

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Webex
December 17th, 2024, 6:00 PM-7:15 PM

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

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 14th, 2025, at 6pm via Webex.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the November 12th meeting approved. Joanne Z. will send to John Hillmer to post as usual.

Snowmaking and Project Report from Rich Marusenic:

1. **Well Repair Project – Collin B**

- a. Due to continued equipment issues with the well rig we have postponed the well and pump repairs to spring/summer.
- b. The well is pumping at 55 to 60 gpm consistently but is hampering snowmaking duration during cold periods. It does look like we will get through snowmaking this year but with multiple delays in making snow.

2. **Stick Gun Purchase**

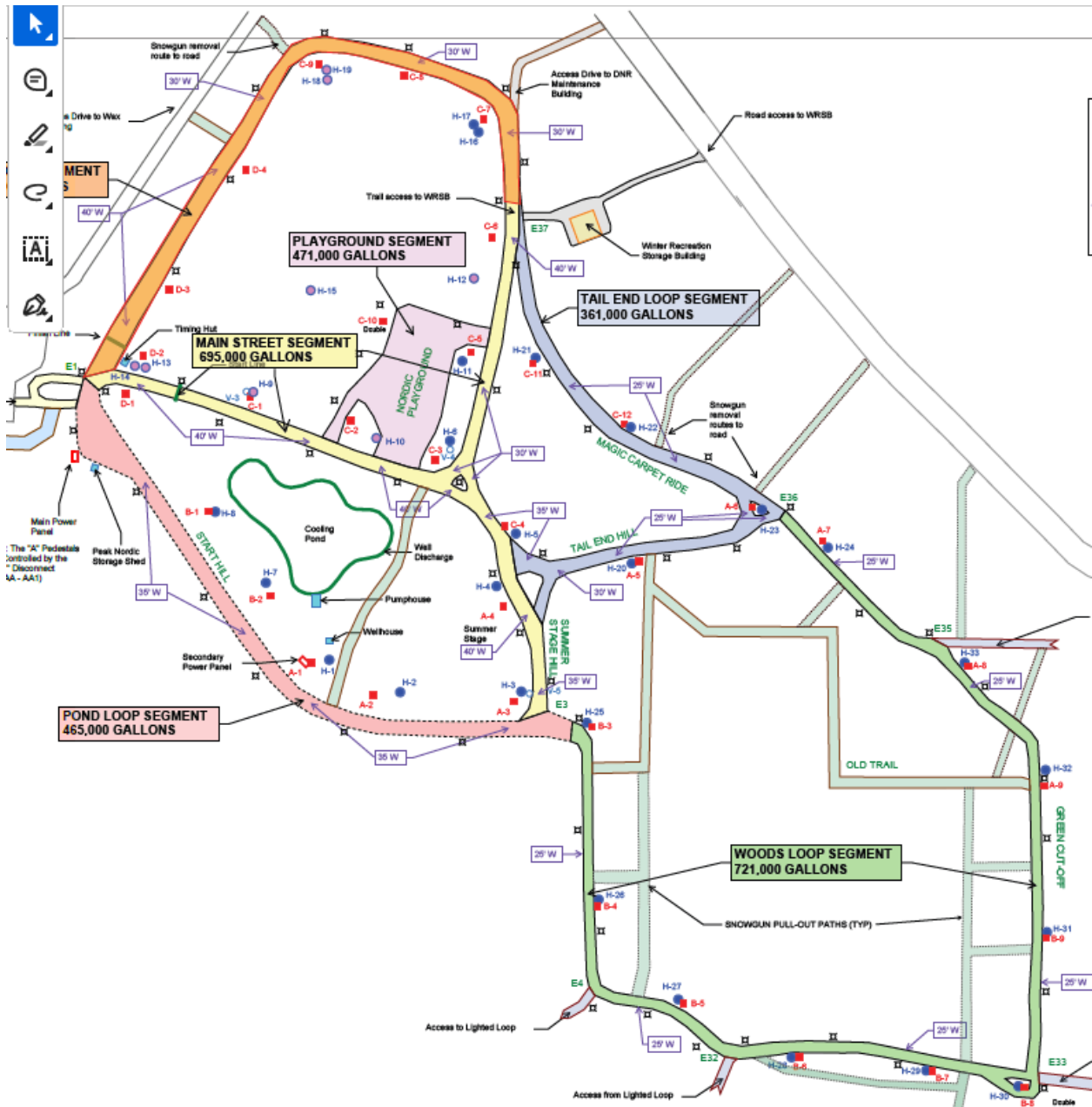
- a. **Collin** confirmed the Asset Donation is completed to the DNR. Will is removing it from our Snowmaking insurance.

3. **Snow Making Update**

- a. Great Progress making snow this past week with the very cold temps. (Mike K. coordinated)
 - i. Considering changing how we place guns in the future. Typically, we run guns evenly placed apart but we're finding that guns may all need to be moved at about the same time, which is a challenge during very cold temps. Staggering the length of pulls could space out the times when moving guns to new locations. Possibly get 8 orange cones numbered 1 thru 8 or marked large gun, small gun, stick gun to place on trail to mark spots & direction on trails where we want next moves to start.
 - ii. The addition of the front wheel on the stick gun carriage has worked very well.
 - iii. Gun #5 had a problem with the compressor oil level sensor. It's located on the underside of the compressor and more than likely had weeds or debris pull the wire loose. Likely plan to order new sensor and all the maintenance items for March.
 - iv. Snow is needed from H25 on top of Summer Stage hill to hydrant H27 between south field turn off and south field return. We also want to make trail wider straight out from light panel so skiers can congregate off the main trail. Trail is not very deep in several spots on the "Pond Loop Segment" – see new map on page 3.
 - v. The new gator is awesome for snowmakers!!! A great purchase and investment. See item 7 about snow tires though.

- vi. High level pond fill up takes about 14 days with the 60gpm we are getting from the well.
 - vii. Plan is to start snowmaking this Friday at 7PM and run through about 1PM Saturday – will decide Wed and issue schedule.
- b. Very good participation and work done by all the volunteers during these first 3 rounds.
 - c. Collin, Sean, Jace & Sami have been great help this year and all show interest learning what it takes to make & groom snow.
 - d. For future upgrades we would possibly like to see a second gun plugin outlet added to two or three pedestals on the NW & NE corners of north field for sure. It would help to eliminate cables running across existing snow on the trail and/or cables running in front of guns and getting buried by heavy snow. We will summarize this in Feb.
 - e. Looks like a failed hydrant valve at bottom of Hoot Owl and corner of Green Cutoff. It will need to be replaced this summer. This is section 3C which is a new issue from the 3B failures. Three hydrants were installed during 3C that may need replacement
 - f. One of our two hydrant pumps failed. We ordered a new very streamlined Milwaukee Electric hydrant pump. John Hillmer obtained an employee discount on the pump which reduced the cost from approximately \$300 to \$200 saving us \$100.
 - g. New rubber tracks for PB received. Beattle and Mark planning to install after spreading snow in the next few weeks.
4. **DNR Manpower Snowmaking Training – Collin, Rich and Mike**
- a. Sean, Sami, and Jace have had on the job training with Mike and Collin.
 - b. Rich and Mike have conducted initial training with 4 of the new volunteers. Anne R. will also pass along the names of a few potential volunteers to Mike K.
 - c. Possible training for other new volunteers during playground snowmaking.
 - d. Continued Coordinator training has occurred for Steve Krueger, Chris Peske, Mark Herr, Jim Marschalek .
 - e. It was noted that Mike Koester is fully trained to groom on his own.
5. **Snowmaking Manpower Planning**
- An update on Rick Hase (Hase Landscape) for a Grooming and Snowmaking Proposal for this season has been received from him. (Similar to last year's process). The final proposal is being completed by Anne and Rich working with Rick.
6. **Winter Tires for Snowmaking**
1. The old snow tires from the old UTV were not saved due to wear
 2. Collin obtained a quote for new rims and winter tires (\$1,707). Rich and Mike thinking about whether to proceed or wait till next year – or look for used online. With most of the trails already made the need is low unless we get heavy snow while making snow. Also, the tires are really good on the new UTV and perhaps they will have good enough traction
7. **Pond Aerator--** Collin has ordered a rebuilding kit for the pond aerator which is important to prevent pond freezing.

New Detailed Snowmaking Map by John McCarthy showing amounts of water needed for each segment of the snowmaking trails. The Committee thanked John for his detailed map.



Treasurer's Report: Anne R. gave a summary of the snowmaking funds as of October 31. Rich will summarize the snowmaking expenses by category for the fiscal year for the next meeting.

Holiday Card: Jim M. reported that 470 were sent out. Anne R. noted that she has received around 40 donation envelopes and will report on the amounts at the next meeting.

Donor Recognition: Mike G. completed the updated donor information on the TV screen in Evergreen and it is reported to be working well.

Trail Conditions Reminder: There was discussion about putting up a sign or banner at the beginning of the trail near the green donation tube, perhaps on the Lodge fence, to encourage skiers to both report and to check out trail conditions on the Friends website.

Pisten Bully Insurance Coverage: There was a question as to whether our insurance coverage of \$250,000 for the market value of our machine with the additional rubber tracks was sufficient. *(After meeting note: The next day Will Edwards contacted Paul Scanlon who thought the market value of the groomer and associated equipment was \$240,000. Thus, our current coverage is sufficient.)*

Miscellaneous:

Donation QR Code: A QR code is needed for easier donating and Mike K. and Anne R. have talked with Paypal. The FLP treasurer Karl Timm will set up the FLP/Venmo account.

Loppet & Wed Night Races: Anne R. noted that Kris Maki is again in charge of these events.

Natural Resources Magazine: Lapham Peak Snowmaking is featured in the Winter issue.

AED Relocation: This initiative was started by the Lapham Peak Ski Club and the AED has been relocated off the trail at the bottom of Two Tier at E33.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Ziarek