

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
via Zoom February 10, 2026, 6:00 PM-7:25 PM

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

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 10 2026, at 6pm via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the December 16th meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will send to John Hillmer to post as usual. *Note that there was no meeting in January of 2026*

Treasurer's Report: John M. mentioned the snowmaking balance in the December treasurer's report had included a \$25,000 increase from December fundraising.

Key Volunteer Need(s): Anne Riendl had announced in December 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. Requests were subsequently submitted to key committee members regarding current "job descriptions and responsibilities" for snowmaking, including the committee chairperson. *See more details from Jim Marschalek later in these minutes.*

Snowmaking and Project Report from Rich Marusinec:

1. **Well Repair Project:**

- The well shed is in place and heated. Plan is to complete pad, roof and all electric in June. Likely modify flow restrictor in summer with Guthrie & Frey.

2. **Snowmaking Activity:**

a. **Actual Snowmaking this season:**

- i. There have been 11 rounds of snowmaking currently through end of January requiring 540 volunteer hours and 60 DNR hours so far. Of note is that 51% of those hours was covered by only 4 people. Trail is in great shape as of 2/2. Adding snow to trail areas before they get too low is working well.
- ii. Likely done making snow for season except for adding some near WRSB and possibly 2 other spots. Try out new nozzle head for stick gun by WRSB.

b. **Snowmaking Issues and Comments to date.**

- i. **Pedestal Power issue on the "A" circuit.** Repair this summer
- ii. **Hose Storage Rack:** New rack installed and working great.
- iii. **Hose Fittings:** Need about 6 sets of hose fittings, new tee and several fitting repair parts. Order in late Feb
- iv. **Snow Gun #3 nucleator freezes.** Repair in summer
- v. **Several Hydrants need repair due to freezing** – summer
- vi. **Rich, Mike K. and Jim M. are summarizing needed improvements and equipment for summer review.**

3. **Grooming Comments or Updates:**

- i. Rubber tracks attached Dec 26 and working wonderfully. They minimize sugar snow on the trail.

Jim Marschalek Topics:

4. **Document Snowmaking Committee roles and tasks**
 - a. Quick update
 - b. Catalog with intent to meet in person this spring to assign or recruit vacancies
 - c. Do we want better defined roles? Plan for small meeting groups in spring to discuss.
5. **Annual Survey proposal**
 - a. Proposal sent to Snowmaking Committee for responses and comments.
 - b. Sent to Kate Barbour for feedback (LPSC)
 - c. Sent to Kevin Seay for feedback (Peak Nordic)
6. **Digital File location?**
 - a. Propose using Google Workspace
 - b. Setup info@ email
 - c. Free storage owned by the org. There was much discussion on these topics. The committee authorized Jim to proceed with his proposals.
7. **Current Personal Zoom Replacement**
 - a. Propose WebEx. as alternative
 - b. Look into an organization account for Zoom, vs current personal one
8. **Interested in updating website (spring/summer task)** Jim expressed interest in doing this and researched other ski areas for ideas. Mike G. and Anne R. had volunteered to review the current website for outdated information and will share what they find with Jim. There was some discussion about web administrator duties and who would keep the site current for skiing.
9. **Consider 24hr Trail Cams**
 - a. Jim showed examples of several ski areas that have trail cams showing trail conditions in real time. Mike Ring will check with DNR regarding the feasibility of such a system as it would only focus on the trail conditions and not reveal individual skiers using the trails. One camera might also focus on the new lodge area.

New Business:

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. Elly Miller has provided acrylic table stands and John M. has designed the folder for it with information about donating. These have been placed on the tables in the lodge. John M. mentioned that he has placed the new trail maps in the lodge, office, and kiosk holder.

Updating the Snowmaking Website: See further discussion above under Jim M. topics.

Recycling Proposal: John M. had proposed recycling some of the valuable metals from the old hydrants and the 22 pieces of 20ft long steel pipes from the well that may have a future use or could be recycled. Lee R. volunteered to help when the time comes.

Wi-Fi in the Lodge: The Star Link system was installed on January 7th, 2026. There was discussion at a recent FLP board meeting to have a log-in page for users, but no action was taken.

Tree Planting: Suggestions have been made to consider planting evergreens along the field loop in areas to provide shade and wind break for the trail. Mike K. and John M. can look into appropriate areas and Mike Ring can check for DNR tree sources. More discussion to follow.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Ziarek