

Minutes of the Friends of Laham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
June 13, 2023 6:00 PM-7:40 PM

Present via Zoom: Anne Riendl, Joanne Ziarek, Mike Graham, John McCarthy, Mark Herr, Will Edwards, Rick Bjodstrup, Charlie Ritter, Mike Koester, and Colton Kelly, Advisor.

Next meetings: 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 May 16 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 May 2023 treasurer's report noting that slightly less than \$9000.00 was paid to Hase Landscape for grooming/spreading services provided by Mark Janis and snowmaking services provided by Mike Koester during the 2022-23 season.

Lapham Peak Attendance: May was 56,035.

Lapham Peak Income to DNR via Camis: Colton provided a listing of income from the Camis system for campsites and rentals by various locations showing that Lapham Peak received about \$11,000.00 during 2022. Parks with large campgrounds were at the top of the list.

Frozen Hydrants: Rick B. has been doing some studies and presented his initial findings with more to come. He tested antifreeze solutions of 25%, 50%, & 75% and after 2 months there was no corrosion.

SnowMax Snowmaking Additive: Jim M. was unable to attend the meeting so will likely send information to the committee prior to our August meeting. Mike K. raised concerns about the effects on the health of the volunteer snowmakers breathing in these particles. More to come.

Snowmaking Report: Rich M submitted his report via email covering well, pump, and electrical issues. He has talked with Tony Anhalt, who installed our well pump and also lowered it 60ft in 2017, about our current low gal/min levels. He is still waiting for well information and Colton is checking the DNR files for the pump information. The pump should put out 95-120 gpm and it reached 95gpm in 2017 after the pump was lowered. Rich and Collin repeated the pump output tests on May 21 showing initial output of 130 gpm, which dropped to 75 gpm in 1hr and down to 60 gpm when tested 7hrs later. Rich met with Scott Guthrie of Guthrie and Frey to discuss possible reasons for the decreased pump output. Rich will provide more pump information at our August meeting. A meeting is scheduled for June 21 with WE Energies and Elect-Tech for Rich, Jim M., John M., and DNR to discuss the existing ungrounded Delta system to determine if any updates are needed to that system or the power back panel. Rich will report on this meeting in August. Anne R. noted that the diesel fuel tax refund that Rich applied for was received from the state Department of Revenue in the amount of \$227. The sub group for the snowmaking man power discussion plans to have an initial meeting in late July to discuss manpower options for the 2023/2024 season.

Pump and Hydrant Testing: An initial round of water pressure tests and decay rates was conducted on May 31 by Rich, Collin, Mike K. and John M. that indicated a much quicker loss of pressure in the underground water system after it is turned off than in the past. This suggests that there is a leak or two somewhere in the system. Rich also talked to Joe Cousins from Torrent about this issue and received information on how to monitor the pump during testing, how to find the elevation of the leak, and how to test that it's not a pump issue by doing a short test with the pump valve closed. Rich plans to propose a later date to do a second round of testing. They estimate a loss of 20+ gal/min, (or about 1300 gal/hr), but didn't find any wet spots at the hydrants so will check the pump house to see if the loss is occurring at the pump vs from out in the pipe system. There was much discussion on this topic. They may also consider hiring a company to check the system to detect where the leak is if their second test doesn't pinpoint it.

Snow Gun Maintenance: Spring snow gun maintenance has been completed by Rich and Brian F. with Mike K. helping on the Standard Pole Cats and changing a few lights. In late fall they will check the snow guns by starting them and checking the heaters and gauges along with adjusting the nucleators for the start of the season. They plan to change the nozzles on one snow gun as a trial for the first few weeks of the season. This will be done outside and Rich, Mike K. and Jim M. will complete this review. In July Rich and Brian F. plan to change the oil on the Torrent well pump and grease it.

Anne Korman Retirement: It was announced that Anne K. will be retiring July 1, 2023, taking some vacation time, then continuing in a different capacity to work on the Lapham Lodge project until its completion. In the interim, Brian Lemke from the southern unit will be the acting superintendent for Lapham Peak as well. It was suggested that we invite him to the July 11 cookout/pot luck so that FLP board and snow making committee members can meet him. Joanne Z. will send the invitation.

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. Colton received word today, June 13, that Lapham Peak has received the grant. Colton will now get the 3 bids that are required.

Lapham Lodge Update: Mark H. reported that the 95% documents were submitted to the DNR & DOA on March 7, and Mark H. and John M. just received the comments from Madison. They will meet with the DNR this week to review the comments. Thus, there are still two items that need to be resolved before they can open the project for bids: the comments from DNR & DOA as well as the language on the mortgage lien.

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