

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Zoom  
September 12, 2023 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

**Present via Zoom:** Anne Riendl, Joanne Ziarek, Mike Graham, John McCarthy, Mark Herr, Jim Marschalek, Will Edwards, Mike Koester, and Rick Bjodstrup.

**Next meetings:** October 16 in person at the Hausmann Nature Center, then November 14, and December 12 via Zoom from 6:00 to 7:00PM.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the August 15 meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

**FLP Snowmaking Funds:** Anne gave a brief summary of the balance at the end of August after the audit had been completed.

**Snowmaking Report:** Rich M submitted his detailed report covering well, pump, hydrant, and electrical issues. He has received a bid for clean out and replacement of pump and piping for an approximate cost of \$48,000. This will require extensive planning including rebuilding of the well building and electrical upgrades. We will not be able to complete this project this fall and will create a project request for Colton to submit to the DNR as a 2024 project. The well output is down to 55 gal/min but is holding consistent so will take longer to fill the pond during snowmaking. Elect Tech has the new Phase Voltage Monitor detector on order for delivery Nov 22 with installation planned prior to snowmaking (Jim M will coordinate the installation with Elect-Tech). The system will have a 90db horn which will go off if a phase voltage drop occurs due to a fault condition. Jim M is also looking into other optional alarm methods. We have also ordered a new main panel and breaker for March 2024. Rich plans to have Elect Tech review all lower pedestals to determine if any new connectors or work is needed prior to snowmaking. Rich and Colton will meet in 2 weeks to discuss snowmaking topics and a plan summary to submit to WE Energies.

**Pump and Hydrant Testing:** Rounds 2,3, and 4 of testing have been completed with No.4 done on September 10 by Rich, Mike K., Colton, and Collin. They did not find any water coming from the ground from a leak but heard a loud underground water noise from the hydrant nearest the well house. This is the same hydrant that John M. felt earlier that there may be a possible leak near the connection by the main 8-inch underground pipe. Colton plans to clear the area around the hydrant as soon as possible for further analysis. John M. is ordering 3 hydrant assemblies for use where needed and multiple valve kits. A few hydrants had small drips but sealed shut upon added tightening. This shows how a hydrant could freeze in winter if just a bit loose. **Addendum on September 15:** An exploratory excavation with the skid loader and post hole diggers around hydrant H-1, near the pump house, exposed a leak below the hydrant drain valve. The actual source of the leak was not determined, but a future excavation was planned to expose the base of the hydrant, determine the source of the leak, and develop a repair plan.

**Snow Gun Maintenance:** As mentioned previously, the late fall review and check of the snow guns will occur in late October with Rich & Mike K. starting the guns, checking the heaters and gauges along with adjusting the nucleators for the start of the season.

**Snowmaking Manpower Needs:** Rich has a draft summary of manpower needs to be discussed at a meeting around Sept.20 with Rich, Anne R., Colton, & Jim M. The need for snowmakers will be mentioned at the Lapham Ski Club meetings and on social media.

**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. No update.

**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 and some have already been installed.

**Lighting Issues:** Rich, Jay, and Collin have continued to investigate issues on the lighted loop and the dark cut off. The conclusion is that the underground wire has a break somewhere in both areas. DNR has picked up new wire and plans to trench and install it today. Collin mounted 2 new prototype lights on the back up parking lot by the barn for review with plans to relocate them to the playground the end of October. Collin is also continuing to review the entire light system for future repair needs. Rich completed a new 3-light board assembly as a prototype for the dark cut off to be mounted in October, and possibly used in a few other areas if time permits.

**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 are pursuing sources for the additional \$7800 needed to install 2 early warning flashers in both directions and have received an additional \$3000 so far.

**Lapham Lodge Update:** Mark H. reported that, while the DNR has completed its reviews of the Lodge plans and sent their comments, we are still waiting for comments on the building MEP plans from the DOA. After 5 weeks of waiting the lodge committee has recommended moving the ground breaking to the spring with construction starting in the spring of 2024. This delay may result in increased construction costs requiring more fund raising.

**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**