

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Webex
September 10, 2024, 6:05 PM-7:15 PM

Present via Webex: Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Mark Herr, Joanne Ziarek, Mike Graham, Will Edwards, and Brian Lemke, advisor.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 15, at 6pm via Webex.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the August 6 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 Lemke worked on submittal for emergency funding. Brian has submitted the request, and will notify the committee if approved. He noted that the request is currently in the approval process with the state DNR.

Stick Gun Demo. Rich and Mike Koester have installed the wheel assembly, and it works well. SMI completed the new contract for purchase, and 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 25th (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 September 25 or 26 and will also need brush cleared around them, as well in a few other areas, including around the pump house.

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. We still need clarification on the well expenses and a time frame for purchase and installation of tracks to factor that into the decision.

Manpower Topics for 2024/2025 Snowmaking (*tabled until the October 15 meeting*)

- 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: No summary available at this meeting.

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 at 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.

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. Anne R’s nephew created a USPS list of donors with the most recent email addresses making it easier to sort through the donor list. This has been forwarded to Jim M.

Donor Recognition: Mike G. has completed the updated donor information on the TV screen in Evergreen. He is now working on incorporating Rob H’s video into the display and has added a QR code for access to the donation catalog. Anne R. confirmed that it is currently running correctly in Evergreen.

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 in August on having accounts through Venmo & PayPal as a non-profit. More to come.

There was a brief discussion about the Fright Hike.

Brian L., in commenting on the current staffing shortage at the park, mentioned that they may be able to fill two of the staff positions in the near future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Ziarek