

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
July 1st, 2025, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Present via Zoom: Anne Riendl, John McCarthy, Mike Graham, Will Edwards, Jim Marschalek, Rich Marusinec, Joanne Ziarek, Lee Rooker, Mark Herr, and DNR advisor Mike Ring.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 19th, 2025, at 6pm via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the May 13th meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will send to John Hillmer to post as usual.

Snowmaking and Project Report from Rich Marusinec:

1. **Well Repair Project – Collin B**

Collin is trying to get an update from the well driller on a start date. A month ago, he thought it would be early July. Well house removal was completed by DNR, and Collin is recommending that we not reuse it because many sections are in rough shape and there are some boards rotting along the bottom. Rich has been working on a few designs which are smaller, better built, and can be lifted off from the concrete pad in the future much easier. Jim M. can assist with the project as needed. Collin will keep John M., Mike Koester, Jim M., and Rich updated via group text.

2. **Snow Making Update**

- Collin and Colton completed invoices for Electricity and Diesel charges for the season. Payments being processed for current budget.

3. **“C” Circuit Main Disconnect Failure Friday Feb 7**

- The C circuit disconnect failed and was replaced in Feb and is working well. We still have an underground wire or connection issue from the south end playground (C4 or C5) pedestal to the WRSB pedestal (C6). No update yet, but it is likely Rich will conduct a review with Elect-Tech in early August so we understand what repairs will be needed.

4. **Snowmaking Season summary with suggested Repairs, Enhancements, Projects and Process changes.**

- Rich and Mike K. summarized a list of repair and improvement needs for snowmaking for consideration during summer and fall 2025 and shared this list at the meeting with an initial priority estimate. (*See color chart on next page.*) We will start various activities, maintenance, and repairs in later July/August. Maintenance on the Pisten Bully was completed and the bill is expected in the current budget. Mike will likely lead the direction on the multiple hydrant failures with John’s help. John M. mentioned it would be good to fix hydrants in July/August when our water table is lowest. There was some discussion about changing vendors for the hydrants and Rich, John M., and Mike K. are researching this.
- Lee mentioned we need to review our process for when we move a snow gun during snowmaking to identify key things that need to be double checked or signaled before

the snow gun is moved. Rich asked Lee to summarize his thoughts on this as a starting point and Lee has provided an initial summary which Rich and Mike K. will discuss in late June. A meeting is now planned for August to meet and discuss along with the main coordinators and some volunteers.

- Rich and Mike created a spreadsheet below of the needed repair and enhancement projects to determine which projects can go forward with existing manpower and which may need added manpower to complete. See list below with yellow ones as higher priority for this year. Mike Koester to still review and prioritize with Rich. John M. showed the plans for new lighting involving moving some poles. He and Rich will meet with the DNR and Elect Tech in early August to discuss.

Projects to Consider with Costs: Priorities **Green are must Have, Yellow High**

- o B Single column of nozzles for Grizzley stick Gun for tight locations (Rich has price from SMI)
- o A Thermal overtemp switch replace on Gun 5
- o A All Snowgun oil separators – Possibly check them during oil change and decide
- o B One More extension Cord for guns maybe 50 foot vs 100 – check what plug ends we have
- o A New sign holders – about 4 for existing signs - Contact Rob Gardner to maybe fab
- o A Hydrant repair and replacements – include 3" diameter ones maybe. H7 and H23 along with 3" H9 & H12
- o B- Water line from magic carpt to WRSB – above ground concept for snow making by garage?
- o B+ Live Stream from inside pumphouse to WRSB to monitor now pump issue
- o B- Clean weeds edge of pond
- o B Trail head info board for snowmaking and grooming activity that day
- o B- Mike identified a few pedestals that would be good to have a double receptacle – list them Mike
- o B? A few old green pedestals C3 and C6 could use to be replaced with new more space ones for various reasons. Especially 3 way ones
- o B New lighting Panel with new breaker panels and new light controller or portion of this
- o A Move light pole bottom of magic carpet and ones by Lodge
- o A New or modified 120V line from Panel to lights by lodge are and timing hut once lodge is completed. Move Poles?
- o B Perhaps better lights for on top of select field Pedestals and Hydrants so we can see them at night when driving UTV
- o A Hard wire playground lights and replace the NW corner one
- o A Winter tires and rims for UTV
- o A Repair Pedestal wiring on C-circuit from C4 to C6 with Elect-Tech. May require underground wire replacement
- o A Well Repair project completed
- o A Complete Snowgun maintenance and check all components

Balance Sheet, Budget and Upcoming Expenses for remainder of fiscal year (through end Sept 2025)

- a. Rich presented an update to the previous January summary of this season’s expected fiscal year expenses and balance sheet which covers expenses and income from **Oct 1, 2024, through Sept 30, 2025**. Rich will update this budget sheet in July for review and begin to rough out a 2025/2026 budget format for discussion and input at future meetings.

6.Large Garage Door for Pisten Bully Not Opening Again

Chad from Hartland Overhead stopped by in May and made adjustments at no charge. Rich asked Chad for a quote on a newer model that doesn’t have this particular calibration issue of our large overhead door. We would move the existing opener to the east door. More information to be provided at a future meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Anne R. noted that the treasurer's reports were delayed due to the audit.

New Business: It was suggested that Dan Matson be invited to a future meeting to discuss his ideas on Phase IV. Dan is not ready at this time, but Anne R. will coordinate with him for a possible future discussion on trail expansion.

Mike K. and Anne R. have done some initial research into establishing a QR code for donations to snowmaking and will look into this more in the fall.

Anne and Charlie are working on updating the donation envelopes used for snowmaking.

Upcoming parties are being planned at the new Lapham Lodge on July 15th for the annual FLP Board and snowmaking committee members pot luck cookout and later in the fall for the snowmakers.

Will Edwards presented several items for consideration grouped into 3 categories. One was related to possible trail rerouting and/or changes in lighting needed as a result of the position of the new lodge. Another was a suggestion to extend the snowmaking trail into Southfield and also extending the trail from the top of Tail End to an existing trail. Third was a suggestion to plant trees along exposed areas to reduce snow loss and a discussion on remediation of erosion issues on Two Tier and down Hoot Owl. Mike Ring made some suggestions for the DNR to try, with priority given to the machine-made snow and lighted trails first. A suggestion was made to consider requesting a grant from the DeBoer Foundation for this trail work, and John M. volunteered to work with the DNR on potential measures to address erosion on the trails. These issues were all discussed at length by the group.

Respectfully Submitted, Joanne Ziarek