

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
March 4, 2024, 6:00 PM-7:10 PM

Present via Zoom: Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Jim Marschalek, Rich Marusinec, Mike Koester, Charlie Ritter, and Will Edwards.

Next meeting: April 15th 6pm Monday via Webex.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from Jan 16, 2024 meeting approved.

Meeting Objective: March 2024 Monthly Meeting

New Gator: Colton provided the status of ordering new XUV835M John Deere UTV. Ordered, scheduled delivery March 7th. Quote from John Deere is for \$21,427.54. FLP-SM funds will pay \$5,573 toward its purchase by the WI-DNR as agreed at our Feb 6, 2024 FLP-SM meeting.

February Snow Making during slight cooldown around Feb 15: Rich and Mike Koester coordinated snowmaking Feb 15 to 17th over 30 hours as approved at last meeting. Many areas in the lower loop were filled in with good skiing for another 9 days until extremely warm temps set in. The last decent day of skiing was Monday Feb 26 with some skiing through Feb 28.

Season Summary: Rich will create a season summary in March for report and discussion. Short report:

- We used 3.3M gallons of water for Snow Making.
- 8 different rounds of snowmaking with Nov 3 days, Dec 4 days, Jan 7 days, Feb 3 days.
- Volunteer hours 672 with Mike, Rich, and Kolbe at 251 hours (30%). 33 various volunteers this year helped. 50 DNR hours.
- Lot of UTV, hydrant issues.
- Stick Guns were useful.
- Buckthorn team helped a lot (160 hours) on late night shifts, and we relied on their UTV's for snowmaking many nights and days. Special Thanks to them for always making it available. Thanks to DNR for help in many ways and support during the season and for grooming with the new Honda UTV.
- The Jan 16 to 19 round of snowmaking was especially challenging and strenuous due to the deep natural snow that existed, cold temps and winds and working around keeping the trail open for skiing and races,
- Mike Koester is fully trained to be Head Snowmaker for 2024/25 season with support from Rich. He worked a lot of hours this season and extensive planning sessions. 2 to 3 head snowmakers are the desired way to manage snowmaking. Mike will be the head snowmaker next season.
- All Snow Guns are moved into the WRSB Feb 29. And most of the trail picked up (Cones, chains, caution tape and some depth sticks.
- BJ needs to remove his markings yet.

Short Update on Well output and possible 2024 project:

- Colton mentioned that we should finish our Well repair project summary and estimate for submittal into the DNR emergency funding project list for 2024 in the next few weeks.
- John McCarthy will review the initial project draft created by Rich M and provide input.
- Rich is getting a repair proposal and cost estimate from a second well driller within the next week, and we will discuss this at our March 4 meeting in more detail. – still waiting
- Pentair is also reviewing our well needs to recommend the best pump for the job.
- Rich reviewed the well specs and reports in the DNR On-Line database and will discuss pump rating allowed with Colton.

Stick Gun Demo. Both demo stick guns performed well. The larger stick gun (SMI Grizzly) worked better than expected. The frame on the Grizzly is not the option we would want, and we are waiting to hear if we will send the Grizzly back or get a new frame if we elect to purchase it. The proposal is to purchase one Grizzley stick gun but with a different base. Rich is waiting for Wes from SMI to get back to him on options for purchase (send entire stick gun back or SMI send a new base). No objections raised to pursuing a purchase of a stick gun. Rich M will request a quote.

Light Prototypes: All the light repairs on the trail worked well. The lights on the playground worked well until one of the older GFCI outlets blew. They will be hard wired and repaired in summer. Good light sale on our lights. Would order 4 more lights to complete the playground and have available by the start area if approved. No objections raised to purchase replacement lights.

Project and needs for 2024: Lot of Project work needed for 2024 before next Season. Need for volunteers on projects and co-manage. Getting volunteers to help is critical due to the number of projects and prep for next season. Rich will have a summary of possible projects in Mid-April.

Grooming: Great grooming again by Beetle and Mark and also Mike Koester. Mike Koester is trained in grooming and groomed for about 35 hours. Beetle will provide update in May. Beattle mentioned that he plans to give head grooming role to Mark Janis next season and he will likely be traveling after December.

Key March/April Projects

- **Upgrade Main Power Panel** – Equipment delivery still on schedule for end of March and mid-April install. We-Energies documents and payment completed. Rich will stay in contact with Elect-Tek and others throughout March while in Florida.
- **Two Leaky Hydrants.** One capped and one needs a cap or wye soon. – summer repairs.
- **Stick Gun direction with SMI:** Rich waiting for direction from SMI on existing Grizzly stick gun purchase options with different base and return of the Axis stick gun. Terminate insurance once returned.
- **Order and Delivery of new UTV.**
- **Snow Gun and Water Pump maintenance**
- **List of Projects and Improvements for the Season**

Key Manpower Needs for next Season: #2 and #3 Head Snowmakers to support Mike. 2 more Shift Coordinators. DNR staff replacements/availability

Habitat request for \$735.28 for repair of Ball Joints and an Axle (Front Passenger side) of Habitat Gator. Proven Power sent invoice for \$1,470.56. Snowmaking Committee approves the payment to Habitat. Snowmaking utilized the Habitat Gator for several weeks and overnight sessions.

Habitat request for \$4,327.75 – Accompanied by log and rates and expense tracking for the past season Buckthorn Busters hours making snow, totaling \$4,327.75 due to Habitat, from Snowmaking. Payment approved by Snowmaking Committee based on past agreement for Snowmaking to pay for overnight snowmaking hours.

Anne R. – Rob Hermann is compiling a video about snowmaking. Will share in the future.

Jim M. – End of the season survey to be sent to the community.

Snowmaking committee agreed to buy a paver for the Lapham Peak Lodge. Agreed to authorize the FLP Treasurer to transfer \$500 from Funds currently in the FLP Snowmaking project to the money being used for the Lapham Lodge project, in order to pay for the paver. The Snowmaking committee agreed the paver will contain these or similar words:

“Friends of Lapham Peak
Snowmaking Project”

Mike K. – Will investigate QR codes for easier donations.

Respectfully Submitted: Jim Marschalek AMR suggestions added 2024-03-04 & 03-15