

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Meeting in person at Lapham Lodge and via Zoom  
October 14th, 2025, 5:10 PM-6:05 PM

**Attending:** John McCarthy, Mike Graham, Will Edwards, Rich Marusinec, Joanne Ziarek, Lee Rooker, Charlie Ritter, Anne Riendl, Mike Koester, guest Jeff Dodd, and DNR advisor Mike Ring.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 6pm via Zoom.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will send to John Hillmer to post as usual.

**Treasurer's Report:** John M. gave a brief report.

**Snowmaking and Project Report from Rich Marusinec:**

1. **Well Repair Project:**

- Mike Ring reported that Guthrie-Frey, along with Herr drilling, are planning to do the well project in late October. PO's have been issued.
- Rich and Mike Koester have completed the shed design review and Mike Koester will construct the shed during November. Rich will pick up some electrical parts and a heater.
- Snowmaking will budget costs for shed and misc. items as previously discussed

2. **"C" Circuit Underground wire Failure:**

- All work completed and power is restored to C-circuit and WRSB

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

- Various projects completed by volunteers and DNR (hydrants, trail lights, electrical to shed). Volunteers who helped: John McCarthy, Mike Koester, Beattle, Jerry Gagner, Rich Marusinec, and Paul Keber. Mike Koester is officially the lead snowmaker for the 2025-26 season.

4. **Snowmaking Snow Gun Communication and Activity:**

- a. Rich, Mike Koester and Lee R. plan to meet to discuss Snow Gun communication prior to moving a Snow Gun with the UTV. Rich will draft a procedure for review.
- b. Snow Gun Maintenance completed by Mike Koester and Rich M.
- c. Rich M. getting prices on UTV snow tires.
- d. Rich completed a draft list of snowmaking activities for snowmaking season prep and will send that to Mike Koester, John McCarthy, John Kolbe and Collin for input this weekend.
- e. Rich will send a draft of the Hase Landscape grooming and snowmaking plan to Anne this weekend for review so we can complete this in the next few weeks.
- f. John M. noted that the 3 new Ratnik hydrants arrived today. He and Rich will unpack them tomorrow and determine the best place to store them until needed.

**5. Southfield Light section outage**

- a. Project plan completed. Trenching delayed due to equipment breakdown. Elect-Tech has purchased wire and will assist with installation and connections. Trenching and project to resume most likely late October. Rich will refresh the paint markings.

6. **Balance Sheet, Budget and Upcoming Expenses for remainder of fiscal year (through end Sept 2025).** Rich discussed the 2024/2025 fiscal year expense summary. He plans to have an initial budget for 2025/2026 for review at the November 18th meeting, along with a formal summary of past year expenses.

**New Business:**

Anne and Charlie are nearly finished updating the donation envelopes used for snowmaking. Charlie also mentioned that someone from the Birkie is planning a Livestream meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup> with a group of key people regarding snowmaking.

**Pump House Maintenance:** Jim M. has completed the pump house oil change and has greased the bearings. He also ran the pump at low output briefly to test it.

Jim will work on the Holiday Card next.

**Erosion Remediation Update:** Mike Ring mentioned that they had completed work on the loops used for Colorama ahead of the race date. They are still working on deeper ruts and hauling dirt in some areas, whenever they have the time and equipment to do the work.

**Restoration near the Lodge:** Landscape planting was completed in late September. However, there is restoration needed from the trenching for the lights and around the 2 hydrants that were replaced. John M. suggested that this could be one project for the Friends Work Day October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Insurance Coverage:** There was some discussion on insurance coverage, particularly liability. Mike Ring stated that there are many safety precautions in place as requirements from the DNR e.g. anyone driving a UTV or using a chain saw must have completed training beforehand.

**Silent Sports Magazine Ad:** The committee agreed to go ahead and purchase an ad for Lapham Peak Skiing and Snowmaking for the December issue of the magazine. John M showed a sample and the committee agreed that he could submit the final ad.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Joanne Ziarek**