

Friends of Lapham Peak
Board of Directors Meeting
May 11, 2022



Attendees: (* indicated 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 via ZOOM: Meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.

Minutes: Minutes from the April meeting were approved; and they're now on our [Website](#).

Treasurer's Report: Karl provided us with the April report, attached¹. He explained, we didn't have a lot of activity this month overall.

- Lapham Lodge had a \$18,000 bill for 35% completion of the architectural fees.
- The endowment fund is down 11% for the year (which is not surprising).
- The annual Summit CD is up for renewal and currently has an interest rate of 0.20%. Karl felt we could find better rates either now or in the near future (and he said he saw 1.2% advertised). It was agreed that we should move the money to the Summit Savings account while we look for alternatives for a better return.
- Anne R is now an official check signer on the Waukesha State Bank Account.
- Kris suggested we rename the Ski Series columns on the reports to "Feel the Burn" for the summer – we all agreed.

Snow Making:

- Beattle is putting the Snowcat up on blocks for the summer, and waxing it, and giving it an oil change.
- The Committee is looking at adding a monitor/tool to the pump house to track the levels in the pond, to better manage water usage / levels.
- Investigation of options for Phase 4 continue, with a possible option being discussed to mount snow guns along Two-Tier so they would not have to be moved while making snow.
- Other repairs / electrical load-balancing, etc., mentioned in prior reports are on-going.

Habitat: John H reported-

- The remaining 2 prairies on the west side were burned this spring, as were 4 prairies (plus Dan's) on the east side, and we burned about 7 acres of woods around the Nature Center (the first woodland burns in over 7 years!). Good Oak continues to be our contractor leading this work, volunteers continue to assist.
- Work on planting a new 3-acre prairie on the west side (one that was just burned) will now begin (John H & Jack A are leading this with input from Colton and Good Oak).
- We have finished clearing all the buckthorn off the apron (hill) around the tower, so in the fall or next spring, that part of the woods will be a priority to burn along with the overlook hill at the Tower Parking lot.
- We removed all the buckthorn from the roadsides leading to Evergreen, and around the Evergreen parking lot, around the Red Barn (Evans Barn). The DNR planted over 70 red dogwood trees along northeast side of the Evergreen Road – and with lots of waterings those plants are doing well!

Memorial Benches and Bricks:

- We officially have 1 spot left for a bench, but 7 new benches are needed to fulfill the orders that we currently have, so John H will have about 8 more made in June.
- The brick pathway was completed in the butterfly garden! Some new bricks are already in the new section.
- 7 panels were added to hide equipment at the butterfly garden. This was done with DNR & volunteer help.
- A request has been made to add a brochure holder for the brick pamphlets to the west side of the butterfly garden gate. Colton will investigate.

Lodge: John McC and Rita shared-

- We are waiting to hear from the DNR / DOA regarding the review of the 35% plans.
- The EVA grant people/process has asked us questions and we have provided answers, and with the level of questions being asked it feels like they are still very much interested in our request. We believe by the July timeframe we should have an answer regarding our request for this grant.
- An archaeology study was completed per the request of the state historical preservation office. We don't believe that anything of note was discovered.
- Soil borings were also completed which are important for the foundation design.
- We have been discussing with WE energies the possibility of bringing natural gas to the park so we would not have to use propane for the lodge and potentially other buildings on site.
- Fund raising donations were discussed, but specific details were not available at this meeting.

Summer Solstice: Rita will request volunteers via newsletter; John H will help with the website form & posters.

Hausmann Nature Center:

- Colton and Melissa reported that the grand opening is May 21 and 22.
- Fliers and a press release will be distributed, per Melissa. Coverage will include Fox 6 Morning News.
- Melissa provided the attached request² for funds for the Nature Center Education Fund, of \$1500; she also projected other future cost/needs for programming and merchandise sales (see also the attached PDF). We agreed that current designated funds within the Nature Center account are available for this work.
- As for merchandise, comments were shared about what might be hot, and what might not be, especially based on prior experience.

Feel the Burn 5K: 17 People have already begun to sign up (register) for this. Volunteers will be requested soon. Posters will be placed in the Kiosks soon.

Colorama: Planning continues. One outstanding question, will we hold the Smokey Bear run this year?

Workday: 10 Students from Yale came for the afternoon; volunteers came in the morning. Good progress was made in the butterfly garden (planting bulbs, and adding a privacy fence), on trails (woodchips), around park benches (with woodchips), and at the campsite some of the interior was painted (the ceiling still needs paint).

NEW BUSINESS

Snow Making Committee & FLP Board Potluck: The SM Committee invited the Board to a joint dinner potluck on July 12, 5:30/6pm, this was met with interest and appreciation.

Firewood: Colton explained the need to provide a better way to handle firewood for park visitors and suggested the vending machine approach that had been discussed/presented last year. Due to usage and an opportunity to raise funds, Melissa moved, and Karl seconded, that we go ahead with an initial \$5900 unit, the motion passed.

Adjourned at 7:52pm: Our next meeting – Wednesday **June 8**, 5:45 via Zoom
Respectfully Submitted, John Hillmer

Attachments (2):



2022 Apr Treas
Rpt.xls



Educ Fund
Proposal.pdf