

Friends of Lapham Peak
Board of Directors Meeting
February 3, 2020



Attendees: *(members not present indicated with *)*

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

Next Meeting: Wednesday March 4, 6:00pm, Hausmann

Meeting was called to order: 6:09pm

Minutes of Prior Meeting: The minutes of the January 6, 2020 Board Meeting were approved as presented. Louise brought a copy of the Delafield Neighbors magazine, the January 2020 issue, which highlighted a story that included information and good material about Lapham Peak.

Treasures Report: Karl shared the attached treasurer report¹ for January. Some items of note:

- Snowmaking netted \$21,510 this month (\$64,649 since Oct 1), total assets now \$130,314
- \$900 of additional seeds were purchased for prairie restoration efforts
- Habitat spent \$1,080 (for items including: a new brush saw, new shelves in the garage, and maintenance)
- Randy sent out the 1099 Misc to our Fright Hike contractor

There was discussion about the terminology: “Future Obligations” (on our Report’s Summary Page) as it refers to funds that were donated or received for a designated purpose. A possible replacement for the term, of “Restricted” (or “Non-Restricted”) Funds was shared.

The desire to move to QuickBooks was again shared and while that has been in progress, the complexities of the change and the time involved with the change has been challenging. Anne R suggested we seek options for a contractor to help us move in that direction; it was agreed that she could bring back some quotes next month for us.

Karl handled Receipts, Donations, Expenses, and Reimbursements (Kris’ report is attached² for Ski League & Loppet Receipts & Disbursements).

OLD BUSINESS

Membership: Rita provided copies of the new Membership Brochure! And, she shared the various locations within the Park where those are provided to the public. John H will post the brochure on our website as well.

Candlelight Ski/Hike: John shared comments via email; those are summarized here: Candlelight was a huge success. Volunteers performed their roles nicely! People skied, snowshoed, hiked, pulled sleds & toboggans, brought lots of kids, and a number of dogs. Nearly \$700 was donated to our general fund, and some for snow-making too; many mugs were sold. No one complained about parking or wait times. It was about 32 degrees all night, no wind, the candles appeared to do well in the bags. Some outlets in Trecker were not working, but enough were that hot drinks were made and served all night. The fires were a nice attraction to those inside Trecker and outside too. People used the grills and commented how nice the coals were prepared. We could have offered

marshmallow sticks for the bonfire (some people used branches). 325 vouchers for cars had been given out. The DNR cut them off at that point with concerns for too many people needing to park in the overflow lot which had been plowed but with some warm weather, it could have been a muddy mess.

Snowmaking: John McC provided a written report, attached³ and that is summarized below:

Project Fundraising and Community Engagement: An e-mail blast was sent out on 2/3/20 from the ABSF about donating to our snowcat replacement effort. A second meeting, at Joe's request, was held on 1/13/20; the meeting was with John Budzinski & Sara DeBruijn and focused on potential grants for the snowmaking project. John McC suggested that the DNR's focus for funds should be on operating costs (electricity, fuel, and maintenance of snowmaking equipment they own), and construction of the Winter Recreation Storage Building.

Media: In addition to recent newspaper articles about our need for a new snowcat, Outdoor Wisconsin came to the park to do a story; they filmed snowmaking operations and interviewed Anne R and Charlie Ritter; turn around for this video is anticipated to be next fall for the 2020/21 ski season. A Camera crew from Travel Wisconsin also came this month (2/1/20) with the intention of creating a 30 second spot for their website - on Lapham and Snowmaking; turn around for that video is anticipated to be quick (days or a week or so).

Snowcat: Next steps that the committee is focused on:

- Financing the purchase, with a goal to purchase in the Spring'20 for delivery in the Fall'20
- Insurance for the machine
- Operational Agreement(s) with the DNR for its use in the Park by the Friends (and DNR)
- Housing for the machine (the Shelter)

A question was asked about ownership once the machine's loan was paid off. Some members assumed it would be given to the DNR, but the committee was not ready to discuss their recommendation on that question; they might recommend that the Friends would continue to own and insure and maintain it.

Winter Recreation Storage Building: Awaiting a response on our \$20,000 Stewardship Grant request. Regarding the building/shelter, Anne K reminded the group that if the cost of the building is greater than \$50,000 then the DOA (Dept of Administration) would need to review and approve it.

2019-20 Snowmaking Season: Snowmaking should be done for the season. The snowcat, operated by Beattle and Mark Janis, continues to support DNR grooming operations on the manmade snow loops, with tilling of the surface after warm-up and rain events. We appear to be on track for our goal of "85 days of skiable snow".

Insurance: Related to the snowcat discussion, Louise brought up an issue that needs addressing tonight, regarding the Friends' insurance provider. The Carrier has become concerned with our various machinery riders and our Inland-Marine rider, so much so that they informed us that they would not be renewing us in August (even though we have had no claims). After discussing this matter with them, they agreed to reconsider their non-renewal if we agree to the following:

- They will add an exclusion form - Designated Operations and specifically it will state "Any and All trail grooming and operations related to the DNR"
- They will add a Limitation of coverage to designated premises or project and limit the operations to: "Non-profit Fundraising and Special Events on file with the company" only. Each year they will need an updated list of special events and an updated Club questionnaire.
- They will be removing the Inland Marine coverage at renewal (this is equipment coverage)

During the discussion, John H moved, with a second by Randy, that we accept these Requirements to continue our other coverage(s), i.e., liability insurance, officer's insurance, our Employee(Volunteer) Dishonesty Rider, etc. We discussed if our broker or other brokers or other carriers would be an option? And, nothing stops us from looking at others even if we continue for now with the current broker & carrier. The Motion Passed.

Grants: Louise said she would be asking the Delafield Fund for a grant to enable us to obtain a new lighter, rescue sled (this would need to be designed and custom made). See Habitat below regarding another grant application.

Habitat Restoration: John H reported that in January, crews focused on visible/high priority locations:

- John H & Jack A and their crews completed the area in the Front of the Park, along Hwy C - between the highway and the exit road by the Front Office. This worked included a team of 10 volunteers from a Law firm on MLK Day (10 of them for 2 hours each)
- Holly S and her crew continued working on the IAT down the Hill to the West from the tower, on the IAT around the pond behind Evergreen, and also at locations near the north-east trails
- Jack & John with their crews continued on the IAT to the west of Hwy C, between the highway & boardwalk
- John & Jack's crew also completed most of the work at the Tower Overlook Platform, which included removing 3 large dead trees that were a threat to safety in that location (some piles still need to be burned there, but most of the work is completed).

With help from Holly, two contractors were asked to bid work in the area between gut-buster and 2-tier (this goes back to last year's staff requests for Park Projects). While that area is way too large to complete at this time (too costly), a high priority spot within that area, that gets lots of traffic and has Autumn Olive that is particularly nasty to cut, has been targeted. This is 5.3 acres, close to the walk-in camp site and the trails around it. John H is looking to move forward with the bid that provides a fixed bid capped at what the buckthorn busters believe to be a good price (some of the work will be done by LP Volunteers as well). The area will be Fecon Mowed, treated with herbicide, and then this summer foliar sprayed with more herbicide (and followed up with in future years as well by us).

To help with the Fecon Mowing Project costs, a 2020 application for the C.D. Besadny Conservation Fund Grant is being applied for. A copy was routed for review.

John H also wants to add a dedicated web page that would be under our Volunteer page on our website. He provided a copy of the page for review. This will better explain what we do and how people can get involved, with details on how to get signed up, where to meet, and what each crew typically does. As part of this site, he would like approval to have a [Donate Button] on that page for people to donate specially to Habitat Restoration work.

The board was good with each of these actions, to move forward with the Fecon Mowing Autumn Olive Project, to move ahead with the Besadny grant, and to add the Habitat Page and Donation option to our Friends web site.

Volunteer Hours: Louise is still tallying our volunteer hours for 2019. A few missing details were provided during our meeting, and other missing details will be obtained by the Snowmaking Committee.

Ski League and Loppet: Kris said the Loppet was a success, and even with other races in the area, we still made good money, just a little less than last year, but the reduction was not as bad as she thought it might be. Final income and expenses will be reported next month.

OutWIGo Snow: The event was canceled due to bad weather. All of the planning will be helpful for future events and next year too! A coffee mug from the State-DNR as a thank you was provided to us; we all felt that it should go to John McC for his work on this event.

2020 Summer Solstice: Randy will lead this, and most of us who have helped in the past said we would help again with this year's event. John McC said he'd quickly check on the band. The event will be June 20th.

Colorama: No one has stepped forward yet for 2020. The final numbers for 2019 will be reported next month, but the net profit looks like it will be over \$6,000 (~\$6,400ish).

NEW BUSINESS

Friends Website: John McC asked about the Trails Condition function and page that we host on our Friends Website. John H indicated that he maintains it, and just recently when things broke, he was able to get help from Ray Beebe. Anne K said that they (DNR) see the comments that are posted, and if any are inappropriate, they will remove them (they have the link to the function to do that). No further action is needed on this at this time.

Next Meeting: Wednesday March 4, at 6:00pm at Hausmann.

Adjournment: It was moved and seconded and all members agreed to adjourn at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted as Draft:

-John Hillmer, Secretary

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

1)Jan Treasurer's Rpt:



2020 Jan Treasurers
Rpt.pdf

2)Ski Series/Loppet Funds Rpt:



Ski League Loppet
Funds Rpt.pdf

3)Snowmaking Rpt:



2020 Jan
Snowmaking Rpt.pdf