

Minutes of the Friends of Lapham Peak Snowmaking Committee
via Zoom March 10, 2026, 6:00 PM-7:45 PM

Attending: John McCarthy, Mike Graham, Rich Marusinec, Joanne Ziarek, Anne Riendl, Mike Koester, Mark Herr, Jim Marschalek.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 14th, 2026 at 6pm via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the February 10th meeting were approved. Joanne Z. will send to John Hillmer to post as usual.

Treasurer's Report: Anne R. gave a brief report on the balance at the end of January.

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:**

- General Plan is to discuss well flow restrictor and gal/min (GPM) with Guthrie in late April early May for optional trials.
- Likely will remove shed in June to modify restrictor and pour concrete pad and assemble shed, finish electrical and roof.

2. **Snowmaking Activity:**

a. **Actual Snowmaking this season:**

- i. There were 11 Rounds of snowmaking ending Feb 6th with 591 actual snowmaking hours and 60 DNR hours. Planning, prep, coordination and repairs required approximately 300 volunteer hours
- ii. New stick gun head with single row of nozzles worked well by garage in Feb. Will leave it on for next season. Easy to switch back and forth. Wind direction really affects the stick gun snow quality.

b. **Snowmaking First Cut list of Issues/Repairs for summer/fall repair**

- i. Pedestal Power issue on the "A" circuit.
- ii. Hose Fittings: Need about 6 sets of hose fittings, camlock arms and rings, and 3 hydrant camlock caps. Rich will order in late Feb and will arrive at office in March.
- iii. Replace snow gun #3 nucleator heater and test all snow gun heaters.
- iv. Several hydrants need repair due to freezing.
- v. Investigate underground water pressure drop time after pump shut off.
- vi. Review pedestal near Summer Stage and possibly modify.
- vii. Finish playground light PVC and any light adjustments by lodge. Mike G. to check if any needed for race finishes.

c. Improvement and Equipment List.

- i. We completed new hose rack in WRSB and electrical jumper hangers in Feb. Rob Garner created and donated the 4 hangers.
- ii. More significant method is needed to close off the top of Magic Carpet with signage during grooming or snowmaking.
- iii. Rich and Mike K. will summarize possible improvements and equipment needs for review in June.

d. Maintenance

- i. Snow Gun maintenance will likely be July-August. Rich to order supplies in April/May from SMI
- ii. PB maintenance in summer/fall. Also need to fix track setter hydraulic cylinder seal.

3. Grooming Comments or Updates:

- i. PB100 worked really well week of Feb 25th to restore the trail and move snow around. Great job by Mark Janis with help from Mike K
- ii. Rich and Jim provided some planned grooming posts to Lapham Peak Ski Club Facebook site as a trial in sync with reports from Mark Janis.

4. Financial Overview

- a. All the proceeds of the ski series and Loppet will go to snow making this year. When will the Fright Hike portion transfer?
- b. The amount of \$3404 was transferred to the Buckthorn group for numerous snowmaking assist shifts and set ups, especially during evening shifts. Thanks for their support.
- c. We received several large donations totaling \$15,000 this season.
- d. Rich shared a detailed spread sheet showing monthly overview through end of Jan.
- e. Collin has preliminary fuel and electric charge totals for upcoming invoice of \$11,042.
- f. Most snowmaking expenses for this season should get invoiced and paid by end of April. Rich will try to collect estimated costs for known repairs in the next few months, noting that last season's income was around \$64,300 and expenses around \$106,000.

Jim Marschalek's Report:

1. Review committee roles and responsibilities. Continue to compile tasks. Jim and Rich working with Anne R. to clarify her current tasks.
2. Started a "Risks and Needs" Google spreadsheet to share at a future meeting.
3. Snowmaking survey has been out, 55 responses. Summary sent to committee.
4. Met with John Hillmer to discuss website, communications, and IT. Very productive and I have his support.
 - a. Discussed web camera - he expressed support
 - b. Discussed a weather station - he expressed support
5. info@laphampeaksnowmaking.org email created
6. Google Workspace started, waiting for Domain verification.

7. Zoom account for FLP organization will be created by summer 2026
8. Started a website/trail conditions redesign. Jim showed samples to the committee and is continuing to work on this.
9. Review “Mike’s Loop” proposal, should we move forward with planning? Small group will need to meet with Mike Ring.
10. Jim contacted SMI about stick guns. Need to follow up. Thinking is to establish areas that these semi-permanent guns can blow snow. Think about in front of the garage and along “main street”. Mike K. noted that stick guns need to drain so they often work best on hills. More information to follow.

New Business:

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.

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. John M. will prepare a summary of information for a future meeting.

Joint Snowmaking and FLP Board cookout July 14th: Joanne Z. and Mike Koester will coordinate the planning and invitations to also include the snowmakers this year. More details to follow, but mark your calendars.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Ziarek