

Friends of Lapham Peak
Board of Directors Meeting
March 4, 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, and

Guests: Will Edwards, Richard Marusinec, Charlie Ritter

Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday April 1, 6:00pm, Hausmann

Meeting was called to order: 6:00pm

Presentation by Snowmaking Committee, regarding Snowcat and Winter Storage Building: Anne R provided an introduction, and then John M, Rich M, Will E, and Charlie R provided supporting material regarding the committee's research, analysis, selection, funding study, and recommendations. The focus of this presentation was on a new snowcat, and secondarily on steps for a winter storage building for the cat and other equipment. The priority at this point is the snowcat because it needs to be ordered, built-to-order, shipped from overseas, assembled in the States, and that schedule is tight to have it here for November/December of 2020.

The result of the Committee's work is the recommendation to order and purchase a new **PistenBully 100 4F Nordic snowcat**. Financial scenarios were provided to the Board and explained; loan options were also explained. The recommendation for this particular make & model was provided by Rich, who also shared how Beattle was heavily involved in the decisions and negotiations; and, how factors of service availability, parts, warranty (and a negotiated extended warranty) were all factors in their decision.

Loan options were provided, and their recommendation is to purchase using a local bank that has offered us favorable terms and flexibility (a loan or line of credit, designed to be paid off ideally in not more than 7 years). They have factored in a sizable down payment, but one that would still leave enough reserve funds to pay for SM operations and provide for contingencies (should other SM maintenance issues arise).

A specific carrier for insurance of the snowcat has not yet been obtained, but they have been assured by brokers that a policy will not be an issue. The financial impact analysis that John M showed the board included conservative numbers for operations, insurance, and paying off the loan, while it also provided a historical perspective on donations for SM projects and operations, showing how this purchase is certainly feasible and how other SM projects could more than likely continue concurrently in the future as plans and priorities shape up for those.

John M provided a proposed amendment to the Land Use Agreement (LUA) between the DNR and the Friends. That is to allow the Friends to own, operate, and store the snowcat on premises, while also providing access to it by staff and volunteers. Ann K has passed that on to Madison for approval. Ideally, the Friends would like that signed before we place the order for the machine, but Anne K indicated with recent turn-over in Madison, a specific date for approval was not known at this time. However, Anne K was clear that she expects permission for this; she has heard from Missy VanLanduyt that the intention is to grant that permission. Therefore, Anne K does not believe it is necessary to have the signed amendment in hand before we place the order and put a down-payment on it.

John M and Rich shared high-level plans regarding the Winter Storage Building.

Will then summarized that the committee is requesting the Friends to approve in principle, the signing of a loan for a \$250K PistenBully 100 4F Nordic snowcat machine. After discussion about how much the loan should be, and how much of a down-payment there should be, the following motion was made:

John H moved that the FLP approve a loan up to \$175K, structured in concept as presented, with a down payment of \$75K, to purchase a \$250K PistenBully 100 4F Nordic snowcat. Rick V seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the February 3, 2020 FLP Board Meeting were approved as presented.

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

- The Greater Milwaukee Foundation gave us \$350 for the General Fund and another \$200 for Snowmaking
- Received \$250 in endowment money
- Ski series made lots of money (see attached² from Kris)
- Snowmaking received \$17,208 and spent \$2,718, mainly on diesel and electricity
- Habitat spent \$3,761 on herbicides and spraying

Kris provided 2 updates, both attached. A Summary of the 2020 Ski Series² was shared, and she also provided a summary of income and reimbursement requests³ for Karl to process.

Rick provided an overview on the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, including a copy of their recent letter to us (FLP, dated 2/2020⁴). He explained to the Board how we started out with GMF and now use Vanguard.

Louise made a motion that we move \$50K from the Nature Center Funds, into a credit union CD to earn us more interest. John H seconded this, and the motion passed unanimously. We are looking to get about 2% for a 13-month CD (give or take depending on the options available). She will work on this with Karl.

Anne R researched accountants and people that know QuickBooks-Online, so that we can move forward on our efforts to use QB for our book of records. Options were shared with the board, and approval was given to move forward with Karl and the Finance Committee utilizing up to 2 people that will be hired to help from an Accounting perspective and also from a QB perspective. It was agreed that we fund this work from the General Fund.

Karl handled Receipts, Donations, Expenses, and Reimbursements, and then we moved to old business.

OLD BUSINESS

Snowmaking: John McC provided a written report, attached⁵ and summarized below:

Project Fundraising and Community Engagement: An e-mail blast came out from the ABSF about donating to the snowcat replacement funding. There has not been any follow-up from DNR about our meeting on January 13th. We are waiting to hear when Outdoor Wisconsin will broadcast our segment. Travel Wisconsin has also used video of skiing at Lapham Peak to promote winter getaway ideas.

Winter Recreation Storage Building: We are waiting a response on our \$20K Stewardship Grant request from the fall. Revised plans have been developed and submitted to DNR for preliminary review.

2019-20 Snowmaking Season: Snowmaking is done for the season. There's still a solid and deep base on all the manmade snow loops, with some dirty spots and a few isolated icy spots. The snowcat, operated by Beattle and Mark Janis, supported DNR grooming operations on the manmade snow loops, with tilling of the surface after warm-up and rain events. The demo of the Pisten Bully 100 during February was a huge success, showing us what a world class grooming machine could do for the trails. We appear to be on track for our goal of "85 days of skiable snow", which will occur this coming weekend.

Habitat Restoration: John H shared the following:

Buckthorn & Honeysuckle along Hwy C from Evergreen going South to the Pond, has been removed; we cleared ~50 feet from the highway back into the park. Work also focused on the west side along the Ice Age Trail (IAT).

A contractor was hired to mow the Autumn Olive and Buckthorn along the IAT near and around the hike-in campsite. This was 2 days of work and was completed using grant funds and private habitat donations (plus a 2nd grant has been applied for to help pay for this project - which includes additional herbiciding this summer). The IAT was re-routed around the project area for 2 days (all but one person obeyed the detour). We asked for this to be done during the winter as a Skid steer was used to mow the brush, and we wanted the ground frozen during that work. Unfortunately, we had deep snow and now that the snow has melted, we are seeing 12+ inch stumps – millions of them. Additional mowing will be needed. Park personnel might be able to help. Park personnel have also weighed in on options to plant trees and seeds over this area to help prevent re-growth. Transplanting of existing evergreens (pines) is the current thought.

Two Prairie Burn bids have been secured and evaluated; either would do nice work, so we selected the one that was less expensive. A burn plan has been completed with help from Peter Duerkop (DNR Conservation Biologist, prescribed burn coordinator). We will be working with Peter on next steps and approvals for this work, with hopes to burn between mid-March (after snow melt) and late May, or this Fall, or worst case the spring of 2021.

Volunteer Hours: 10,658.7 volunteer hours were logged at Lapham Peak in 2019! This is 1,253.2 more than 2018.

Merchandise Sales: From March 2019-March 2020, our net profit on merchandise sales has been \$1,283.86!

2020 Summer Solstice: Advertising was discussed; John H will help with posters. John M will help with the Band.

Grants:

- Louise is applying to the Delafield Fund for money to pay for a new rescue sled that the Rangers are designing; this will then need to be constructed.
- Natural Resources Foundation has awarded \$5K for trail work.
- John H has applied for the CD Besadny Conservation Fund (\$2K)

NEW BUSINESS

Friends of WI State Parks: Anne R reported that we have paid our annual dues to maintain our membership in the Friends of WI State Parks. This is the organization of Friends Groups associated with WI-DNR properties in WI.

Windmill: Colton shared his interest in repairing the windmill; others he has talked with would like to do the same. We asked him to pursue estimates. John H recently received a binder with all the parts information in it.

Memorial Benches: We have approximately 20 locations remaining for new or replacement benches to be placed. In all, we have 97 locations, 74 of those are filled now. We must keep funds on hand to maintain them, and there was discussion about raising the donation amount given the few that are remaining. No action was taken.

Password Repository (and documents storage): We discussed the possibility of creating a location where we could securely store and share login information and passwords. This might include bank and credit card log-on information, website log-ons, and other accounts that use user-ID's and passwords. This location itself would need to be very secure. After the meeting, Anne R asked via email, if we might consider something similar for documents, especially records that are confidential to the Board. John H will investigate.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday April 1, at 6:00pm at Hausmann.

Adjournment: We adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted as Draft:

-John Hillmer, Secretary

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

1)Feb Treasurer's Rpt:



2020 Feb Treas
Rpt.pdf

2)2020 Ski Series Summary:



2020 SkiSeries
Summary.pdf

3)Ski Series/Loppet Funds:



Kris' Summary to
Karl.pdf

4)GMF Feb 2020 Rpt:



2-2020-GMF.pdf

5)Feb SM Rpt:



2020 Mar SM Rpt.pdf