

Minutes of the Friends of Laham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
August 15, 2023 6:05 PM-8:00 PM

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

Next meetings: September 12 via zoom, October 17 (*changed by Anne R. after the meeting to October 16 in person at the Hausmann Nature Center*), November 14, and December 12 via Zoom from 6:00 to 7:00PM. There was discussion regarding a couple other day time meeting options, but the current starting time of 6:00PM was continued. It was also suggested that the meetings be kept to 1 hour, when possible.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the June 13 meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

FLP Snowmaking Funds: Anne noted that the FLP treasurer and assistant treasurer have been working diligently on the 990 and the audit for fiscal year Oct 1, 2021-Sept 30, 2022 so there were no new treasurer's reports yet for June and July of 2023.

Lapham Peak Attendance: June was 49,350 and July was 60,200 with an average of 49,000 per month for the 2022-2023 year.

Snowmaking Report: Rich M submitted his detailed report covering well, pump, and electrical issues. A meeting was held on June 21 with WE Energies and Elect-Tech with Rich, Jim M., and DNR to discuss the existing ungrounded Delta system to determine if any updates are needed to that system or the transocket back panel. Elect-Tech is looking at options and equipment lead times. They recommended replacing the existing transocket with a new grounded Delta transocket with main breaker. After much discussion the committee agreed that we will need the newer equipment to meet newer standards with a projected cost of around \$25,000. Rich and Jim M. will pursue solutions and updates needed with DNR, We-Energies, and Elect-Tech.

Rick B. had circulated some documents via email regarding his research into causes of frozen hydrants. Rich M. has reviewed this information and will discuss with Rick B. It is likely that the 3-inch hydrants will be replaced with the 2-inch ones. Jim M. suggested that the discussion of using SnowMax as an additive to snowmaking be postponed until next season due to the many current active projects.

Well Update: Rich met with both Guthrie & Frey and Herr last week for some options to increase the gal/min capacity. An option is to clean out the existing well to 660 ft. It's likely that a new, more powerful pump will be needed at a cost of around \$30,000. Colton will look for funding, noting that the DNR requires bids from 3 companies. More to come.

Pump and Hydrant Testing: As reported previously, the initial round of water pressure tests and decay rates conducted on May 31 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. The second round of tests was completed in July with Rich, Jay & Collin where they ran the pump for 3hrs @ 300psi and couldn't find any leaks after 24hours near any of

the hydrants. They suspect the leaks may be below Summer Stage and maybe one place in the upper system. They plan to do round 3 of tests on August 17 with Rich, John M., and Colton.

Snow Gun Maintenance: Late fall review and check of the snow guns will occur in October with Rich & Mike K. starting the guns, 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.

Snowmaking Manpower Needs: Rich has a draft summary of manpower needs to be discussed at a meeting in the next few weeks (likely around Sept.20) with Rich, Anne R., Colton, & Jim M.

Stick Gun Demo Near WRSB: There has been ongoing discussion with Wes from SMI and they may provide a free stick gun or two for demo use to make snow as needed at the WRSB and near the new lodge start area without having to move them.

Window Shades for WRSB: The committee gave the OK for Rich to purchase and install window shades in the WRSB to enhance security for the contents of the building.

Gator Cooling System Repairs: Repair cost is \$2,040.00. The Habitat group is asking for snowmaking funds to pay \$500 toward this cost since this gator is used to move snow guns and for various other snowmaking activities. The committee agreed to this expenditure.

Trail Maps: Charlie R. initiated a discussion about the possibility of having a map of the snow making ski trails printed with or without advertising of sponsors/donors. He and Colton will explore the idea further and the possibility of having DNR hand out the maps when requested.

Lighting Issues: Rich, Jay, and Collin have continued to investigate issues on the lighted loop and the dark cut off and will need to change the GFCI outlet box to eliminate future hornet and bug issues. A trial was conducted last week using 2 new prototype LED lights on the playground area and 1 or 2 more may be ordered in September. There is also some consideration to use extra lights on two poles on the dark cut-off and at the top of Tail End, perhaps in October.

Emergency Response: Colton will meet with Rich M., John McC, and Dan Matson from the Lapham Peak Ski Club to discuss a proposal to install an AED in a heated enclosure somewhere on the trail system. Colton also raised the issue of access to the rescue sled when no park staff is available. He is bidding on a used one that is larger and has optional skis. An access plan will have to be worked out later.

Safety Flashers on Hwy C: Colton received word on June 13 that Lapham Peak has received the \$5000 Enhancement Grant. Colton will now get the 3 bids that are required. Anne R. and Colton will also pursue sources for the additional \$7800 needed to install 2 early warning flashers in both directions.

Lapham Lodge Update: Mark H. reported that the drawings and specs were submitted to DNR with a requested deadline to return them by August 21 so that they can be submitted to EDA for approval to ask for bids for the project. The committee is still hopeful to get bids and break ground this fall if DNR returns everything in a timely manner. A ground breaking ceremony is

tentatively being set for October 31 with plans to give the contractors the flexibility of a 13-month construction period once bids have been received and approved.

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