

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Webex  
August 6, 2024, 6:10 PM-7:45 PM

**Present via Webex:** Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Jim Marschalek, Rich Marusinec, Joanne Ziarek, Mike Graham, Mike Koester, Charlie Ritter, and Will Edwards.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, September 10, at 6pm via Webex.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the June 18 meeting approved. Joanne Z. will send to John Hillmer to post as usual.

**Update on Well output and possible 2024 projects Rich M:**

- Well Repair Summary provided to Collin & Colton in late May by Rich and John M. Collin and Brian have been working on submittal for emergency funding. Brian Lemke will submit the request on August 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Need to staff a project team for this if we go forward this year.

**Stick Gun Demo.** The front wheel shipped to Ausblick and Rich picked it up June 10. Rich and Mike Koester have installed the wheel assembly, and it works well. Rich asked Wes to slightly modify the purchase quote/contract to include 200-foot power cable vs 100 foot and the new wheel assembly. SMI completed the new contract for purchase; Rich and Anne R also approved and signed the contract. Rich will coordinate the purchase with Anne R.'s help, especially on payment. We will need to coordinate timing with SMI (Wes) and Collin on picking up the smaller stick gun and loading it with the skid steer.

**Upgrade Main Power Panel Report from Rich:**

- Planned start date is Sept 25<sup>th</sup> (after all Summer Stage events – confirmed with Dustin). Collin also checked that power is not needed for any event until mid Oct. Rich is firming up project steps with We-Energies and Elect-tech and will issue a summary by end of August. Rich will contact habitat crew to clear brush around the panel.

**Two Leaky Hydrants.** Mike and Rich will likely work on these in August, and will also need brush cleared around them.

**Snow Gun Maintenance:** Completed by Mike and Rich in July

**PB100 Rubber Track Expenditure Project**

- The committee wanted to review the general budget of expenses and projects before deciding on the purchase of Rubber Tracks for PB100. At the last meeting Rich M presented an excel file with detailed estimated expenses and income expected for the next year. John M will send the spreadsheet out again after this meeting. The committee members will review for discussion at the next meeting. At the Aug 6 meeting we discussed somewhat, but everyone needs to review the summary by Rich for the next

meeting. Rich will call Paul Scanlon for info on price again. We still need clarification on the pump expense to factor that into the decision.

### **Manpower Topics for 2024/2025 Snowmaking**

- Rich provided an overview of the manpower challenges for the upcoming season. Mike Koester is the #1 Lead Snowmaking Coordinator for the upcoming season and Rich's availability will be much lower this season due to travel and other priorities. We feel we have an adequate number of Helper Volunteers and need to focus on Lead Coordinators and a few Shift Coordinators. The areas of manpower needs are:
  - Identify and ramp up Lead Coordinators #2 and #3 (Mike Koester and Rich will be talking to various Shift Leaders in the next weeks)
  - Identify and ramp up 3 new Shift Coordinators from list of existing experienced volunteers. Rich and Mike will confirm the three candidates identified last season and develop a plan for training. Any committee member that has a possible candidate please reach out to Rich and Mike.
  - Understand if DNR will have manpower for most of the 3am to 7am shifts (Anne R will discuss with Brian L to get initial thoughts based on the timing of filling DNR openings)
  - Buckthorn team support especially for 11PM to 3am shifts – Likely meet with John H and John K in October to discuss.

**Treasurer's Report:** Anne R. briefly summarized the snowmaking funds as of June.

**Key Manpower Needs for next Season:** #2 and #3 Head Snowmakers to support Mike K., two more shift coordinators, assess DNR staff replacements/availability. Plan to cover manpower in later meeting in detail. Mike K. noted that he supplied 120 hrs last season, while Rich supplied 70hrs. Rich said he would be #4 to continue with the transition to Mike K. as Lead.

**Annual Potluck/Cookout:** Joanne Z reported that the event held on July 16 had 24 in attendance and was a successful event for socializing and networking among the FLP board and snowmaking committee members.

**Holiday Card:** Jim M. has received all the digital files with art work from Rick B as well as the email list. Charlie offered to coordinate volunteers to stuff envelopes for mailing the cards when the time comes.

**Donor Recognition:** There was a lengthy discussion about updating the donor information on the TV screen in Evergreen that Mike G. is working on with data from Anne R. There was also a suggestion from Mark H. of a way to honor snowmaking donors via a new video/TV system in the new lodge. Details will need to be worked out. John M. reported on some AV components in the new lodge including a large screen TV in the gathering room dedicated to FLP items. There are 5 total component packages to the proposed AV system that will need donors.

**Survey:** Jim M. is working on a survey to various groups of skiers. One of the points will be to make people aware of the need for volunteers to make snow to provide good skiing conditions.

**Miscellaneous:**

A QR code is needed for easier donating and Mike K. has been looking into this. He gave a preliminary report on having accounts through Venmo & PayPal as a non-profit. More to come.

Mike Koester completed the training to become chainsaw certified, allowing him to use a chain saw in the park.

There was some discussion about the need to replace the Timing Shed. Kris Maki has met with Brian Lemke regarding the issue. John M. mentioned that there has been some discussion within the lodge committee about replacing it at a new location.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Joanne Ziarek**