

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Web meeting via Webex  
October 15, 2024, 6:08 PM-7:35 PM

**Present via Webex:** Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Mark Herr, Joanne Ziarek, Mike Graham, Will Edwards, Jim Marschalek, Rob Hermann, Mike Koester, and Rich Marusenic.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, November 12, at 6pm via Webex.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the September 10 meeting approved. Joanne Z. will send to John Hillmer to post as usual.

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

**Electrical Power Panel to Grounded Delta – New Tran socket – High Priority – Project Completed**

- a. We-Energies and Elect-Tech met Wed Sept 25 am to turn off snowmaking panel power (pull Transformer fuses) and start the changeout of the Tran socket to a Grounded Delta as planned. The old Tran Socket was removed, and the new one installed by Sept 27 afternoon and connected to the Transformer with new underground cables. We-Energies completed inspection, new Meter install, and Transformer turn on morning of Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>. Rich M and Elect-Tech completed Testing Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> afternoon and all Disconnects used in the summer were turned on. Inside of our brown panel was cleaned during this time.
- b. After more than 15 months of planning and work this important project is complete and ready for the upcoming snow season. Payment of \$22,895 is being made to Elect-Tech. Previous payment to We-Energies of \$1034 was made for total cost of \$23,929. Since this is already an asset of the DNR, this was considered a repair of their system.



**Stick Gun Purchase - Project Completed**

- a. The demo Grizzly Sticktower has been purchased. Rich and Mike Koester swapped out the electrical cords and adjusted the base parts. After using the new Stick Tower this season, we may modify the cable hang up rack on the cart.
- b. Collin completed the Asset Donation form and mentioned it is on the DNR October meeting agenda. After that Will can remove it from our insurance.

**Two Hydrants that have partial broken flow control valves stuck in brass bottom valve - Rich and Mike working on this**

- a. Rich and Mike used 8-foot camera detector down the hydrant pipe and could see one pipe had a full control valve stuck in the bottom valve and the other hydrant had ½ flow control valve stuck. Rich and Mike have conducted 8 different rounds of tool methods to loosen and remove the broken plastic flow valve sections which were stuck in the brass valve 8 feet down in a 2-inch pipe. The 8<sup>th</sup> round we finally got the broken parts out and will re-assemble a new flow control valve in late Oct. Special thanks to Mike Koester for fabricating various dislodging tools to get this done.
- b. Preventative measures – We need to reinforce not to overtighten the valves when turning water off. Also, if a hydrant is frozen, trying to open it can crack the flow control valve. Overheating a frozen pipe is also bad.

**Pump House East Wall – Completed for this year and closed**

- a. Jace (DNR) cleaned and mowed the area around the pump house and added stone. He then added a bottom board to close holes to prevent rodents from entering. We may want to re-panel the East wall next year or year after, but we are good for this winter. Rich cleaned up the inside and set traps for any remaining mice!



**NW corner of the trail culvert extension – Jim Marshalek coordinating with John McCarthy**

- a. Jim Marshalek- Plans to coordinate this activity in the next few weeks. John McCarthy has provided Jim with available materials for use. Jim is coordinating with Collin and Beattle.

**Snow Gun Maintenance & Pump house - Priority Rich and Mike – mostly completed**

- a. Mike K will start up the guns in November in the building to check oil levels and see if all the gauges are working
- b. Jim Marshalek will grease the Pumphouse pump in October/Nov sometime.

**Well Output and possible well pump project – Not active waiting for possible DNR**

**Funding. Uncertain of manpower at this time**

- a. **Rich and Mike** turned on the well 8/20 and it started out at about 120 gpm but after 2 hours it was only at about 55 gpm. This is the same as last winter but not very fast.
- b. Rich completed a detailed summary of high-level steps needed for the well pump replacement and well clean out project for input from others and Scott Frey. Collin is reviewing it. Colin feels that Jace and he can manage a good portion of this project. I will send it out after Collin's review.

**Playground light Repair – only one pole on the playground has lights working – Investigate in late October**

- a. Collin has cut high grass down along a trail to all the playground lights in Sept for this activity.
- b. Rich will test the power from the field transformer to the playground to determine where the problem is. Likely to have Elect-tech do repairs in October/Nov

**Trail Light adjustments – lower priority**

- a. There are numerous trail lights along snowmaking loops where the lights need to be directed better on the trail, or the light is loose to the pole

**Liability Insurance:** A Certificate of Liability Insurance dated 6/13/2024 from R&R Insurance has been received by the Friends of Lapham Peak. The Certificate shows that the Insured is Hase landscape Inc. The Certificate Holder is: Friends of Lapham Peak.

**PB100 Rubber Track Expenditure Project:** Rich will check with Pisten Bully regarding the cost and availability of the tracks while we wait for news from the DNR regarding the well approval expense. Rich will update his earlier summary of projected income and expenses and provide it for discussion at the November meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Anne R. gave a summary of the snowmaking funds as of August 31.

**Holiday Card:** Jim M. will be working on this in the next month to have it ready to send out via both USPS and email to our donors.

**Donor Recognition:** Mike G. completed the updated donor information on the TV screen in Evergreen and has incorporated Rob's video as well as a QR code for the donor catalog for the Lodge. He has compressed it into an 8-minute video that can run on a continual loop. It includes the listing of donors as well as information on the Lodge and snowmaking.

**New DNR staff person hired for Lapham Peak:** Anne Riendl reported that Brian Lemke recently sent an email to the FLP Board members indicating that Sean Daane has been hired as a Lapham Peak full time DNR ranger. Sean will begin his responsibilities at Lapham Peak on October 21st, 2024. Sean has been a full-time ranger at Big Foot Beach State Park before coming to Lapham Peak.

**Volunteers needed for Wed night races & Loppet:** Anne R. passed along a request from Kris Maki for volunteers to help with timing and organizing for the Wed night races and the Lapham Loppet. Interested persons should contact Anne Riendl via [LaphamSnowmaking@gmail.com](mailto:LaphamSnowmaking@gmail.com).

**Survey:** Jim M. is still looking for an appropriate platform to use to facilitate getting useful responses.

**Miscellaneous:**

A QR code is needed for easier donating and Mike K. has been looking into this. He reported that Venmo charges 1.9% + 10 cents per transaction. Suggested places to display it include the donation tube, the kiosk with the trail map, and adding it to the video in Evergreen. He will work with Anne R. and John Hillmer to set up our account so it can be activated.

Anne R. mentioned that at the last FLP board meeting it was decided that snowmaking would likely receive 25% of the profits from Fright Hike, depending on volunteer participation.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Joanne Ziarek**