

**Friends of Lapham Peak**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 6, 2022



**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 and Guest Sam Eagan - Conservation Warden

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

Sam Eagan, one of our Conservation Wardens who services the Lapham Peak area, introduced himself to us. He said for emergencies, it's best to call 911/and Waukesha County dispatch will get the Sheriff and Wardens and/or other emergency/medical personnel involved as appropriate. If it's a non-emergency situation, that we can call or text the WDNR Hotline 1-800-TIP-WDNR or use the WDNR's [ONLINE](#) System. We may also call his cell phone if we feel that would be helpful depending on the situation: Sam Eagan, 262-259-2437.

**Minutes:** Minutes from December meeting were approved as presented; they're on our [Web Site](#) now too.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karl provided a December report, attached<sup>1</sup>; we brought in over \$60,000 in donations this month with the Lapham Lodge: \$24,000 and Snowmaking \$20,000 being the largest, and we had solid contributions in all the funds along with \$535 in memberships and \$3,899 in merchandise sales. Snowmaking spent \$13,700 for the balance owed on a snow gun. John H found two items that were attributed to the GF that should have been in Habitat, so Karl transferred \$300 from GF to Habitat (details are in the report).

We reviewed the updated report formats and suggested a few additional changes that Karl will take into consideration. Kris said Colorama money may be transferred now as this is the first month that the final accounting will be approved via December treasurer's report.

Anne R moved, and it was seconded by John H, that we transfer \$1,000 from General to the Butterfly Garden to help with this year's plans. This motion was approved unanimously. John H mentioned to Rita for the Gardening committee that if they need 4x4 posts, that the park has some extras that might be good for their project; they may work with John H or Colton on options for lumber from the lower Red Barn.

Louise mentioned that mugs are on 6-7 month back-order, so she is working to get money back from them. John H mentioned that the Ice Age Trail has some similar mugs and maybe they have a different supplier. John Kolbe, Sherry Ritz, or Pat Witkowski could get us in touch with the right people to investigate what they use.

**Snow Making:**

- Snowmaking began December 6 and by January 4, all the manmade trails were in use! Some low spots will be filled in over the next few days but for the most part, they are nearly done making snow for the season. Again, this year we have a fantastic, groomed trail system!
- Early in the season making snow, with 7 guns, pond level water was something to be watched as water got low and we had to wait a few days for it to refill. Going forward, more water management will take place.
- A pump gasket in the pump-house leaked and needed to be replaced, this put us out of commission for a few days while a spare part was ordered and replaced.
- Some of the hydrants had issues as well and needed to be repaired.
- The PistenBully had some alert messages on its system at first that needed to be understood, the service people were helpful, and we were able to use the machine without issue.
- The Annual Christmas Post Card mailing went out in early December; that helped generate donations.
- Anne R showed us the signed contract between us (FLP) and a landscape company and that they have Insurance showing FLP as the Certificate Holder. This arrangement is to assist us with some grooming operations when we need assistance.

- John M reported that they have not heard back from Anne K regarding the DNR's thoughts about a LUA and/or amendment to our existing LUA regarding our use of our PistenBully for grooming snow on the trails, so no action has happened on that.
- It was requested that the ski trail map (see attachment on page 4) be added to our website; John H will add this to our websites. Post Meeting Note: as of 1/7/2022, the map is on both websites.

**Habitat:** See attachment on page 5 for a graphic of the completed work this fall and some plans for this winter.

- All of the prairies around the Butterfly Garden (the large one to the South, the smaller one to the Southeast and the thick tree-line that connects those two, and the Prairie to the East and also the one to the North of the Garden have all been cleared of invasives and they are ready for burning this spring or next fall.
- Two additional kettles have been cleared in these areas!
- Additionally, the woodlands between Asthma Hill trail, and the Trail to the Northeast of it (Piliated Path) are now clear of buckthorn and are beautifully visible from either trail. This will become a woodland burn unit.
- Work continues around the Tower so that in the future those woods can also be burned.
- Work will also happen near the overflow parking lot on the west side of Asthma Hill trail, to clear old growth honeysuckle, autumn olive, buckthorn, slash, and other deadfall to expose a nice rock wall there.

**Lodge:** John M said the building committee has negotiated and now has signed contracts with both GCA and GRAEF. Approximately 1,000 fundraising letters went out. We've received substantial publicity including nice press in the Journal-Sentinel and the Freeman. Donations are coming in at a pace that is needed each month to stay on schedule. A nice sign about the Lodge has been placed at the Evergreen trailhead. As we move forward with various other communications, we need to continue to keep this fundraising effort in front of people!

John M then explained that the building committee is preparing an application package for financial assistance from the Federal Economic Development Authority (EDA) for the Lapham Lodge project. The amount we will be requesting is about \$1.2 million. This is not a matching funds grant. From his experience in the past, there's a lot of hoops to jump through to pursue this, yet there is optimism that we might qualify for it. Mark Herr is assisting him with the details of the application. As such, a resolution needs to be passed to authorize them to act on behalf of the Friends as they work on this. We agreed that authorizing Mark as his assistant would be beneficial. After discussion, Rita moved, and it was seconded by John H, that we the Board of the FLP, accept the attached EDA Resolution<sup>2</sup> (that John M will update accordingly per this motion) authorizing John McCarthy, FLP Board Member, assisted by Mark Herr, FLP Member, to act on behalf of the Friends of Lapham Peak Unit, KMSF, to apply for an Economic Assistant Grant for the Federal Economic Development Authority (EDA) under the Public Works and Economic Development Facilities, Economic Adjustment Assistance – Construction program. The motion passed unanimously.

**Park Updates:**

- Colton said there have been no new mandated restrictions related to COVID, though they will keep the front office closed for now.
- They are getting more complaints about people hiking on groomed ski trails.
- Only a handful of Candlelight parking vouchers have been picked up so far.
- It was asked that the Road Sign advertise next weekend's Loppet.

**Memorial Bricks and Benches:** Four more benches have been sold! John H will work with Colton to get a handle on the number of remaining open spots. Given that we only have a small number left, we discussed raising their price, and after discussion, Anne R moved that we increase the price for a bench from \$2000 to \$3000, and that we offer a new option, where for \$5000 a bench could be donated that would include 2 standard sized plaques on the one bench. Karl seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. John H will update the Bench Policy and Website and communicate the same to Sam. Post Meeting Note, 1/8/2022 – Sam and the website and policy have all been updated: [Click Here](#)

Dan did get a quote for the last 110 feet of pathway to be excavated and established as a brick walkway. With all of the work involved, the cost would be \$6,150. Colton wondered if we could do any of that ourselves, since he has experience and we have the skidsteer? We wondered if we should raise the price of the bricks to make sure we're making a profit for the park's projects? We asked Dan for a cost breakdown for the overall project to help us understand what we've put into this over the years, and what more we would be putting into it, and how much we have gotten out of it, to help us know if the current prices are right, or if they need to be raised.

### **Loppet and Ski Series:**

- The Jan 15<sup>th</sup> Loppet has about 20 registrations so far. We discussed various volunteer needs and generally things are feeling like we're on track to be ready for it!
- Tuesday night time-trial ski racing had about a dozen people this past week.
- Wed night Junior and Adult results have been [posted](#) for week 1; over 60 adults & 21 students participated

**Candlelight Hike:** The Jan 29<sup>th</sup> Ski & Hike will both be offered from Homestead (or people can ski from Evergreen if they prefer). Details of the exact trails will depend on the snow as we get closer to the 29<sup>th</sup>, but one thought is to send hikers on the asphalt trail and skiers up the Asthma Hill trail.

- Trecker will not be open to the public, but we will have servers inside making hot cider and hot cocoa and those items will be handed through an open window to outside guests. Colton will get plexiglass to block the rest of the open window(s). No other snack food will be provided (unless guests bring their own).
- A bonfire will be provided; Charcoal grill(s) will be provided; Picnic tables will be provided
- We'll help the DNR assemble the lights starting at 4pm in Trecker; then we'll place the lights and light them
- Rita will coordinate getting volunteers lined up for the various time slots.
- John H will get the big poster for donations to the Friends; but we agreed we should have a donation to the Lodge display & bucket too (we will need two donation buckets)
- Colton might use brine on the paved trail if conditions warrant (it's a pre-treatment)
- We will need extension cords and tables, maybe some portable lights too.

**First Day Hike:** The data that John H gathered from 1/1/22 per Anne R's reminder, included:

- Last year 1/1/2021, we had 48 people use our website to record their (or their group's) activities on the FIRST DAY SKI / HIKE, the Number of people that were accounted for in the 2021 count was 72
- On 1/1/2022, we had 49 people use our website, representing 91 people
- Like last year, John converted everything to miles (from minutes or kilometers, to miles, all using the same math estimates as last year)
- In 2021, our visitors logged 425.5 total miles, an average of 5.9 miles per person, and we estimated 2,000 visitors at the park on 1/1/2021, so that came out to 11,820 total miles
- In 2022, our visitors logged 730.5 total miles, an average of 8.0 miles per person, so if we use the same estimate of 2,000 visitors in the park on Saturday, which comes out to 16,054 total miles!
- We used 10 signs in the park (plus our website) asking people to log their activity: 3 at Evergreen, 1 by the Rental Building, 3 at Homestead, 1 at Hausmann, 2 at the Tower Lot (and later an 11th inside Evergreen).

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Officers:** the current 4 officers agreed to continue in their current roles, unless anyone else had an interest, but hearing none, Kris moved, Rita seconded that we appoint the following, and the motion passed Unanimously.

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

**Membership:** Rita gave us a membership update:

- There are 12 new paid members and 29 who did not yet renew out of 64 paid members from 2021.
- Two new lifetime members out of the 160 members
- And, she has some updates for the membership brochures; we agreed she should make the needed updates and get more printed and distributed.

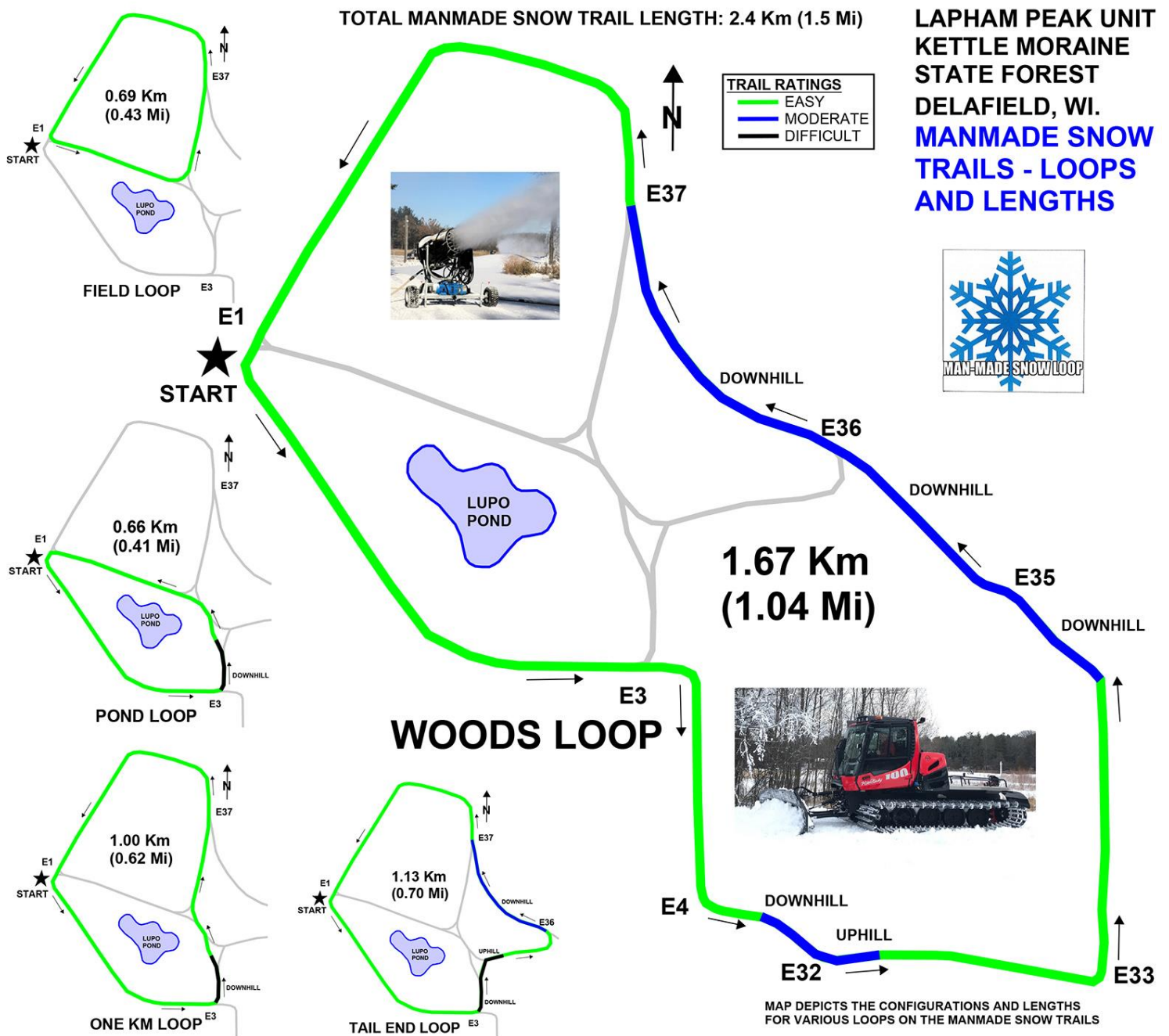
Hours – Louise reminded us that we all need to get our hours, and the hours for our committees/teams, to her as soon as possible (one set of hours – no need to break them down)!

**Adjourned at 8:48pm:** Our next meeting will be Thursday February 3 (and then back to Wednesday in March)

Respectfully Submitted, John Hillmer

Attachments (4):

1.  2021 Dec Treasurers Rpt.xls
2.  EDA Resolution.pdf
3. Manmade Snow Trail Map (below):



4. Completed Habitat work on East Side and Winter Plans

