

**Friends of Lapham Peak**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
April 7, 2021



**Attendees (all members 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

**Guests:** Paul Keber, Bruce Wydeven

**Meeting was held using ZOOM:** Meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

**Minutes:** March's minutes were approved and posted to the [Friends Web Site](#).

**Treasurer's Report:** Karl shared a very preliminary March Treasurer's Report that is not attached as it is still being worked on. He hopes to have it updated by the end of the upcoming weekend and will provide us with a full draft as soon as he can. He said his to-do list includes:

- clarify the destination of all donations,
- reconcile Habitat,
- make Vanguard endowment deposits,
- and complete some bill paying and reimbursement requests.

Also:

- Anne R asked for an updated February report.
- Karl announced that with lots of help from Anne R and their accounting person, the work to switch the FLP from Excel to QuickBooks is nearly complete.
- Randy said that future 990EZs need to be e-filed. We are hoping that QB can do this directly or at least feed an accountant or accounting system so that this can be done electronically in the future.
- Kris notified Karl that money from the Ski Series and Virtual Loppet can be moved to Snowmaking now.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Snow Making:** John M reported –

- Snow Guns and Snow Cat are in the process of having any post season maintenance done, and then will be ready for "storage" until the next season.
- 85+ days of snow was provided to skiers this year (meeting our goal)!
- The Birkie reported to us that 99 people officially skied their virtual Birkie at Lapham Peak!
- Rich is planning on adding some additional 440-volt service/wire to help load balance the system of pedestals (right now, there's a section that can't all be used at the same time or the draw overloads the system). Some trenching will need to be done; this is scheduled for June.
- The DNR removed the large pile of debris just north of the WRSB (dirt, roots, etc.), and now we just need some additional landscaping and volunteer help to complete the landscaping around the building.
- The Snowmaking Committee is working on efforts to help ramp up the number of qualified trained people to run the Cat and other equipment. Anne K suggested that we might want some of the DNR personnel to be trained enough to help move the Cat in the event of an emergency.
- For now, we are not donating the Snow Cat to the DNR, and they don't want it now either. The FLP are in a better position to maintain it properly and address any repairs that it might need.
- The question of rodent (mice) control for the building and Cat was asked, "will we bait and trap like other commercial buildings do?" The SM committee will look into this.
- The question of liability insurance for operators was asked, and it was affirmed that any operator, member or not, is covered by our liability insurance. Park personnel would be covered by the DNR's policy as well.

**Habitat:** John H shared:

- The Controlled Prairie Burn on March 31<sup>st</sup> was part of our Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant project. The Contractor had full approval and permits from the State and local authorities to conduct the burn. It was handled very safely and professionally. Nine FLP volunteers assisted; each one is certified by the DNR for this type of Firefighting. About 35-40 acres was burned, and the rest of the 70 acres that is planned will happen once we get some rain and when the Contractor has approval to do so.
- We completed the buckthorn removal south of the park on both sides of Hwy C, and we're now clearing around the west side pond that is next to Hwy C near the Ice Age Trail.
- We've done significant organizing in the garage where Gator & Mule and chainsaws are kept, including:
  - A lighted workbench has been added, complete with a vise, pegboard, and repair tools,
  - Helmets and tools are now hung up,
  - Herbicide is kept in containment trays.
- Some new saws have been added: 1 was purchased, 2 were donated (3 have been retired for parts as they were costing too much to maintain).
- The Buckthorn Busters spent a day helping Liz de-thatch and clean the Butterfly Garden.

**Trail Grants:** John M reported that work to close out the Weizenicker Grant is in-progress. The other grants are pending work that still needs to be scheduled and completed. Some of this will start now that things have dried out, including mulch on the trails and some erosion control efforts. Colton said he's looking into either Geogrid or Geocell (or similar) products. John M said he has experience with this material and will continue to work with the DNR on the options and plans to help address erosion issues on some of the steeper trails.

**Ski Series and Virtual Loppet:** Kris shared the attached / updated income sheet from the 2021 Ski season<sup>1</sup>. She said, the final tally for the 2021 ski league, with expenses subtracted, yields a final net profit of \$6,726.63 as stated on Karl's March t-report. That amount may be transferred to Snowmaking now.

**Memorial Bricks and Benches:** John H informed Liz about the notes in last month's minutes, that we're just about 40 bricks away from having the funds to complete the memorial walkway in the Butterfly Garden. Louise indicated that another memorial bench is in the process of being donated.

**Colorama:** Kris used email to request input / feedback on options for Colorama, copy attached<sup>2</sup>. Members talked with her, or provided input at the meeting, or replied to her email.

After receiving the email replies and phone calls, she happily reported to us at the meeting tonight that Jon Jeffords and his wife Christine would like to be the co-directors of Colorama this year with her aid and files. If for some reason the COVID restrictions are not lifted, then he agrees that a virtual Colorama would be preferable to turning it over to another group, especially if that were to include it happening off campus. He said they could lead a virtual race if that is needed. (At this time, we do not know what the COVID restrictions will be for October).

Jon and Christine were involved with Colorama and the Ski Leagues years ago and has been a race director for other events outside of LP. He indicated that they would be the directors this year and would plan on continuing in that role in the future years as well.

All Board members thanked Jon and Christine; this is GREAT news. Louise suggested that October 2 be marked on the DNR calendar and that the shelter(s) needed should be reserved. The office can help with this.

**Newsletter:** Rita published the March newsletter. John H mentioned that 1 or 2 new people EACH week have now been signing up and coming out to help with Habitat Work because of the newsletter!

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Volunteer Hours:** Louise reported that over 9,300 volunteer hours were logged by about 100 different people in 2020! This is down from 2019, but with COVID and park restrictions its understandable and still impressive! Conservation (Habitat Restoration, etc.): 2,471.25 hours; Snowmaking project and operations: 4,698.25 hours; and General Activities: 2,130.35 hours.

**Mugs:** Louise indicated that another order for Mugs has been placed! Income from Mugs has been over \$2500. Profit per mug is about \$6-8 each, depending on the size.

**2021 MAX Incentive Grant:** The application<sup>3</sup> has been submitted. This would add a shelter at our Hike-In campsite, as well as new picnic tables, herbicide to help clear current invasives there, and prairie seeds for the location. A cost estimating sheet was provided and attached<sup>4</sup>, as well as a Project Description<sup>5</sup> for the campground that is to be upgraded by this project. The building would be 3 sided, with LP siding and a metal roof, and a natural floor. The Southern Unit has 3 of these shelters, and the Northern Unit has 5. We should find out in May if we are awarded this grant.

The image shows a screenshot of a building design software interface. On the left, there is a 'Building info' section with the following specifications:

Building Width	30'
Building Length	34'
Building Height	10'
Floor Type	Dirt Gravel
Wall Framing Size	Laminated columns
OSB Size	3/4" OSB
Roof Pitch	5/12 Pitch
Eave Overhang	2'
Gable Overhang	2'

Below this is a 'Wall info' section:

Siding Material Type	LP Engineered Wood Siding
LP Engineered Wood Siding	PRO Products™ 3/4" x 4" x 12' with 1/2" OC Green Treated Board (max 30' 11" Panel Width) - White Knots
Accent Material Type	None
Weather Material Type	None
Gradeboard	2x10 Treated Gradeboard

On the right side of the interface, there is a 3D rendering of a small, rectangular building with a dark green roof and blue siding, set against a blue sky and green ground. Above the rendering, there is a 'Design Name' field with 'RPF Design', a 'Design ID' of '314357732387', and an 'Estimated Price' of '\$14,195.32'. There are also buttons for 'View Full Plan', 'Full Screen', and 'Reset Scene'.

**NEEF 2021 Restoration & Resilience COVID-19 Recovery Grant:** The grant says, “With social distancing regulations in place, people are turning to the outdoors more than ever for exercise and rejuvenation. At the same time, the agencies and organizations responsible for maintaining public lands are hampered by reductions in staff, volunteers, and resources, leaving them ill-equipped to keep up with increased human presence in these delicate ecosystems on top of existing maintenance backlogs. In response, NEEF has established the Restoration & Resilience COVID Recovery Fund to help restore these special places by distributing resources and mobilizing volunteers.” John M has volunteered to pursue this grant for us.

**Evergreen Shelter:** The 10-year plan requested funding for the replacement of Evergreen with a larger facility and expansion of the parking there. While this is in the “requested” plan, it could be 10-20 years before this becomes a reality, and there’s no guarantee.

It was then announced tonight to the Board, that some long-time friends of Lapham Peak have offered a significant and generous gift to the Park to move the Evergreen project forward now!! As such, Anne K and Louise invited Bruce Wydeven, of Wydeven Architects LLC, to join our meeting tonight.

Anne K presented the donation plan to the State DNR, and they were as amazed and appreciative of this generosity as we all are. Bruce was asked to give us some thoughts for a design, based on other large shelters, and the goals of this shelter project. First, this would be the “trail head” to the ski trails at LP. But it would also serve hikers, bikers, park events, and could include a place for rentals, gatherings, etc. The current Evergreen would remain during construction but would be demolished once the new building is completed. The goal is to start construction as soon as this fall/winter, and it could be ready for use by the start of the 2022 Ski Season.

Bruce share the following thoughts: The location should be adjacent to the trails so people can move right out of the building and onto the trails. Some design ideas include:

- It would have a large gathering place with at least one fireplace:
  - Current Evergreen's gathering place: 725 sq ft
  - Proposed Building's gathering place: 2000-2500 sq ft
- Outdoor viewing space, looking out over the trails, covered, but not enclosed (a transition space from the large room to the trails):
  - Current Evergreen: None
  - Proposed Building: 600-750 sq ft
- Main entry corridor, with bathrooms:
  - Current Evergreen: 240 sq ft
  - Proposed Building: 300-350 sq ft
- Interior Restrooms (based on capacity of the building)
  - Current Evergreen: 2 fixtures in Men's and 2 fixtures in Women's
  - Proposed Building: Multiple fixtures (based on building capacity)
    - AND possibly unisex restrooms accessible from the outside (so when building is in use, people coming by can use them without entering the building)
- Changing areas separate from restrooms:
  - Current Evergreen: None
  - Proposed Building: 4-6
- Others features:
  - Possible rental window accessible from outside for skis, snowshoes, etc. (not food); covered;
  - Storage area for tables, chairs, etc. (100-200 sq feet);
  - Mechanicals room (furnace, etc.):
    - Current Evergreen: 80 sq ft
    - Proposed Building: 160-200 sq ft

Building is anticipated to cost \$500K to \$1M. Funds in addition to the planned donation would be needed.

- Louise asked Anne K to pursue funds from the State,
- John H suggested a phased approach for some of the components,
- Bruce suggested the initial phase should include all the footings for the initial phase and future phases; he also suggested the full shell be completed and then rooms completed as money comes in;
- A fund drive would be needed, volunteer help could reduce labor costs (though volunteers may currently be burned out from WRSB project).

After discussion, John M moved that the FLP explore the replacement of the Evergreen Shelter with donated funds and other options. Randy seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously! The Board thanked the donors for their generosity and thanked Bruce for joining us and sharing these thoughts.

**Adjourned at 7:51pm:** John H moved, John M seconded, and we adjourned. Note, we were very happy to have Anne R with us for the full meeting and wished her the very best in her treatment and recovery. Our next Board meeting will be Wednesday **May 5<sup>th</sup>, 5:45 pm via Zoom** (to start at 6pm).

Respectfully Submitted, John Hillmer

Attachments:

1.  2021 Ski League Income.pdf
2.  2021 Options for Colorama.pdf
3.  2021 MAX Incentive Grant Application.pdf
4.  MAX Cost Estimate Worksheet.pdf
5.  2021 MAX Grant Description.pdf