

Friends of Lapham Peak
Board of Directors Meeting
January 7, 2021



Attendees (members present indicated with an “*”)

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*

Meeting was held using ZOOM: Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

Minutes: December’s minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer’s Report: Karl shared highlights via email before the meeting, and included an updated report for Sept 2020¹, and updated versions of the Oct² & Nov³ reports (all attached). He’s still working on December’s:

- Snowmaking is still in the black through Dec after purchasing both the Pisten Bully and the storage building! Bills for the building continue to come in so donations are still very much needed and appreciated.
- All endowment money from the Greater Milwaukee Fund is now in Vanguard. Total assets are \$59,240 as of 12/31/20. The rate of return since inception, 4/1/2017, has been 16%. Rick reported that the rate of return over the past 3 years is around 11.5%. We all agreed this is working out well for the Friends.
- The updates to the September report were to correct/move money between different funds:
 - Moved \$350 from Butterfly Garden to Habitat on September report.
 - Made a correction to move \$500 of a \$1000 Northwestern donation from Dec 2019 to SM.
 - Move the Stewardship Grant payment of \$10,000 to SM because the expenses for the WSRB were being deducted from SM.
 - Moved \$142.42 of insurance from SM to GF
- Once Sept is verified (Anne R will help with this), then 2019-2020 will be closed and Randy will begin work on tax reporting for us.
- Rita will move money collected at PayPal to the Bank for Karl.
- Payments & reimbursements are in progress all the time rather than being batched up for this meeting.
- We discussed donations that are coming in, and expenses, including a Snowmaking WE Energies bill that came to the DNR, and how best to get that reviewed and paid. We discussed another bill for tree trimming as part of the Trail Grant work, see below under Grants.

Old Business:

Snow Making: John reported –

- Most of the WRSB is done now, with a few exceptions:
 - Some electrical hookups are still in progress, including completing work for the ventilation system.
 - Insulation will be added to the walls, and the walls will be closed in shortly (the type of electrical work in the walls requires this, and it will keep the building warmer too).
- The Piston Bully is working marvelously providing best in class skiing conditions here, especially with the weather and temperatures we’ve been having. John M said this is the best snow and system he can recall in the 14 years of making snow here.
- People were skiing on manmade snow as early as Dec 17, and by New Year’s Eve the whole system was available!

Habitat: John H reported –

- Crews have been working MWF each week since Oct 1st, with very few exceptions. Another crew is working weekends on the far East Subdivision side, and another is working T-Th’s. Huge progress has been made on the East side by the Subdivision, and also along the IAT on the East side of the park, and in the woods across from Jay’s and to the south; we are working our way through the woods to the East, around the South-end of the pond, to the IAT, and then around the pond.

- After successful Prairie burns in November, John has a contractor working with him and the DNR on plans to burn the rest of the West side in the spring, weather permitting. If any can't be done in the spring, they will complete it in the fall. After the November burn and before the snows came, the prairie had already begun to green up.
- On average, ½ dozen to ten volunteers work daily on habitat restorations, and they have a list of about 40 people that get notified each day of the work being planned.

Memorials:

- Dan reported that all but 1 of the bricks that were ordered this past year have been installed (the last one came too late in the season). Ten orders came in after the prices went up, with most purchasing the smaller ones.
- Louise said 2 more memorial benches were anticipated. John H will check with Colton to see what our inventory looks like now and will schedule a building project for a few more if we are low. He will also make a few benches for parts, as some of the benches are now needing maintenance. At least 2 benches needed some boards replaced, and Rick mentioned one more tonight, and then some of the benches had rusty bolts that needed replacing (those we were aware of were fixed this past summer).

Trail Grants: John McC provided a few updates –

- Some more volunteer hours were done in the late fall, on woodchips and tree trimming along the trails.
- A contractor was used to trim some of the trees, and the bill is to be split between the DNR and the Friends; John is working with Colton on how to make that work out with the service provider (2 invoices, one for each of us, are probably going to be needed).
- John M, Rita, and Colton will continue to look at issue-areas to develop a prioritized plan for what else and where repairs or work is needed on the trails.
- John M is working with Karl to get copies of the canceled checks for the Grant Paperwork.

Ski Series: Rita shared updates on the first day of the Tue Timed League and the Wed Night Ski League; it's all going very well! After the meeting, Kris shared this information via email:

- The Wednesday Night Ski League had 42 Nordic racers in the early session for HS and MS....18 High School and 24 Middle School kids. The adults raced at 7:15 with 41 of 46 racers registered. 2 did not come as they followed protocol and were exposed to someone with COVID-19, 1 was ill, 1 had a meeting and 1 just didn't show up. Results are on our website.
- The Tuesday Time Trial day saw about 26 racers, most during the daylight hours.
- Kris also said we should expect a check from RaceWire for:
 - Adults: \$2,793.25
 - Tuesday: \$2,120.00
 - HS/MS end of season check will come.
 - K-6 Kids: cancelled due to low participation numbers but donated \$40 to snowmaking.

Outdoor Wisconsin: Rick asked if we've heard anything regarding airing of the material that was shot last winter, to help promote Lapham Peak and our snowmaking operations. Anne R will follow-up.

Membership Drive: Rita got the new Membership signs put around the park at trailheads, parking lots, and even by the Cushing Road city lot. She said we have 7 new members. We discussed if the volunteer form should be sent or linked from our membership materials so people could fill those out when they expressed an interest in volunteering? We decided it was best to ask them to fill out a form the first time they volunteer.

New Business:

Attendance: We all commented about the large numbers of people at the park, especially now with snow (these past few weeks, and the holidays), and skiing, and ski rentals. This is great to see!

- The "No Parking" signs on highway C appear to be working.

- A question after seeing long lines for ski-rentals: is there a way for the Friends to get a percent of the concession fees that the DNR gets from the Vendor. We are not asking the Vendor for more but wondering if there is a way to access any of the money the DNR is getting for us to do work here at our Park (like pay for SM Operations). Anne K was not hopeful that working on this would or could be a priority. We could consider requesting this the next time the concession contract is worked on (the current one is a 5-year deal).
- Anne K said that visitation at all parks was up 17% in 2020! We wondered if Lapham Peak could access any of the additional funds collected due to these increases. Anne K reminded us that for a period in the spring, parks were free so no income, but expenses continued. And, that any additional revenue would be held by the DNR and then potentially made available for projects/grants based on project requests and priorities.

Ten Year Plan for Lapham Peak: Anne K and Colton shared information that they are working on as they update their requests for the park for the next decade. They also asked for input. A few large needs were expressed, and it sounded like most of these were in their plan already, such as:

- A new larger Evergreen Building and expanded parking at the Evergreen lot,
- Bathrooms at the Tower lot to replace the out-houses there now,
- And a picnic shelter for the Tower area (to have one there, like we do at Evergreen and Homestead).

Mugs: Louise said our mugs have been selling very well! We were down to 7 or 8 left so she ordered 72 more. DNR staff helped select the glazes for these new ones. Also, some new options (shapes) were ordered so once they arrive John H will re-photograph them for an updated sale poster.

Volunteer Hours: Louise is asking us for our volunteer hours for the past calendar year, Jan 1, 2020 – Dec 31, 2020. Project area leaders need to include the hours for their groups as well.

Officers: It's time to elect officers for the 2021 year. Each of the existing 4 officers agreed to continue in their roles unless someone else wanted a turn. Hearing no additional names, Randy moved that we re-elect the following for another term:

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

Rita seconded the motion, and these 4 were elected unanimously.

Adjourned at 7:18pm: Our next meeting will be a virtual Zoom meeting on **TUESDAY February 2, 6 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,
-John Hillmer

Attachments (3):



2020 Sep Treasurers
Report v4.xls



2020 Oct Treasurers
Report.xls



2020 Nov Treasurers
Report.xls