

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee  
Meeting in person at Lapham Lodge and via Zoom  
November 18th, 2025, 6:00 PM-7:35 PM

**Attending:** John McCarthy, Mike Graham, Rich Marusinec, Joanne Ziarek, Lee Rooker, Charlie Ritter, Anne Riendl, Mike Koester, and Mark Herr.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 2025, at 6pm via Zoom.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will send to John Hillmer to post as usual.

**Treasurer's Report:** Anne R. noted that the October report isn't available yet due to finishing up the end of fiscal year details.

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

1. **Well Repair Project:**

- At the last meeting Mike Ring had reported that Guthrie-Frey, along with Herr drilling, planned to do the well project in late October. PO's were issued in early October and an invoice has now been received.
- Herr Drilling completed a very thorough well clean out portion of the project on Oct 31. It took 3.5 days to conduct the 660-foot depth well clean out. There were several areas that had significant build up in the shale area, along with the bottom 60 feet of the well. Water output tests were conducted from 440 feet (depth of the existing pump) down to 660 feet. The team decided to go with a 25HP pump at 600-foot depth to achieve the 100 Gal/Per/Min goal of the project. Funds for this increased cost of approximately \$5,000-\$10,000 had been budgeted by the Snowmaking committee (larger pump, deeper pump depth and heavier gauge wire).
- Guthrie and Frey completed the new pump model and detail selection and ordered it Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>. The new pump, piping and electric have been received by Guthrie, and they are scheduling the pump install. We are hoping for the week before Thanksgiving but will hear more later this week as Guthrie and Frey firm up their schedule.
- The old concrete slab, which already was in poor shape, was damaged further during the well clean out process. Collin and DNR removed the old small concrete pad and added gravel to the ground to level it. Collin and Mike Koester will coordinate pouring a new slab which will save over \$2,000 from having it done. They are waiting until the pump is installed to do this. Once done, Mike Koester is coordinating the building of a new small shed with support from Collin during assembly.
- Electrical wire for the larger 25HP pump was installed from the pumphouse to the well head and a new 60amp disconnect was added to replace the 30 amp one.
- Jim Marshalek installed a new 25HP motor starter in the control box.

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

- a. Rich, Mike Koester and Lee R. met to discuss Snow Gun communication prior to moving a Snow Gun with the UTV. This will be covered Dec 3 at a meeting in the WRSB with the coordinators. Mike Koester will follow up with those that do not attend the meeting. Also, UTV training will be discussed at the meeting and Mike Koester will be tracking completion of this training by the coordinators
- b. Snow Gun Maintenance completed by Mike Koester and Rich M.
- c. Rich M. and Mike Koester obtained prices on UTV snow tire options. They were purchased for \$1829.92 and received. All committee members agreed that snowmaking will pay for these at the meeting on 11/18/25.
- d. Rich completed a draft list of snowmaking activities for snowmaking season prep and sent that to Mike Koester, John McCarthy, John Kolbe and Collin. Significant work has been completed with items still ongoing prior to the start of snowmaking
- e. Rich sent a draft of the Hase Landscape grooming and snowmaking plan to Anne R., who conducted a thorough review and modifications. Anne has sent the form to Rick Hase for review and his final proposal signature is to be returned to Anne.
- f. Two new Ratnik hydrants were installed to replace the two large 3-inch diameter hydrants that have had freezing issues in the past 3 years. Thanks to Mike Koester, Beattle, Jerry Gagner and John McCarthy for this one-day project

**3. Southfield Light section outage**

- a. The DNR coordinated project, which required the trenching and placement of over 1000 feet of underground wire from the south field power panel to a transformer/disconnect pedestal which provides power to the light posts, was completed by the DNR, and the key section of lights is now working. Great job, Collin and DNR team.

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

- a. Rich provided a summary of the monthly income and expenses for the Snowmaking fiscal year Oct 2024 through Sept 2025. This summary provided an overview of the monthly treasurer's report with totals for various receipts and expenses. Expenses for the year were approximately \$108,000. Our treasury balance dropped by \$41,500 this year due to the number of projects, repairs, maintenance, and operations costs.
- b. Rich showed a quick recap from our April 2024 budget that forecasted our spending for the past year and included the actual expenses.
- c. Rich created a first draft Oct 2025 through Sept 2026 budget forecast with likely costs and possible projects. It included expected costs and worst-case costs. Rich will send this spreadsheet out to the committee members for review and input by the next meeting.

**New Business:**

**Holiday Card:** Jim is working on this, and he plans to have it ready to send out by the end of this month.

**Silent Sports Magazine Ad:** The Ski Lapham Peak ad has appeared on page 41 of the December issue of the magazine.

**Ideas for Donations:** There was discussion about establishing ways for skiers to make donations to snowmaking in the new lodge where people would have their wallets and phones handy. Mike K. and Charlie will look into an instant pay system called Tip Tap. Mark H. and Charlie will create signage regarding current expenses for snowmaking to be posted in the lodge to inform skiers that we spent around \$108,000 this past fiscal year, and continue to need donations to meet the ongoing costs for maintenance and other annual expenses. Charlie will also check with his sources to find people to help with updating our snowmaking web site to keep it current, and also to make it easier to donate to snowmaking. Charlie has nearly finished updating the donation envelopes used for snowmaking.

**Possible New Areas to Groom:** Mike K. mentioned that the groomers have looked at some possibilities for short additional trail segments to groom with enough natural snow and permission from the DNR. Some of these are in areas that have already been cleared by the Buckthorn Busters.

**Recycling Proposal:** John M. proposed recycling some of the valuable metals from the old hydrants and will check with the DNR. Lee R. and Mike K. volunteered to help disassemble the hydrants. There are also 22 pieces of 20ft long steel pipes from the well that may have a future use or could be recycled.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Joanne Ziarek**