

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Webex
January 14th, 2025, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

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

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 11th, 2025, at 6pm via Webex.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the December 17th 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. The well is pumping at 50 to 55 gpm. Approximately 5- 8 gpm down from beginning of season. Collin wants us to have about 50% of the pond level at the end of season so we have time to run off the new well pump after completing the project and to repair the aerator hose into the pond.

2. **Snow Making Update**

- a. Great Progress making snow this past 4weeks with the very cold temps. allowing 4 different rounds of snowmaking during this time. Colder temps than normal.
- b. The 4-day late December warm up and rain reduced a lot of snow depth in many areas. We have reinforced the worst but have several areas to build back up in the next few weeks. (*areas were pointed out on the snowmaking map.*)
- c. We have used 3.5 million gallons of water, and put in 540 snowmaking hours.
- d. The trail is in good shape. Just completed section by the dark cutoff this morning. Need to reinforce several areas from bottom of hoot owl to end of magic carpet.
- e. It was noted by Lee that communication is very important among all volunteers and the coordinator on each shift to avoid mistakes. Rich & Mike K. plan to have a summary recap meeting at the end of the season with coordinators to discuss any issues.
- f. The new Milwaukee Electric hydrant pump was received and is working well. Rich is ordering a few hoses for ease of antifreeze use.
- g. Great Snowmaking coordination by Mike Koester this past month. Many hours of coordination have been required so far this season.
- h. We will delay buying winter tires for UTV until next season.
- i. Likely will reinforce spots from bottom of Hoot Owl to bottom of Magic Carpet week of Jan 20. Mike will be out of town that week so Rich will coordinate one short snowmaking round.
- j. Light is out at start of trail. Rich working with DNR on finding a solution.
- k. Tank outside WRSB needs to be checked and possibly emptied.

3. **Grooming Update**

- a. Mark Janis is doing a great job leveling piles, coordinating grooming, and grooming. Higher number of grooming hours required so far due to spreading a lot of reinforcement snow and grooming 4-5 times a week. Mike Koester and

Alex are grooming on their own now and fully trained in grooming. Mike is beginning to push smaller snow piles. DNR grooms 1-2 nights per week.

- b. New rubber tracks for PB received. The installation was delayed due to Skid Steer unavailability early in Jan. Likely install around Jan 24 and will stay on for the rest of the season.

4. Pond Aerator Repair: Collin

- a. Collin ordered a rebuilding kit for the pond aerator which has been installed. A leak in the hose about 30 feet into the pond exists and will be repaired this spring.

5. Expenses

- a. Rich and Mike are buying numerous supplies and will complete cost log and reimbursement late Jan.
- b. Rich will be ordering snow gun gauges, sensors that have failed. and all maintenance parts in early Feb so we have them for end of season.
- c. The hydrant repaired this fall by the pumphouse failed again, and may need to be replaced.
- d. Rich and Mike will be summarizing a list of repair and improvement needs for snowmaking for consideration during summer and fall 2025.

Treasurer's Report: Anne R. noted that she was aware that around \$27,000 was received for Snowmaking in December, but the latest treasurer's report wasn't available. Rich will summarize the snowmaking expenses by category and financial information for the fiscal year at the February meeting.

Holiday Card: Anne R. noted that she will report on the amount donated at the next meeting.

Friends Insurance Coverage Changes: Anne R. raised a question about where the notices of changes in declarations pages from the insurance company are. She and Will E. will work on this.

Possible Future Monitoring System: Jim M. and Rich will be investigating the possibility of installing a camera in the pumphouse and also whether the system in the new lodge could provide a private WiFi line network for overall monitoring of parts of the snowmaking system.

Loppet: Mike G. reported that he and Collin are helping Kris Maki with the on-snow tasks for this event on Saturday, January 18th. A large crowd is expected due to cancellation of races in other areas with no snow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Ziarek