

**Friends of Lapham Peak**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
May 5, 2021



**Attendees** (absent\*)

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 6:04 pm.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Karl shared his April Treasurer's Report via email (and attached<sup>1</sup>). He indicated that things were pretty quiet financially except for Habitat which is always hard at work; John H will tell us more in his report. Randy has been working on our 990-tax form; this year we can't use the 990EZ since our income was over \$200K. The 990 is 12 pages and needs to be e-filed as stated last month. Our CD with Summit Credit Union is maturing at \$51,257.55; we agreed it should be rolled over and renewed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Snow Making:** John M reported –

- Snow Cat maintenance is done; it's up on blocks for the summer.
- The overhead doors are still being worked on (the correct panels have yet to be installed).
- The drainage holding tank is completely full; it will be pumped out soon (some were amazed that it filled up ~1,100 gallons, but we believe it's all from snow melt; we'll keep an eye on it after it's pumped out).
- Two hydrants failed (cracked) and replacements were sent under warranty (both cracked castings were from 2018). Note, 2 spare castings for hydrants were also sent to us for free.

**Habitat:** John H shared:

- They have completed buckthorn removal around the entire pond that is on the west side of the park, between the IAT and Jay's house.
- They completed 2 days of Prairie burning to finish the Knowles Nelson Fellowship grant project. This was 70 acres this spring, and 50 last fall. Once the final canceled contractor check is processed at the bank, John can work on the paperwork to request the remaining \$2,500 from the grant.
- Our thanks to the DNR for helping mow some additional firebreaks this spring!
- For the record, proper approvals from the State were obtained documenting permission for our burns.
- Work on Garlic Mustard has begun. Other work at the Nemahbin Springs location to clear a better view of the marsh is in progress.
- We assisted a Kettle Moraine HS project that is clearing buckthorn from a 3-acre woods adjacent to the HS. They volunteer here at LP, so we thought it would be good PR to reciprocate and help them.
- Work to herbicide areas that have previously been cleared of buckthorn will begin next week. In preparation, herbicide and supplies have been purchased.
- Our Gator needs new tires for summer; we are hoping for the Delafield Fund / grant to assist with those expenses but may need to purchase them regardless of the grant.

**Memorial Bricks and Benches:**

- 6 Memorial Benches were built this week. The parts for 2 additional benches were also made, and some of those spare parts were installed today on benches that were in need of repair. Anne R is handling the replacement plaque for the Taylor bench.
- 21 bricks have been ordered since January 1<sup>st</sup>. Our profit is over \$5K now.



**Ski Series:** Now that we can have 100 people for events (rather than 50) it should be easier to run a ski series next year.

**Colorama:** Jon J and Dan discussed the need to add Colorama to our insurance rider (about \$50-100). Trecker and the Mike Fort shelter have been reserved for October 2<sup>nd</sup>. A timer is lined up, and potential sponsors will be pursued next.

**Insurance:** It has been verified that our Snow Cat operators are covered by our insurance. Our insurance company would like the operators to have appropriate training or a certification. Anne K said she could show us what the DNR has for certifications for other equipment if that would be helpful. Dan will work with Will E. on this.

**Grants:**

- FWSP Incentive Grant: Louise said that FWSP received 15 requests for the max grant. FWSPs decided to give 62.4% of \$15K to the parks that were given the grant which leaves us 25% of that number, \$9,414.91. Our responsibility is \$2,353.73. Total of \$11,768.64. Colton modified the proposal (some down-sizing of the campsite effort and shelter) and we agreed to accept the new level that has been offered.
- Weizenicker Grant has been extended to July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Trail Grants: Per Colton, Geocell will be installed from the DNR side of the grant obligation.
- NEEF Restoration and Resilience Grant – John M is working on this.



**Evergreen Replacement:** John M reported the outcomes from meetings with the DNR, architects, and donors. There are different ways to run projects like this. It could be a DNR project, or self-done, or a “Design Bid Build” project. The latter is recommended and being pursued. With this, the program and budget concepts will be done by the Friends, it will be designed by professionals, bid out, and then contracted to be built. We already have an offer from a professional architectural firm (Wydeven Architects LLC) to do that aspect of the work at no cost to us. The Friends will cover the funding for the building, and the DNR will cover the cost for the work around the building, including:

- Septic,
- Deconstruction and disposal of the old Evergreen,
- Parking lot expansion (with approximately 56 more spaces, about a 20% increase),
- And would handle costs if a new (modified) well is needed.

Cost to the Friends includes the building and immediate site around it but does not include the furnishings. A possible model being considered is the [Brown County Reforestation Camp](#) (Google website linked here).

John M shared possible square footage numbers of the current Evergreen and the proposed Evergreen “box” (this is just a rectangle at this time, as the architects and designers would work within this framework to create the actual shape). 5,362 sq feet with about 600 sq feet for an observation deck or porch is the current thinking.

Draft concept drawings were provided, see the three attachments at the end of these minutes<sup>2,3,4</sup>.

It was shared that construction materials and costs are at historic highs. The WRSB cost about \$50 per square foot with was mostly a self-done project. For a commercial building like this, a cost figure of \$250/sq foot is a better estimation, bringing the proposed cost to \$1.475 million. An initial plan and schedule could call for:

- Bid in January 2022,
- Construction late spring 2022,
- Complete in the fall of 2022 in time for 2022 winter season.

Anne K suggested it might be possible/or desirable to use some of the timber from the KMSF, for beams, or siding. Examples could be visited at the Southern Unit or Scuppernong Springs. Wood should be harvested soon, stripped of bark, and then dried (such as in the Schoeninger barn or riding stable).

Randy noted that when we as a 501(c)(3) go over \$300K in donations, our financial statements must be “reviewed” and e-filed on the 990-long form. When we go over \$500K in donations, our financial statements must be “audited” before e-filing the 990. For both the “review” process and the “audit” process, we will need to hire a firm for this work. (Just another cost to factor into the bigger plan).



## NEW BUSINESS

**Staff:** Sarah is leaving as of the 15<sup>th</sup> to take a new job/promotion in forestry work. We congratulate her and wish her the very best!

**Fright Hike:** A subcommittee of Snowmaking (Anne Riendl, John Hillmer, Mike Graham, Charlie Ritter, Joanne Ziarek) has met and discussed Fright Hike 2021. Given that work usually starts on this in the schools during January, and with current limitations, we will postpone Fright Hike until the fall of 2022. Alternative options might be possible, the committee will meet with Angie Lorbach to hear her thoughts.



**Stickers and Mugs:** 5 different stickers have been ordered to be sold at the park for \$2 each. John will get posters made up for these (and our new mugs) when they arrive.





**Workday:** June 6<sup>nd</sup> will be our spring workday. Rita will send out a note to the membership that will say something like: Come help with several projects on Sunday, June 6th. Meet at 9:30 am at the Maintenance Shop. Projects include planting seed and laying down straw, spreading wood chips and pulling garlic mustard. We will work until noon.

**Adjourned at 8:06pm:** Our next Board meeting will be **Wednesday June 2, 5:45 pm via Zoom** (to start at 6pm).

Respectfully Submitted, John Hillmer, 6/1/21

Reviewed, corrected, and accepted by the Board on 6/2/21

### Attachments:

1.  2021 April Treasurers Report.xls
2.  2021-05-04 Evergreen-Pgm2.pdf
3.  2021-05-04-Evergreen-Site2.pdf
4.  2021-05-04-Site Opt 2.pdf