

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
January 16, 2024 6:00 PM-7:05 PM

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

Next meetings: February 27, 2024, will be virtual from 6:00 to 7:00PM. Future meeting dates and formats to be discussed at the February meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the December 19 meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will notify John Hillmer to distribute and post to the website as appropriate.

Snowmaking Report: Rich M. submitted a brief report when he joined the meeting while taking a break from snowmaking. He said they planned to resume making snow at noon on January 17th and continue until noon on January 19th. He noted that the shifts have been filling well during this stretch of snowmaking. The Buckthorn Busters coordinated several of the 11PM to 3AM shifts and John Kolbe and Mike Koester coordinated a lot of the startup and snow gun moves. Collin also helped with several 3AM to 7AM shifts, which is extremely helpful. He reported that the demo stick guns have been working well and one model is clearly superior to the other. The DNR John Deere UTV was needed for moving snow guns due to the deep natural snow that existed all over the entire trail system (on and off the trail). This was the most challenging round of snowmaking in the past 5 years due to all of the snow off the trails and the need to keep the majority of the trails open for skiing during snowmaking. The well output has been holding at a low output of 55gpm, and he has contacted a second pump and well driller for input on future solution options. The cellular voltage monitoring system is running and working. Jim M., Rich, and Colton will meet to work out a few topics in the system.

Grooming: Colton reported that many of the upper trails had lots of downed trees, branches, and debris after the damage from the heavy, wet snow storm so they have not been able to groom them.

New Snowmaking Trail Map: John M. reported that the new maps are now available in four places: the office, the rental building, on the kiosk, and in the Evergreen shelter.

Holiday Fundraising Card: Anne R. will give a final report at the February meeting.

Friends Website Trail Report Monitoring: Mike G. is willing to monitor the postings for any reports unrelated to trail conditions and report to DNR staff.

New Gator: Colton reported that the DNR's 2014 gator no longer works and would need such extensive, costly repairs that replacing it is a better option. He has done some research and determined that the John Deere model XUV835M Gator would have enough towing power to move snow guns. He estimated the cost would be around \$21,000 when using the state contract with John Deere. Discussion followed with options for possible cost sharing with a split of DNR 75% and FLP Snowmaking 25% as a fair split based on expected usage. This would result in about \$5500 as the share from the Snowmaking funds. Colton will look into storage options for a new gator as there is little remaining storage space in the WRSB.

LUA: Colton mentioned that the LUA may need to be re-evaluated and updated. He will follow up with the state as the Master Plan for the southeast district from 1989 still needs to be updated.

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