

Friends of Lapham Peak
Annual Board of Directors Meeting
January 6, 2020



Attendees: (all members were present)

Louise Borzynski, John Hillmer, Jon Jeffords, Rita Keber, Colton Kelly(DNR), Anne Korman (DNR), Kris Maki, John McCarthy, Anne Riendl, Karl Timm, Rick Von Haden, Dan Wiley, Randy Wichinski, and Guest: Will Edwards

Next Meeting: Monday Feb 3, 6:00pm, Hausmann

Meeting was called to order: 6:03pm

Minutes of Prior Meeting: The minutes of the December 11, 2019 Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Guest Presentation: Will Edwards attended to present information regarding the purchase of a new or newer snow-cat. We've been making manmade snow at Lapham Peak since 2005, and the Friends are now using a 40-year-old snow-cat for spreading whales on the manmade snow trails. The machine is now costing us thousands each year (during the period, 2011 to present, over \$69,000 has been spent on repairs & maintenance); it has broken down several times this season and is no longer reliable. The purchase of a new machine would be in the ballpark of \$246,000, and while the Friends/snowmaking committee have some funds on hand today, they are looking to purchase a new machine with the aid of a loan. Hence, the discussion tonight is around the concept of a loan. Note, they are not yet ready to purchase so this is still a conceptual conversation. However, the snowmaking committee needs to see if the Board is favorable, so that they can continue in the direction of selection and loan details.

With a down payment, the concept is to pay the loan off in 10 years, and in doing so the equity value of the machine would always be more than the outstanding loan. So, in a worst-case scenario, if the machine were no longer needed or the Friends couldn't make loan payments, we could sell the machine and pay the loan off. The committee shared estimates from the industry for the rate of depreciation, and demand for these machines, so this all looked feasible. They have discussed loans with investors and have an option that is very attractive and flexible.

Snowmaking has demo'ed one brand and model already, and has another option scheduled for later this winter. The new machine would also provide grooming capabilities, and as we saw with the first demo, the quality of the groomed snow and trails was at least as good if not better than the Birkebeiner's trails!

If the machine was purchased with a loan, the DNR couldn't take ownership of it until the loan was paid off. The Friends would need to insure the machine while we owned it (the committee with Dan's help is investigating that).

After discussion, John H moved, seconded by Randy & Rick, that the "Board of the Friends of Lapham Peak Unit hereby goes on record that the Board is not opposed to the snowmaking committee moving forward in the direction of purchasing a snowcat machine with financing being part of the purchase solution." The motion was approved.

Treasures Report: Karl shared the attached treasurer reports for December¹ and for October-November² combined. The following fundraising events had some activity in December but now should be closed: Summer Solstice, Colorama, and Fright Hike (however there might be some tweaking of the final numbers). Other items of note:

- Snowmaking has received \$49,000 in donations since October 1st and now has a balance of \$109,000
- Habitat received \$8000 in donations in December and now has a balance of \$18,000

Karl handled Receipts, Donations, Expenses, and Reimbursements (Kris' report is attached³ for Ski Series & Loppet).

OLD BUSINESS

Snowmaking: John McC provided a written report, attached⁴ and that is summarized below:

No Snowmaking expenses were reported this month. However, expenses associated with trail restoration are being tallied under the 2018 DNR Enhancement Grant.

Project Fundraising and Community Engagement: A new campaign to raise funds for a replacement snowcat is underway. Title: 85 Days of Snow. A mailing of a flyer has been completed. Many donations have come in recently. An e-mail blast will come out from the ABSF about donating to the snowcat replacement funding. A meeting was held by Charlie Ritter with Joe Libau (DNR) to discuss snowmaking funding. A second meeting, at Joe's request, is set for January 13th. Charlie Ritter arranged for Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel reporter Chelsea Lewis to visit the park during a snowmaking operation. Chelsea did an extensive story on the project that appeared in last weekend's paper. We are also engaged with Outdoor Wisconsin to do a story on the project.

Snowcat: Discussions continue on the acquisition of a used or new snowcat to replace the current 37-year old snowcat. The Snowmaking Committee is actively exploring options to finance the purchase. Arrangements were made with the Prinoth Company to bring a "Husky" snowcat to the park before Christmas as a demo. Beattle has been operating the machine and is pleased with it. The committee's goal is to have a replacement snowcat in time for the 2020-2021 ski season. There may be additional demo's this season.

2019-20 Snowmaking: The initial round of snowmaking, covering the entire snowmaking trail system, was completed on December 19th. Whales on the "In the Woods" loop were allowed to sit until the Husky demo, in order to determine the machine's ability to spread the whales. The full system of snowmaking trails was opened for skiing on December 24th. Since then, we have had unseasonably warm weather, some rain, and a small amount of snow. The snowmaking loops have generally fared well, and the tiller on the Husky demo has been used to break up the ice. An additional snowmaking session will commence on Tuesday to fill in some bad spots.

Habitat Restoration: John H reported the work of the Habitat crews; their work has focused:

- In the front of the park along the East Side of Hwy C between the highway and the front office
- And along the Ice Age Trail:
 - West of the Tower (down the Hill to the West)
 - And around the pond on the East Side of Hwy C and also immediately on the West Side of Hwy C.
- Also, work at the Tower's Overlook Deck and the Hill there has started, and will be completed in January,
- And, we have created an entrance for UTVs to come from Hwy C into South Field, and we are cutting Buckthorn there to expose a really nice rock-wall along the lighted trail there.

Prairie burn plans continue for the spring. The Rangers have mowed fire breaks around the sections that are planned. Contractors to lead the work are being investigated. Training new personnel (or re-training others) for assisting with Controlled Burns is in progress; we are working with Peter Duerkop (DNR) on this.

We have also started work using the Besadny Conservation Fund grant. The initial work was at the Mike Fort Shelter last fall, and now we are planning Fecon Mowing in some of the areas between Gut Buster and Two Tier. This whole area was identified by the Rangers last fall on their project request list, but it will be too large (too costly) to do it all, so we are working on options for portion(s) of that area based on quotes from Contractors.

Membership Brochure: Rita completed the membership brochures and they are at the printers now.

Volunteer Hours: Louise requested each Board Member/Committee Head supply her with their hours for the past year (1/1/19–12/31/19) so those may be reported to the State; details are not needed, just total hours.

Ski League: Kris reported that everything is in place for the Series to start this coming Wednesday.

Loppet: Kris reported that additional Volunteers are still needed for the Loppet. Several members present tonight raised their hands and took a number of the open positions.

Candlelight Ski/Hike: Only 90 vouchers have been picked up so far. It was reported that Delafield will provide shuttle vans to move people from downtown to our Park for free!

OutWigo Snow: John M reported that many things are in place, and a schedule of events was shared (attached⁵). We also then discussed the Friends' roles during that event.

NEW BUSINESS

Officers: Officer positions were discussed; each with a 2019 position agreed to continue in their same role for 2020; these people were all approved again for 2020–

- Louise, President
- Karl, Treasurer
- Rick, Vice President
- John H, Secretary

2020 Summer Solstice: Rita said she would be traveling during the time of the 2020 Summer Solstice Event, so a replacement leader is needed to organize and run it. Randy indicated an interest and will follow-up with her.

Adjournment: Rick moved, Randy seconded, that we adjourn at 8:15 pm; the motion was approved. Our next meetings will be Monday Feb 3rd and then Wednesday March 4, both at 6:00pm at Hausmann.

Respectfully Submitted as Draft:

-John Hillmer, Secretary

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

1)Dec Treasurer's Rpt:



2019 Dec Treasurer's
Rpt.pdf

3)Ski Series/Loppet Receipts:



Kris' Receipts
Report.pdf

5)OutWigo Snow:



Owgsnow
Schedule.pdf

2)Oct & Nov Treasurer's Rpt:



2019 Nov Treasurer's
Rpt.pdf

4)Snowmaking Rpt:



Snowmaking
Report.pdf