

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
November 14, 2023 6:00 PM-8:20 PM

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

Next meetings: December 11 will be virtual from 6:00 to 7:00PM. Future meeting dates and formats to be discussed at the December meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the October 16 meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

Meeting Coordinator Discussion: Anne R. had indicated that she no longer wished to chair the meetings and much discussion followed with suggestions for ways to shorten the meetings and perhaps not meet as often, while maintaining the functions of the snowmaking committee. In the end, John M. volunteered to handle the meetings for the next 6 months with Joanne Z. continuing as the secretary.

FLP Snowmaking Funds: Anne gave a brief summary of the balance at the end of October per the treasurer's report.

Park Attendance: September was 35,770, and October was 68,124 per DNR staff.

Snowmaking Report: Rich M submitted his detailed report covering well, pump, hydrant, and electrical issues. John M. and Rich are working on a summary of the well output issues to give to Colton so he can request funding from DNR. Rich is still waiting for an update from WE Energies on the grounded Delta power panel project planned for April 2024 with Elect Tech. They are expecting Elect Tech to install an audible sensor by the end of the month. Jim M. and Rich have labeled all electrical disconnects per NEC requirements and all the pedestals with arc flash and power flow information. The snow guns are ready except for a few minor adjustments. Jim M. will change the oil on the Torrent pump in the next 2 weeks. Rich and Mike K. will adjust the nucleators in late November and change the nozzles on snow gun #5 for moderate temps as a learning process. The pull-out lanes for the snow guns have been cleaned up, with several new ones created by John Hillmer and John Kolbe. The field has been mowed, and SignUp.com as been updated. Snow depth marker stakes will be placed by John M. and marked on poles by Rick B. Beattle has indicated that the PB 100 is ready and the ice cutter was returned.

Snowmaking Manpower Needs: Training for new volunteers, volunteer refresher, and coordinators will be at 6:40 on Nov 30th and 10AM on Dec 2nd at the WRSB. Jim M. will be sending out a text message process to all volunteers to expand communication. He will trial the new texting program to verify the accuracy of the volunteer list that has been updated. Anne R. has talked to a number of new volunteers and Rich will follow up with a lead on another person possibly interested in a paid position. A new training document is in the works for coordinators with updated procedures for this year. Rich and Anne M. will present the grooming and snowmaking agreement with Hase Landscape for 2023/24 to the FLP board once details are worked out.

Lighting Issues: The burned-out lights on Tail End were replaced and lights have been attached to the 4x4 posts along the west edge of the playground. Collin has cleaned or replaced most of the outlets and covers. New lights are being prototyped on the playground area and will use extension cords down the poles this season, but will need a final installation next spring.

Stick Gun Demo: Rich has ordered two different types of stick guns from Wes at SMI to use as demos this season to learn which type of head and nozzle direction will work best for future consideration. They plan to use one by the WRSB and one at the trail head start area. They may also try them on the trail to learn about spacing and snow whale location. The guns will be a free demo, but we will have to pay for delivery. These stick guns will be used once temps are below 24 degrees as they are only 10ft high.

Ground Fault Notification: Mark H., Jim M. and Rich M. are looking into a proposal to add a cell phone notification device to the snowmaking electrical system to notify coordinators if there is a ground fault in the electrical system. Once the final voltage monitor with 90 db alarm is installed they can determine if the cell phone option is needed.

New Snowmaking Trail Map: John M. shared the new map with loops and lengths that can be given out at the window upon request by skiers. Mark H. will place a large version in the kiosk. The new map will be a trifold and will be available in Evergreen, the office, and at the kiosk.

Holiday Fundraising Card: John M. composed a snow making report to be included with the card. Quad will print everything and envelope stuffing is planned for November 16 starting at 10AM with Anne R. and Rick B. welcoming any help.

New Honda UTV: It was delivered on November 1st and DNR staff are in the process of adding an adapter and controls to hook up to the Ginzu for grooming.

Wednesday Afternoon Time Trials: Mike G. reported that this year the time trials will be on Wednesdays instead of Tuesdays to take advantage of better grooming. They will be January 3rd to February 14th skiing anytime from 1-5PM. Forms to be available soon.

Donor Listing Updated: Anne R. reported that she had provided Mike G. with an updated listing of donors as of January, 2023, for the TV screen in Evergreen.

Request from Peak Nordic Kids Program: Juli Hacker reported to Anne R. on November 3rd that the Monday evening lessons for K-6th grade kids filled with 96 returning skiers and then reached the 110 kid limit in 8 minutes when opened to the public. The 110 cap is due to lack of space for more groups on the man-made snow trails. Juli asked if snowmaking could cover the ATV path from Summer Stage to the playground between the pond and Summer Stage. This idea was discussed as a possibility to consider during the season and also to discuss with DNR as they use that trail often and there could be safety concerns.

Miscellaneous: The FLP board decided to provide Rich M. with a credit card for snowmaking expenses. Anne R. reported finding money for snowmaking and firewood previously in the donation tube, but it was empty on November 14th. Colton is still working through the DNR paperwork for the safety flashers on Highway C. They likely won't be installed until spring.

Lapham Lodge Update: Mark H. reported that the committee has received all the comments back from DNR and DOA with one remaining document that has been discussed for over 6 months between attorneys for DNR and EDA. Once this covenant has been approved, they will be able to submit the plans to EDA and possibly put the project out for bids in January, with construction starting in March. The fund-raising committee is working on strategies to raise money for furnishings, and will provide the necessary information for potential donors once the project is ready for bids.

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