Snowmaking fund to the Lapham Lodge fund to purchase a laser-inscribed 8- inch by 8-inch paver for the Lapham Lodge east patio.

Background and Justification: Fundraising for the Lapham Lodge includes a program for purchase of laser-inscribed brick pavers to be installed in the east patio of the lodge. Pavers will be of the same sizes and colors as used on the brick walkways at the Butterfly Garden, and will be supplied by That's My Brick. The snowmaking project will be a primary beneficiary of the Lapham Lodge, which will be located directly adjacent to the snowmaking trail and provide a large gathering space, restrooms, and changing rooms for use by cross country skiers and year-round visitors to the park. The lodge will support cross country skiing events, races, lessons, and other Friends and ski club activities; will provide a respite for volunteers during snowmaking operations; and will include lighting and a public address system that will support cross country skiing activities on the snowmaking trails. Funding for the paver will be accomplished through a transfer of funds by the FLP treasurer, and will come from money in the Snowmaking fund that is not considered a "Restricted Donation". Paver inscription will be as agreed to by the Snowmaking Committee. The proposal passed and the inscription agreed upon will be:

Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Project.

Fright Hike 2023: Planning for the 2023 event is ongoing. Friday October 13 will be a one-night hike with 13 spooky manikins along the trail for \$13.00. The Fright Hike will be the last weekend in October 27 & 28.

Lapham Lodge Update: Mark H. reported that the 95% documents were submitted to the DNR & DOA on March 7, and they are still awaiting a response. This means that they likely won't get the response until the end of May and bids won't occur until June. They are also waiting for the signed agreement between EDA and DNR for wording on the mortgage agreement. Both sets of attorneys continue to work on this. John M. and Mark H. plan to attend the Natural Resources Board meeting on May 23 to submit the request from the FLP to donate the new lodge building to the DNR upon completion of construction. The FLP board approved having treasurer Karl Timm sign the documents related to obtaining a \$300,000 loan from the Waukesha State Bank. The board expects no loan money will come from the bank until near the end of construction. It is hoped that enough donations will come in before then so that this loan will not need to be used. John M. reported that they have received a proposal for WE Energies to relocate the electric lines. They have also been approved by Focus on Energy for a cost-sharing grant for a possible upgrade to the plans that may include the cost of converting from propane to natural gas for the building.

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