

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
August 19th, 2025, 6:00 PM-7:20 PM

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

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 16th, 2025, at 6pm via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the July 1st 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**

- Still Waiting for firm date from the well driller. It was supposed to be early August from last update. Collin had been calling the past 2 weeks but the well driller didn't call back until today, when he said he has one job to finish and hopes to be able to start after Labor Day. Collin and Mike Ring are monitoring the situation.
- Rich, Mike and Collin have created a first pass 4 x 6 foot well enclosure design with tight-fitting roof and door to keep mice out. Rich will create added detail to send out to them for feedback and input, especially on the door and roof, and John M. offered to assist with the design. The DNR will pay up to \$50,000 toward the cost of the project with snowmaking to cover the balance. Collin indicated DNR should be able to assemble it, likely in October. Some help may be needed from FLP members.

2. **"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 Rich will conduct a review with Elect-Tech for this coming Friday morning August 22nd. They will also discuss options on how to wire the lights that are being moved (or added) around the lodge and to provide new power to the Friends Equipment Shed.

3. **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. We will start various activities, maintenance, and repairs in early September. There was some discussion about changing vendors for the hydrants, and Mike K., Rich, and John met to discuss this. John ordered 3 hydrants from the new vendor Ratnik. We do have 2 new ones from our current vendor Rogers that can be installed in the upper areas. The current plan is to install new hydrants, complete underground wire projects, and move light poles Sept 23, 24

and possibly 25th, if needed. Beattle is checking out smaller size backhoe options from Area Rental. We will need to get additional helpers for the project as we get closer.

- Lee had mentioned a 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. He provided an initial summary, which Rich and Mike K. discussed, and they are now planning a meeting for September or early October to meet and discuss along with the main coordinators and some volunteers.
- Rich ordered and received maintenance supplies for the Snow guns which covers a few of the most needed items. He and Mike K. will likely complete the maintenance this fall. Rich also ordered and received the single vertical row stick gun head assembly called a 6-step narrow spray manifold for use in tight spots making snow.
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4. Southfield Light section outage – added issue

- a. Prior to the Prowl the Peak race Collin discovered a section of Southfield lights not working. He reviewed it with Elect Tech and they determined there is an underground fault in the line for one of the transformers, and the line will likely need to be replaced from the panel to the transformer. They will work with Elect Tech to trench and put in a new line with the DNR covering the electrical costs from emergency development project funds per Mike Ring.

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

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 for review in September or October and begin to rough out a 2025/2026 budget format for discussion and input at future meetings.

Treasurer's Report: No report at this meeting.

New Business:

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

Jim M. will need grease for the pump and will need to change the oil this year. Rich will work with Mike Ring to get the needed supplies.

Erosion Remediation Update: Mike Ring was able to access emergency funds to pay for time and materials for staff to repair some of the worst areas on Two Tier. Ideally, some trails should be crowned to encourage shedding of water, and that will require more extensive work. The DNR will focus on the lighted trails and the most heavily used ones first.

Trail Lighting: John M. summarized plans for rerouting/changes in lighting. The light pole from in front of the lodge will be moved to the southeast and a second pole will be moved back from

the trail. There are also plans to add more lights to two poles. He showed details of the lighting plan for the trail in the new start area as well as possible placement of an additional hydrant close to the trail entrance for easier snow making in high traffic areas.

Start Area Options: John M. showed diagrams of 3 different options that were sent out to key people for comments. The new Friends Equipment Shed, donated by Home Depot, will be erected tomorrow.

Grooming Contract: Rick Hase of Hase Landscaping is planning to retire. There was discussion about how this might impact the Friends for insurance in the future. Will E. is looking into this. Rich will clarify with Rick Hase what his plans are for the next two ski seasons. Jim M. will check to see if using a temp agency might be an option to cover the workmen's comp and insurance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Ziarek