

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
Web meeting via Zoom
September 16th, 2025, 6:00 PM-7:00 PM

Present via Zoom: John McCarthy, Mike Graham, Will Edwards, Jim Marschalek, Rich Marusinec, Joanne Ziarek, Mark Herr, and DNR advisor Collin Bergholz.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 14th, 2025, at 6pm via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the August 19th meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will send to John Hillmer to post as usual.

Treasurer's Report: John M. gave a brief report noting that there are several upcoming expenses.

Snowmaking and Project Report from Rich Marusinec:

1. **Well Repair Project – Collin B**

- Collin reported that the DNR has changed to their second high bidder Guthrie-Frey with Herr drilling after being unable to get a firm date from their original company. They will take care of completing new paper work for the contract.
- Well Enclosure Building: Round 3 discussion on the general design completed with Collin, John McCarthy, Mike Koester and Rich. John McCarthy will lay out top view. Rich and Mike K. will sketch up building. The plan is to build in mid-October.

2. **“C” Circuit Underground wire Failure**

- After 3 mornings of investigations with Elect-Tech we have high confidence that the problem is an underground wire failure between pedestals C3 and C5. It is likely due to splices put in during phase 3A expansion up Magic Carpet years ago. Wire has been procured by Rich, and the plan is to fix this the week of Sept 22nd. As a side note, the issue worsened in the past month with now two phases not working and no power to the WRSB. The DNR will start trenching on Sept 22nd allowing Elect-Tech to have power restored by Tuesday, the 23rd.

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

- The current plan is to install 2 or 5 new hydrants to replace leaking and chronically frozen ones. The two Rogers hydrants will be placed at H-33 and H-7. The three new hydrants ordered from Ratnik will arrive in early October. We will complete underground wire projects, and move light poles by the lodge with new lights Sept 23, 24 and possibly 25th. Beattle has reserved a backhoe from Area Rental (DNR will pick it up Sept 22 am). Collin has the trencher rented for underground wire projects. The DNR and Snowmaking are working together to plan details of the needed work. The two large light poles have been moved already by the lodge and the finish line posts redrilled and concrete footings placed (great job by Collin and Sean with skid steer). Electrical lights, fittings, wire, etc purchased for installation.

- **Snowmaking – “Moving Snow Guns Communication”:** 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 October to meet and discuss this along with training for UTV use.
 - **Maintenance on Snow Guns:** Rich and Mike to complete mid-October. All parts and materials have arrived.
 - **Winter Tires for UTV:** John Hillmer provided costs for tires and rims that the buckthorn busters purchased 2 years ago. Rich and Mike Koester to review. We will need these for the upcoming season, so will try to order in October. More information to be presented at the next meeting, along with updated prices.
4. **Southfield Light section outage**
- a. Project plan completed. Collin will be trenching the week of Sept 22. Elect-Tech has purchased wire and will assist with installation and connections.
5. **Balance Sheet, Budget and Upcoming Expenses for remainder of fiscal year (through end Sept 2025)..** Rich will update this budget for review in October and begin to rough out a 2025/2026 budget format for discussion and input at future 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: John M. noted that the DNR has done some work on Two Tier so far. Mark H. mentioned a unique system he had seen used on ski hills/hiking trails in Europe and will provide photos for the next meeting.

Trail Lighting: John M. reported that the two light poles have been moved and lights will be added to two poles. Rich noted that the newly erected Friends Equipment Shed will have electrical power and an inside light.

Landscape Planting Around the Lodge: Johnson nursery will provide trees and dig holes for the planned landscaping near the lodge, and on September 25th the trees will be planted by a group of volunteers, including a large number from the GCA Architectural firm. The DNR will use their skid loader to move the trees to the holes.

Grooming Contract: Rick Hase of Hase Landscaping is planning to retire, so both Rich and Will talked with him about his plans. Rick Hase confirmed that he will payroll any paid snowmakers for the upcoming season through Hase Landscaping. He will let us know by next April the status of his business going forward, and if he can payroll snowmaking for the 2026/2027 season

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Ziarek