

**Friends of Lapham Peak**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Dec 1, 2021



**Attendees:** (\*Board Members Present)

\*Louise Borzynski, \*John Hillmer, Melissa Jarecki, \*Jon Jeffords, \*Rita Keber, \*Colton Kelly (DNR),  
\*Anne Korman (DNR), \*Kris Maki, \*John McCarthy, \*Anne Riendl, \*Karl Timm, \*Rick Von Haden, \*Dan Wiley

**Meeting was held using ZOOM:** Meeting was called to order at 6:06pm.

**Minutes:** Minutes meetings held during October and November were approved as presented; they have been posted to our [Web Site](#).

**Treasurer's Report:** Karl provided an updated September report (attached<sup>1</sup>) and will get us October and November's reports shortly. He pointed out that September was the end of the 2020-21 fiscal year. If there are no other corrections, it will be used for the basis of creating our Form 990 tax documents. He also thanked Anne Riendl for chasing down these issues:

- Oct-20 \$260.99 Expense attributed to Snowmaking that should be attributed to 2018 Enhancement Grant Trial Work
- Nov-20 -\$10.00 Income that should go to Membership not SM for Deb Keller PayPal membership
- Nov-20 \$0.52 Expense attributed to Snowmaking due to PayPal Deb Keller membership - should be attributed to Membership
- Feb-21 -\$54.80 Expense attributed to GF Printing reimbursements Mark Herr. Should be SM expense

Going forward, Anne R will work with our bookkeeper on using QuickBooks for accounting, while Karl will continue using the spreadsheets, and the two will run in parallel for a while as the QB details are worked out. Karl will also start working on the 990 and Financial Review materials.

Post Meeting Note: On Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, Karl sent us the Oct<sup>2</sup> & Nov<sup>3</sup> reports (both attached). He noted that he's made some updates with the new fiscal year:

- Income and expenses listed separately for the following funds: Habitat, Bench, Brick, Butterfly Garden, Jarecki, and Nature Center. This will make tracking their balances easier.
- There were 3 checks from 2018 that were never cashed. These were canceled in November from the report point of view but the bank was not contacted. The check amounts were returned to their respective GF, SM, and Habitat funds.
- Something to consider, we have \$700,000 in cash at the moment. A 0.5% CD for \$500,000 of it would give us \$2500 for a year.
- Also, the Butterfly Garden could use a donation from the General Fund.

**Snow Making:**

- Snowgun #7 arrived about 10 days ago, an SMI PoleCat/Standard, at a cost of about \$21K. John M asked Anne K to work with the DNR on addressing the donation of this equipment
- Preparations are underway for the season: Rich M held a training orientation session for 11 volunteers and DNR personnel and has the Signup web system ready for scheduling
- Snow depth markers have been placed
- A new ventilation system has been added to the pumphouse
- Minor tree trimming is happening tomorrow
- A gutter has been installed on the WRSB (gutter caps may be added in the future)
- \$10K grant funds have been received.

**Campsite:** The exterior is done, the benches are in and done, and a ceiling will be added later this week.

**Habitat:** John H provided the attached report<sup>4</sup> for November, with photos (the text is included below as well):

- All woodland and prairie units that were scheduled to be burned this fall have been cleaned of buckthorn, honeysuckle, prickly ash, autumn olive, box elder, and when we found black walnut in the prairies, we removed those as well. This included units on the west and east sides of the park.
- On Nov 17, eight prairie units were burned under the control of Good Oak Ecological Services and their crew, with support from seven volunteers (a.k.a. Buckthorn Busters).
- The remaining units will be burned later this fall or next spring.
- As I reported last month, we had an insurance office help us near the Overlook Platform at the Tower Parking lot. And then on the Nov 6 workday, we continued to make good progress there, and Michael Neimon (who heads up our weekend work) has also been working there on some Wednesday afternoons with high-schoolers and on some weekends with other volunteers. So, we will continue to chip away at this site to eventually complete cleaning the hill around the tower and then it will become part of the Hausmann woodland unit for future maintenance (burning).
- Our UTVs have been holding up well, with only one flat tire in November. To assist with small “buckthorn burn pile fire control” we purchased a 16-gallon water tank with an electric pump for the gator; it can spray 2.1 gallons per minute up to 20 feet away! We also just purchased 5 more gallons of herbicide for the winter months.
- We have transitioned to working on a project area southeast of the butterfly garden. There’s a tree line between prairie units that has been identified by the Prairie Contractor and Colton as a great place to restore, and this will then connect these two units for future maintenance. Our progress is about 75% complete now; we should be done with this before the ski season makes getting back here difficult.
- While working on this site, Michael Neimon mentioned that he’d like to clean out an adjacent kettle that they hike past from their home on the east side subdivision – so we okayed that; and now that work (see the circle) is underway too.
- Holly continues with her volunteers working west off the Ice Age Trail down the hill from the Tower Parking lot, and also around the pond behind Evergreen.

**Lodge:** John McC reported on the process and recommendation for selection of an architectural firm to prepare the construction documents for the Lapham Lodge. His report is attached<sup>5</sup>. After the presentation and discussion, John M moved that the Board authorize the Building Committee to enter into negotiations with GCA and GRAEF to move forward with architectural design and engineering respectfully, for the Lapham Lodge; Kris seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Next steps will include fund-raising activities including direct mailings to prospective donors, posters, banners, fliers, meetings with local businesses, etc.

**Park Updates:**

- Colton said the bridge repair just west of Hwy C on the Paul Sandgren Recreational Trail will be postponed until spring.
- DNR is looking for funding for the Hwy C crosswalk signs, or cost-sharing. They have discussed consolidating the two-crossings (the Paul Sandgren and the Ice Age Trail) down to one crossing and have also been looking at grant options.
- New Trail signage, including “nick-name” signs (asthma hill, two-tier, etc.) that has been funded by a donor is on hold, pending a less expensive medium (as the prices for the engravable composite plastic has skyrocketed) or for prices to come back down a bit.

**Colorama:** Kris provided an update on the income and expenses for this past Colorama, report attached<sup>6</sup>. She said that we made a bit more than she suggested in October as she sold t-shirts the week after Colorama on a

hot hot day and received \$121 in donations for a total of \$356. Our Colorama total profit after expenses turned out to be \$6,351.90!

**Memorial Bricks and Benches:** Dan said that brick orders continue to come in and there's only locations for about 40 more bricks in the current phase. He's still waiting for an estimate to complete the south walkway.

**Loppet and Ski Series:** The Loppet will be Jan 15; the Wednesday night ski series will run Jan 5-Feb 16. The Tuesday Ski Series will run Jan 4-Feb 15 as a self-timed event; Mike Graham will coordinate the Tuesday event record keeping details. Kris provided copies of the fliers (Wed Night<sup>7</sup> and Loppet<sup>8</sup>) for our review (attached). Just prior to the meeting, she noted that she had 24 entries for the Ski League already. The Loppet registration fee was increased this year from \$25 to \$30, everyone agreed with that.

**Candlelight Hike:** Scheduled for January 29<sup>th</sup>, though the DNR will not advertise our event until sometime in January (due to popularity). Vouchers will be required and handled by the DNR/office. Rita will coordinate the fliers with the input / information she gets from Colton on details about when vouchers will be available, etc. John H will update the website as in the past, with information that mirrors the fliers and includes FAQs.

**Salt Brine Sprayer and 2018 Sign Updates:**

The Orientation Sign that the Friends helped to purchase in 2018 is still a work in progress, a new vendor is developing them, though no timetable for when we might see ours for Lapham Peak. As such, the money that we put up for the sign was not re-purposed for the Brine Sprayer, and the Park purchased the sprayer with new funds that we will donate for that purpose (about \$1530). The DNR also then purchased a Brine maker at auction to make the brine cheaper. The State is helping to fund improvements to the Garages to insulate & heat them as part of these improvements.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**First Day Hike:** Lapham Peak will participate with the First Day Hike events, including some Ice Age Trail Hikes in the Park. The Family Ski event that was coordinated with a previous First Day Hike looks like it will be in the afternoon of January 15, 2022 after the Loppet, rather than on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Snow Cat Grooming Use – Land Use Agreement:** John M received a proposed Land Use Agreement contract that would be used between the Friends and the State to allow the Friends to operate the Snow Cat and Groom Trails using our equipment. John had floated this document to a few members or the SM committee and the Board for comment, and generally, it was felt to be overkill. Anne K agreed that an amendment to our existing LUA would be preferred rather than introducing a second LUA into the mix. John H commented that the amendment should address the unique changes that have come with the introduction of the Friends using their Equipment to Groom Snow. It should not include all the other sections that were initially proposed for seasonal trail maintenance, pesticides, herbicides, etc., as nothing is new now because of the Snow Cat in those activities, those are the same as they were before, all performed by volunteers under the direction of the Property Manager. Anne K will help take this back to her people.

**Hours – Louise reminded us that we all need to get our hours, and the hours for our committees/teams, to her as soon as possible in January so those can be reported up the line!**

**Adjourned at 7:51:** Our next meetings will be:

- January 6 (Thursday)
- February 3 (Thursday)
- Then back to Wednesdays in March

Respectfully Submitted, John Hillmer

Attachments:

1.   
2021 -09- Sep  
Treasurers Rept v2.xls

2.   
2021 -10- Oct  
Treasurers Rpt.xls

3.   
2021 -11- Nov  
Treasurers Rpt.xls

4.   
2021 Nov Habitat  
Update.pdf

5.   
2021-11-29 Proposal  
Eval and Recom.pdf

6.   
2021 Colorama  
Accntng.pdf

7.   
2022 Wed Nite Ski  
League.pdf

8.   
2022 Loppet.pdf