

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
In-person meeting at Hausman Nature Center
October 16, 2023 6:00 PM-8:15 PM

Present: Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Mark Herr, Jim Marschalek, Rick Bjodstrup, Rich Marusinec, Beattle

Next Meetings: November 14 Tuesday and **Monday December 11** via Zoom 6:00 pm (Note that December 12 conflicts with FLP Board meeting).

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the September 12 meeting were approved. Mark Herr will notify Joanne Z who will then notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

Snowmaking Report: Rich M submitted the following detailed report covering the well, We Energies power feed, hydrant leak repair and test, snow gun maintenance, snowmaking manpower needs and actions, light issues on the lighted loop, stick gun demo, manpower needs for snowmaking infrastructure and future responsibilities, and project funding discussion.

Well Output Update: Rich M is creating an initial overview of the well cleanout and pump upgrade project and will get input from John M this month. Rich M will provide the overview and summary to Colton K for DNR submittal for 2024 funding.

We Energies Snow Making Power Feed and Activity: Rich M provided an update on We Energies Grounded Delta Power Panel project form and submittal planned for April 2024. John M has provided feedback and Rich M is waiting for Elect Tech comments. Goal is to submit this form in the next two weeks to We Energies. Elect Tech installed the voltage monitor in the WRSB. The voltage monitor is fully operational. Also, the temporary voltage monitor will be replaced with an Ericson monitor in late November. The alarm in the Brown Power Panel #1 at the trailhead is also fully operational. Rich M provided an update on the Green Pedestal inspection and 2-day enhancements to the 24 pedestals completed in October by Elect Tech to verify that all pedestals are ready and well insulated prior to snowmaking. Additionally, the DNR added significant crushed stone around all of the pedestals to both minimize movement and to prevent mice/rodents from entering the pedestals.

Rich M discussed labeling requirements for all pedestals and disconnects. He also discussed this topic with DSPS to get their input. Jim M will assist with the labeling. Rich mentioned the use of PPE (special gloves) for pedestal operations this season. Input received from call to Craig Mulder (DSPS Electrical Program Consultant for our district in the State.)

Hydrant Leak Repair and Test: John M provided update on the repair of leaking hydrant (H1) which is now repaired. Rich M provided an update on the pump test and that the repair was successful. It does not appear that we have any other active leaks at this time. This will save about 40 gpm during snowmaking operations. Thanks to DNR for great support and to Beattle and Mike K for assistance.

Snow Gun Maintenance: A late fall review (Rich M, Mike K and Jim M) and check of the snow guns will occur in October/November. Rich M and Mike K to start up the guns and check heaters (Jim M) and all gauges along with adjusting nucleators for the start of the season.

Snowmaking Manpower Needs and Actions: Rich M and Anne R provided an update on the meeting with John Kolbe and John Hillmer to form a four-man Buckthorn Busters team for 3rd shift snowmaking help this season. Funding would be transferred from Snowmaking to the Buckthorn Busters at the end of season in return for their support. Rich M provided an update on other manpower topics and personnel. Rich is working on a summary of Coordinators and soon to be Coordinators and would like to

get Coordinators together for training prior to snowmaking due to new procedures to be introduced this season. Rich discussed new items for snowmakers in 2023-2024 including:

- Emphasize approval and DNR form for gator operation. Only experienced operators can drive gator.
- Will have new training session on pedestal operation and safety.
- Information on voltage monitoring and upgrades to older green pedestals, and labeling to current electrical standards.
- Low pond well input and effect on refilling well with emphasis on not wasting water.

Discussion on manpower incentives for off-shifts and volunteer incentives was held (use of Fright Hike dollars). Review of Volunteer Log and plan for verification of interest for this season, and training needs, were discussed. Emails soon from Rich M and Mike K to verify Shift Coordinators for this season. Rich M and Mike K to set new volunteer training dates. Eric Kehl and Travis may be interested in Snowmaking. Rich M will be travelling from Nov 4 through Nov 29. Mike K will be available for November activities per prep spreadsheet. Rich M and Mike K will have a meeting in Late October to coordinate preparations.

Light Issues on Lighted Loop: Two underground light circuits were repaired by Jay and Collin from DNR. Green cut-off lights were replaced with new lights (very old black fixtures with burnt out lights were replaced with new Hydrel lights – 3 on one pole and 2 on the other pole.) New lights on Tail End are being assembled for late October installation. Two more lights ordered for the playground planned for late October installation. There is a desire to review alignment of lights on the trail and securement to pole issues. Jay and Collin investigating.

Stick Gun Demo Near WSRB: Rich M has several calls into Wes at SMI. No update from last meeting.

Short Comments on Manpower Needs for Snowmaking Infrastructure and Responsibilities:

Spreadsheet being prepared for 2023-2024 snowmaking season. Possible need for snowmaking infrastructure resources discussed.

Project Funding Discussion from August Meeting: Well-DNR to request \$48K for May 2024.

Snowmaking to cover costs over \$48 K. Main power panel- Snowmaking. Erickson voltage monitor- Nov 22 install. Misc. lights- Combination DNR and Snowmaking. Pedestal upgrades and insulation, and voltage monitors- Snowmaking. It was discussed that Rich M should have a FLP credit card to simplify recording of purchases.

Fundraising Christmas Card: Rick B will be coordinating the design and mailing of the Snowmaking fundraising Christmas card again this year. Rick B distributed artwork by Genevieve Connell showing four design options. One option was selected for this year's card. The target date for distribution is November 15. Rick B will coordinate printing and mailing.

PistenBully Maintenance: Beattle gave a report on the PistenBully. Annual maintenance was completed on Sept 12 and 13. The sensor that controls DEP (Diesel Exhaust Fluid) system was replaced again in Sept 2023. The manufacturer's warranty on most items will expire upon start of season this year. There are currently 723 operating hours on the machine. There is a two- year extended warranty on the engine and some other major parts. Per previous discussions, the snow cutter blade is being returned to the dealer as soon as the dealer can arrange transport. The Snowmaking Committee approved the purchase of gravel to cover the drive from the WRSB to the trail. Beattle will scrape off several inches of the exposed clay and then place the gravel. It would be desirable to purchase a new wider Ginzu in the future. The DNR was notified that the Honda dealer has received notice of shipment of the new Honda gator.

Safety Flashers on Highway C: An individual has donated \$800 to complete the fundraising for the Highway C flashers. Anne R is coordinating with Colton K for the payment and installation.

Snowmaking Annual Report: John M will write the Snowmaking Committee Annual Report and forward it to the FLP Board for distribution to the membership at the November annual meeting and online.

Lapham Lodge: Mark H reported that after nine weeks the Building Committee had still not received the DOA/DFD MEP review comments. The project is on hold until the review comments are received. Last Friday the DOA reported that they had completed their review and that we should receive their comments later on Friday, but as of today, Monday, we have not received the comments.

Meeting Coordinator: Anne R stated that she does not want to continue planning and coordinating the Snowmaking Committee meetings. She emphasized that succession planning is necessary for the Snowmaking Project of the Friends of Lapham Peak to continue into the future. As a small step toward getting some of her tasks moved to others, she suggested that current committee members could rotate which person makes each meeting happen, or perhaps each member of the committee could be responsible for coordinating 3 monthly meetings in a row? It was agreed Anne R will coordinate the November 14 meeting. The group recommended that Nov 14 meeting be held via ZOOM. At that Tuesday Nov 14 meeting an open discussion regarding the future of the Snowmaking Committee meetings will occur. Anne R indicated that for now, she is willing to continue doing her many other duties for the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Project, including recording and depositing all donations to the FLP Snowmaking project, and being the FLP Board Liaison to the Snowmaking Committee. She said that over the next 2 years additional succession planning steps must be put into place, to move the majority of her current responsibilities to newly recruited volunteers.

Respectfully Submitted: Mark Herr - With a few edits by Anne Riendl