

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Zoom  
December 19, 2023 6:00 PM-6:45 PM

**Present via Zoom:** Anne Riendl, Joanne Ziarek, Mike Graham, John McCarthy, Jim Marschalek, Mike Koester, Rich Marusinec, and Rick Bjodstrup.

**Next meetings:** January 16, 2024, will be virtual from 6:00 to 7:00PM. Future meeting dates and formats to be discussed at the January meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the November 14 meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

**Meeting Coordinator Discussion:** Clarification was made to the previous minutes explaining that Anne R. is remaining as chair of the snowmaking committee while John M. is coordinating the meetings.

**Appreciation:** The committee expressed appreciation for the efforts of the snow makers and the groomers for providing skiable conditions in the current difficult weather situation.

**Snowmaking Report:** Rich M submitted his detailed report covering well, pump, hydrant, and electrical issues.

1.

Report on Snowmaking to date

- 4 Rounds of snow making were completed from 11/27 through 12/19 with snow gun hours of 41,13,13,15. So far 238 volunteer hours provided plus 22 from DNR staff. The short, cold weather time frames require a lot of manpower due to set up and shutdown for only 13 hours of run time. Round 1 we had very good conditions but rounds 2,3,4 had moderate temps, high humidity or high winds. Round 4 ended with colder than expected temps which helped. Mike Koester coordinated all of rounds 1 & 4, and Mike and Rich did 2 & 3 together. Mike Koester has been key for these 4 four rounds of snowmaking and is now the Lead person with Rich assistant Lead. Temps around 24 with humidity above 80 are difficult and low in productivity. However, since we have had so few cold spells to date, we have made snow in these marginal conditions which has been important to get skiing open as soon as possible. We are hoping for an upcoming multi day cold spell below 20 degrees so we can make snow for 3 or 4 days non-stop!

2. Manpower Overview (Training, Hours to date, Readiness)

- We have 14 new volunteers, of which 10 attended WRSB training. The Buckthorn Buster snowmaking team have 7 new volunteers of which 5 attended WRSB training. Three morning training sessions with 5 different new volunteers have been conducted. Southern unit DNR Chris Schroeder also trained in snowmaking and Ginzu grooming. Dan Mac, Joel, and Paul Keber have been key coordinators for first 3 rounds. The Buckthorn team has helped out with two 11PM to 3AM shifts so far with John Kolbe providing other shift support.

3. Electrical items and Voltage monitors and alarms
  - New and final Voltage Monitor installed in Panel 2 by trail head with advanced capabilities & 2<sup>nd</sup> Horn. Horn can be heard at WRSB and Park office if a ground fault occurred. A 2<sup>nd</sup> monitor with a horn output was installed in the WRSB with an added horn so all green pedestal locations are in the audible zone. Cellular alarm system in case of a power outage or fault is in process of installation. Electrical gloves for pedestal operation are working well. Plan is to have an information sign by the horn this week explaining purpose for alarm.
4. Stick Gun shipping, use and performance
  - The two types of demo “moveable” stick guns from SMI Inc. arrived earlier than expected and have already been used in rounds 3 & 4 of snowmaking with better-than-expected results. We ran a total of 9 snow guns (7 fan snow guns and 2 demo stick guns) the last 2 rounds. The water pump with all valves open used 410 gallons per minute at 288 psi – as expected. The shipping bill for the two demo stick guns will be around \$2000.
5. We-Energies Snowmaking Main Panel Upgrade for Spring 2024.
  - We-Energies reviewed our formal Snowmaking Main Electrical Power Panel Upgrade project proposal for Spring 2024 and completed entering it into their system. In addition, they have sent us a listing of requirements and actions for us to complete which is being reviewed by Rich who will send it to John McCarthy for input. Rich will contact We-Energies with any questions in the next two weeks. Our anticipated time frame for this project is April 2024 with Elect-Tech providing the work and materials in coordination with We-Energies.
6. Well Output
  - The well seems to be holding at about 55gpm, same as late last season (down from around 85gpm 2 years ago). Rich and John McCarthy will continue to work on the project overview this next month so that Colton can submit it for a 2024 DNR funding request.

**New Snowmaking Trail Map:** John M. will order two plastic holders for the new tri-fold map to place in Evergreen and at the kiosk. Maps will also be available in the office for distribution.

**Holiday Fundraising Card:** The committee expressed thanks to Anne R. and Rick B for completing the mailing of 624 cards. Anne noted that she had received many thank you notes included with the checks sent so far. They will give a final report in January.

**New Honda UTV:** The DNR has been using it to move the snow guns.

**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. Mike G. has verified that the screen is running as it should, but he still needs to update the donor list.

**Request from Peak Nordic Kids Program:** Tabled to assess once the regular snowmaking trails have all been completed and groomed.

**Miscellaneous:** Mike G. mentioned a posting on the Friends website trail report system that had nothing to do with trail conditions. He is willing to monitor the postings along with DNR staff. The Hase Manpower Agreement has been completed including the insurance certificate. The WPR

Morning Show from December 11 had a segment about snowmaking in which Anne R. was one of 3 speakers describing the various systems used. Some time after the meeting Jim M. provided the link to the program: <https://www.wpr.org/shows/making-snow-downhill-and-cross-country-skiing>

**Volunteer Hours:** Everyone is reminded to keep track of all volunteer hours during 2024. Hours can be documented on the Google docs snowmaking volunteers spread sheet.

**Respectfully Submitted: Joanne Ziarek**