

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
via Zoom December 16th, 2025, 6:00 PM-7:35 PM

Attending: John McCarthy, Mike Graham, Rich Marusinec, Joanne Ziarek, Lee Rooker, Anne Riendl, Mike Koester, Mark Herr, Will Edwards, Jim Marschalek, and DNR Advisor Mike Ring.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 13th 2026, at 6pm via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the November 18th meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will send to John Hillmer to post as usual.

Treasurer's Report: John M. mentioned the snowmaking balance as of the November report.

Key Volunteer Need(s): Anne Riendl announced that she is looking for a replacement as chair of the snowmaking committee and is willing to train a new volunteer. She will resign as chair no later than the end of December of 2026, or sooner, if a replacement volunteer is found.

Snowmaking and Project Report from Rich Marusinec:

1. **Well Repair Project:**

- New pump was assembled and lowered by Guthrie and Frey Dec 3 and 4. Mike Koester stayed late Dec 4 and re-assembled connections from well head to PVC pond output pipe with help from Collin.
- Elect-tech completed 480V connections Friday Dec 5 at 9:05 am. Mike assisted them. Pump turned on Dec 5 at 9:05am
- Obtaining about 75 to 80 gpm water output. Discussions underway on future activities to get to 100 gpm. Need to turn off pump at some point for a few hours to do a flow test.
- DNR has paid Herr and Guthrie/Frey \$48k as planned.
- Added cost for the pump from Guthrie & Frey going from 15HP to 25HP is \$5087 and has been submitted to Snowmaking. The committee discussed and agreed to pay as planned.
- Additionally, we will need to cover costs for electrical at well pump disconnect and connection/upgrade to larger disconnect and wire to the well which will be billed once we finish the shed and reconnect 120V.
- Mike Koester is building new shed to reduce cost. May not pour concrete pad until spring but will put the shed over the well in a few weeks so we can heat it.
- Total expected cost for Snowmaking for the new pump will be around \$10k. DNR has paid \$48k

2. **Snowmaking Activity:**

- a. **Snow Gun communication** and best practices completed with Coordinators Dec 3 at meeting in WRSB. Mike Koester will follow up with those that did not attend the meeting.
- b. **UTV Snow Tires:** Tires arrived and installed early December which was critical with the large natural snowfall. Working great!

- c. **HASE Landscape Proposal for Snowmaking and Grooming:** Rich and Anne added clarification for occasional use of Ginzu to groom when appropriate. The Committee agreed to this change.
- d. **Actual Snowmaking December 2025:** Mike Koester coordinating all rounds of snowmaking. Round 3 underway just completed (Sunday night). Round 4 to occur Friday Dec 19 and Sunday Dec 21 which may be the last cold weather for 10 days. We are focusing on how to finish the woods loop even if the depth is not to the normal 2 feet for now. This will be a challenge in the phase 3C section where we have a pedestal wiring issue.
- e. **Snowmaking Updates, Issues and Comments to date.**
 - i. Lot of extra effort by Mike Koester during Round 1, 2, 3. Hillmer & Kolbe help was key for round 2 shutdown.
 - ii. About 5 new volunteers trained.
 - iii. **Currently critical pedestal power** issue on the “A” circuit starting at the Pedestal at the top of tail end. Elect-tech here with Rich Wed to check out issue and try to fix.
 - iv. Older battery and pump used for hydrant siphon is broken. We may get another Milwaukee Electric tool battery operated pump or wait till next year
 - v. Pond is filling up nicely.
 - vi. Weather forecast is not great for a lot of snowmaking in next 2 weeks. Focusing on lower loop, summer stage, and up tail end and down Magic Carpet as priority. May start south section of in the woods (3B)
 - vii. **Gator & Ginzu Grooming:** Mike Ring has provided approval for Mark Janis and Mike Koester to run Gator and Ginzu for grooming on occasions when Ginzu is preferred over the PB100, especially late afternoons on the manmade trails. Additionally, there are times that DNR could use Ginzu grooming support on non-manmade snow with the Ginzu due to limited DNR manpower availability. Proposal to compensate Mark and Mike to do some limited amount of this through Snow making via our Hase payroll process and proposal. Committee agreed to approve 25 hours if needed and can discuss again if we use up these 25 hours.
 - viii. **Grooming Comments or Updates:** Discussion by the team on posting grooming updates on the Snowmaking Friends website. Jim M will discuss thoughts with Mark Janis and ask Mark to include Jim in grooming communications.

New Business:

Holiday Card: Jim M. completed a very professional looking mailer and sent out about 560 of them before the end of November. The committee expressed their thanks for his work on this project.

Ideas for Donations: There was discussion at the November meeting 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 are looking into an instant pay system called Tip Tap. Charlie is still waiting for the printer to get the new green donation envelopes used for snowmaking. Meanwhile, Anne R. has printed a batch of plain white envelopes and placed them

in the lodge with extras to be placed in a few other places until the green envelopes are available. John M. mentioned that he has placed the new trail maps in the lodge, office, and kiosk holder.

Updating the Snowmaking Website: There was more discussion about updating our snowmaking web site to keep it current, and also to make it easier to donate to snowmaking. Mike G. and Anne R. volunteered to review each page on the site for accuracy, and make recommendations for needed changes. A volunteer will still be needed to do the technical upgrading. Jim M. may have some suggestions for later in the year, but for now will work with the groomers to post on the trail report section when there will be activity that affects the availability of trails for skiing.

Possible New Areas to Groom: Mike K. had previously 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. This has been tabled for now.

Recycling Proposal: John M. had 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. Tabled for a future meeting.

Wi-Fi in the Lodge: Mark H. announced that Star Link will install the public Wi-Fi system on January 7th, 2026. There was some discussion about what might be allowed when people log in. Mark and Jim M. will look into any options that might support asking for donations to the Friends many projects since the Friends are paying for this service to make the lodge the first DNR building in the state to provide free Wi-Fi to the public.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Ziarek