

Friends of Lapham Peak
Board of Directors Meeting
September 4, 2019



Board Members (those present are noted with an “*”)

*Louise Borzynski, *John Hillmer, *Rita Keber, *Anne Korman (DNR), *Kris Maki, *John McCarthy, *Jackie Nicholson, *Anne Riendl, *Karl Timm, *Rick Von Haden, Dan Wiley, Randy Wichinski

Next meeting: October 2 (Wednesday), Hausman Nature Center, 6pm

Meeting was called to order: 6:03 pm.

Guest: Jon Jeffords, a former Friends of Lapham Peak Board member, asked to sit in on the meeting as he is interested in getting involved with the Friends again. His work locations in the last number of years has made that difficult but with a recent change, he’s enthusiastically looking to reconnect.

August Minutes: With a few minor corrections, the minutes were approved and will be posted without attachments.

Treasurers: Karl returned from his vacation; he provided us with updated copies of the July¹ & August² reports. He highlighted that:

- We recently received \$8,000 for memorial bench donations (4 benches)
- We paid for web hosting for the Friends, Fright Hike, and Snowmaking (\$70 each)
- We paid for insurance for this coming year. Dan sent out the details previously.
- Last month's report, which was a double month, did not include credit card charges. So this month has 3-months of charges in it and only 2 checks under disbursements.

We discussed:

- Insurance breakdowns, Dan will be asked to provide more details
- Donations and fees and how those are handled
- The Summer Solstice income and expenses, per Rita
- Future financial obligations (designated money) and how those are reflected, or not, on the last page

Income/donations and Expenses/bills were then provided to Karl for handling, including funds for Colorama per Kris’ attached report³

OLD BUSINESS

Snowmaking: John M provided the attached SnowMaking Report⁴, with content from the report provided below and notes added from our Board Meeting-

Snowmaking Expenses: No new expenses associated with snowmaking were approved for payment. Expenses associated with trail restoration are being tallied under the 2018 DNR Enhancement Grant.

Snowmaking Phases 3B and 3C Expansions: Restoration of the trails and adjacent areas disturbed by the Phase 3B and 3C work is nearly complete. Woodchip placement, with the assistance of the Peak Nordic Ski Team, is essentially complete for this year. Seeding and straw are still planned for the area near the top of Summerstage Hill and for the lower portion of Magic Carpet Ride, in the near future. A special project is planned for. An 8-inch thick layer of rounded aggregate was placed over a geotextile fabric in the wet area at the intersection of Tail End and Magic Carpet to provide a permanent solution to the wet conditions.

Project Fundraising and Community Engagement: A new campaign to raise funds for a replacement snowcat is underway. A draft flyer has been developed. It was later reported that the Committee is looking to get access to the Birkie mailing list which requires an application; the Board approved applying for that.

Snowcat: Discussions continue on the acquisition of a used or possibly new snowcat to replace the current 37-year old snowcat. The Snowmaking Committee is actively exploring options to finance the purchase. Rich Marusinec met with representatives from Pisten Bully, in Minnesota to review machine options. He is working on a plan to have a Pisten Bully 100 at the park this winter as a demonstration to test the ability of the machine to work with the manmade snow piles. The machine would be used for more than just spreading the manmade snow piles – it would also provide regular grooming of the snowmaking trails and could be used to groom the entire trail system if there was sufficient snow. He noted that the newer machines have a tiller apparatus that can break up hard packed and icy snow, and set perfect trail and track, in one pass. The committee's goal is to have a replacement snowcat in time for the 2020-2021 ski season.

Ski Trail Equipment Storage Building: A building to store the snowcat, snowguns, and other grooming equipment has been designed (pro-bono) by architect Bruce Wydeven. The building will be 42x42-feet, with overhead doors for the snowcat and gator. The location will be adjacent to the east leg of the "warm-up loop" with access to the main park road. Clearing of brush and smaller trees, and a survey of the site to develop a site plan is in process. Plans for the building will be sent to four prospective contractors in the next several weeks for budget pricing. Site preparation work may be performed this year by volunteers. During the Board Meeting, members and the DNR discussed possible names for the building, and after discussion the DNR recommended: Winter Recreation Storage Building.

Land Use Agreement: The Development, Operation, and Maintenance Plan for Snowmaking at Lapham Peak (the Plan) was submitted to DNR at the last board meeting, as required by the LUA.

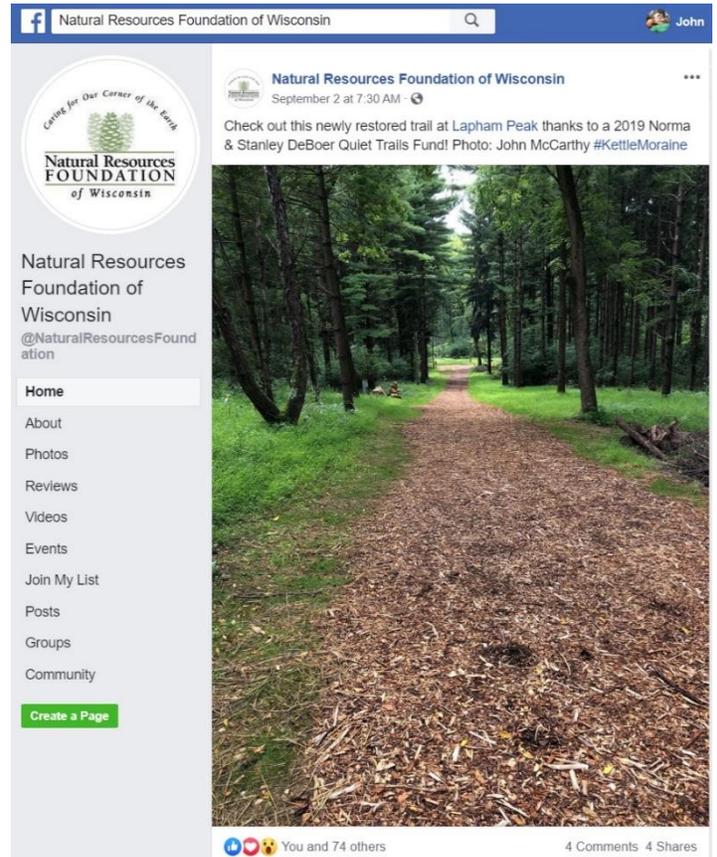
Planning for 2019-20 Snowmaking Season: Planning by Rich Marusinec for scheduling and training snowmaking volunteers for the upcoming season is proceeding.

Habitat Restoration: John H indicated that he is applying for a \$2000 2019-20 CD Besadny Conservation Grant. This past month, volunteers treated the surrounding areas at the Mike Fort shelter with Milestone herbicide to remove the Crown Vetch there.

Grants: In addition to the grant mentioned above under Habitat work:

- John H and Louise applied for another Garden Club Grant (for both Habitat and also Butterfly Garden work).
- John M heard that the check was being processed for us for the RTP Grant; \$8,900.
- Anne K reported that the new sign at Evergreen is in progress; she hopes it will be installed before the freeze!
- Work/planned-work using the 2018 Enhancement Trails Grant (\$12,000) is being tracked. Anne K was requested to check if we could use more volunteer hours against the grant, as we are making good progress with those hours. Examples of planned work yet to be started includes tree-trimming by a service (over the ski trails), bulldozing some problem spots on the trails, brush cutting, etc. Anne K will get a quote for some of the brush-cutting needs that were highlighted last month by the Rangers (see also New Business in Page 4).

- Work restoring Lapham Peak's trails with help from the DeBoer Fund was highlighted on the Natural Resource Foundation's [Facebook](#) page, as seen in this picture -



Colorama: Kris reported:

- Door prizes are being donated and a number have been received already
- T-Shirts have been ordered
- Kris and Rita are reaching out for volunteers.

Fright Hike: Sponsorships and donations are coming in; tickets continue to be sold. Decorations have been made, and planning meetings are scheduled in September. The map for the Hike is final now.

Insurance: At last month's meeting we agreed that Dan should pursue adding an "Employee(Volunteer) Dishonesty Rider" to our Friends Coverage. Some additional information was shared after the meeting via email, the policy will include a \$500 deductible, \$25,000 in coverage, and a \$100 premium. We agreed he should continue with this.

Memorial Benches: Given that 4 additional benches were purchased this past month, our supply on hand will be depleted so John H will work with Jim Waltz to schedule a bench building workday in late October (for 6 more).

New Business

In-Step: While we will not be providing volunteers for this again, the organizer offered us a number of water coolers (10 gallon sized); Kris might take a few of them for Friends' events.

Annual Meeting: Jackie has indicated that she will not be running again; Rick, Kris, and Louise will run again. Jon Jeffords will consider the opening Board Position. We discussed an interest in hearing from the DNR regarding their organization and plans; John McC has some DNR contacts and will check with them.

Park Property Manager: Anne K said interviews have been held; DNR's HR is working on details for the position.

Mini-Work-Day: Chips need to be spread on portions of the trail that will be used by Colorama. We have a good supply of them, so on Sept 21st volunteers will tackle this need in the morning. Rita will send out an announcement.

DNR Staff Requests: We discussed requests that the Rangers have for us; these were provided on Aug 20th. The requests included the following, with our discussion for each provided too--

- New chairs and tables for the Trecker Lodge. They would like to replace the existing green plastic items with sturdier tables that have foldable legs, and chairs that have metal frames. Louise investigate and get an estimate for our next meeting; John H will look into chair options.

- Vegetation mowing by a hired professional: Fecon brush mowing from Gut Buster to 2 Tier. This is an area that was cleared by the Buckthorn Busters a few years back and they noticed it is getting away from us once again. We suggested that Anne K get a quote/quotes for this and that between all of the grants we have or have applied for that this should be high on the list to get done.
- 8 loads of road bond gravel. This is needed in the overflow lot near the Mike Fort Shelter to add to what they already put down in an effort to create a stable surface that can be used in almost all weather conditions. We asked Anne K to get a quote/estimate for this, and to verify that 8 loads was the right number.
- New water fountain for Trecker Lodge – the fountain that is in there does not function properly and has been turned off. We discussed this, and its history; it uses a French drain, and that if this is done it would need to be insulated/winterized as the building is not normally heated in the winter. We questioned if the water supply to the building was still in working order; more information/investigation for this is needed.
- A projection screen. At this time the property has to borrow one from the SU when one is needed here. John H will research and obtain one before the next meeting. The Board also discussed the need for its own HD Video Projector for displaying presentations; more investigation is needed; John H will look into options.
- A changeable signboard for the Nature Center to replace the used one Anne brought up from the SU. John H will research and obtain one before the next meeting.
- New kiosk for the Homestead Hollow area. We did not believe this was needed as it was recently repaired.
- Long tables, matching benches and a new/bigger shoe/boot cubbie for Evergreen. The idea would be to remove the existing benches along the wall that are now most often used as shoe/boot racks. A new/bigger cubbie (or, one in the hall and one in the main area) would help eliminate the benches as boot racks problem. After much discussion, the Board was not in favor of removing the benches or the current cubbies; we believe the current configuration is best for how the building is now used.

Website Updates: John H reported that our web hosting provider has requested that we update our web sites: laphampeakfriends.org & laphampeaksnowmaking.org, to use a new content editor. The sites will continue to be on WordPress, but the template and editor needs to be modernized for ongoing support. The look & feel of the site can remain much like they look today, though new features will be possible. The sites will also now adapt better to phone and tablet displays. John H will work with the content editors for each site and will work with the provider to update the sites.

Membership Brochure: Rita is looking for input on updates to our membership brochure; current copies were handed out. John H will digitize the current one for Rita so that she can update it as the suggestions come in.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm; our next meeting is October 2 (Wednesday) at 6pm, Hausman Nature Center.

Respectfully submitted Oct 2, 2019 with corrections applied, by John Hillmer, Secretary

Attachments (PDFs are attached for Board Members, but are not available in the online version):

1) Treasurer's (July)



July Rpt.pdf

2) Treasurer's (Aug)



August Rpt.pdf

3) Colorama Report



Colorama Rpt.pdf

4) Snowmaking



SM Rpt.pdf