

**Friends of Lapham Peak**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
August 10, 2022



**Attendees:** (\*unable to attend)

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  
Plus, guest: Kevin Hanley - Naturalist

**Meeting was held via ZOOM:** Meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the June meeting were approved

**Introductions / Guest:** – Melissa introduced Kevin who shared his background, and the topic tonight was a focus of how do we engage and gain more volunteers at Lapham Peak? Kevin described the Master Naturalist Program that he's part of, where the State through the UW system provides funding for organizations to host the program – to train Naturalists who in turn train more Naturalists getting more and more people engaged. While Kevin and Melissa would be spearheading this, we would need 2-3 additional board members or other volunteers to join the committee. During his talk, he mentioned Becky Sapper, who leads the WI Master Naturalist Program. Colton and Anne K have been working with Becky for the last few months setting up Lapham Peak as a location for her to hold a Master Naturalist 3-day training session this fall. If any of the board members are curious to see what this training is all about, Anne K was sure Becky would welcome us to visit or listen in on the sessions that she is planning. As part of the discussions with Becky, they have asked her to promote Lapham Peak as a property where these new naturalists can volunteer their time and talents either by putting on programs or helping host at the Nature Center. Becky is VERY receptive to that idea and has invited us to create a hand-out to have available to participants at the training. The fall training will be at Lapham on:

- October 6th: 12:30pm-4pm
- October 7th: 9am-4pm
- October 8th: 9am-noon

Note, prior to the meeting, Melissa provided an email with background; that email is attached<sup>1</sup>.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karl shared that due to vacation, there is no treasurer's report for June and July yet. However, he reported that Anne R and he have been working with RitzHolman on the Compilation and the 990 (which is due 8/15); both look to be in good shape at this time.

**Lodge:** John McC and Rita shared-

- First, we had been slotting this topic at the end of the meeting as it fell there based on the history of when it was added to the discussions. Going forward, we will move this to the top of the discussion, especially given recent huge steps forward that have been made!
- For July's progress, work continues on fund-raising with a meeting mid-August.
- We are still waiting for final details regarding the \$1.3M grant from the EDA, and now we've hit a snag, though one that we believe can be ironed out. The gist of the issue is that since we will be donating the building to the DNR, the EDA wants assurance (legal language) that the DNR will maintain the building, insure it, and not dispose of it, demolish it, give it away, etc., as then the EDA would want their money back.
- Some good news is that the DNR was happy with the 35% plans, so much so that with a few questions to be answered, they believe we can skip the 65% plan signoff step.
- Delafield Tourism has been engaged with the building project.
- WE Energies will be contacted to get quotes for the Electrical hookups (probably free) and if possible, we'd like them to bring gas to the Park so that we can use gas rather than tanks of propane (probably thousand\$). The gas would ideally service many of the Park's buildings.
- An estimate for solar power on the roof of the Lodge is being investigated, as is Geothermal Heat.

**Snow Making:** Anne R reported –

- Members attended the State Fair to represent the Park for Tourism exposure and fund raising.
- The Committee is looking at options to increase the height of the berm around Lupo Pond so it can hold more water (given the need for more water due to the number of snow guns that we are using now);
- Other work mentioned in prior monthly reports continues to be planned for this fall, including electrical rebalancing, hydrant and pedestal repair, and updates to the lights in the playground (especially given new LED technology).

**Habitat:** John H reported-

- The recent focus for the crew has been on the two trails leading out of Homestead Hollow, by the Mike Fort Shelter going up the hill (Asthma Hill, and the Purple trails – Pileated Path). With this work, two large new units are being created that will be cleaned of low brush and buckthorn (and a ton of autumn olive), so it can be managed with woodland burns hopefully as soon as this fall.
- The new wood splitter has arrived and was assembled. The old Paint Building south of Evans Red Barn will be cleaned out and new windows will be made (with screens) to age the split wood inside it. A wood rack with cubby units will be made to show people what a bundle is; this will be on the east side of Evergreen to “dispense” the wood and donations will be made there on the honor system, in a dop box and using a QR code to a website for online donations. Anne K said she’d get information to John H about “Iron Rangers” – steel boxes for money collections.



**Memorial Benches and Bricks:**

- The last Memorial Benches were made (8 of them); and thanks to the Rangers, most are in the ground now.
- 28 Bricks have been sold this year.

**Hausmann Nature Center:**

- Having some issues with staffing
- [Bad] weather has had an impact on attendance
- QR codes for [LaphamPeakInteractive.org](http://LaphamPeakInteractive.org) are all installed in the park, over two-dozen of them, and their corresponding webpages are up and getting many hits! 1900 scans so far for last month. Melissa did a great job getting this all in place!
- T-Shirts were purchased – per the email discussion that occurred after the last meeting and before this meeting. Many are selling well!

**Summer Solstice:** Cleared \$1,957 plus \$197 in mug sales. Rita did a wonderful job again making this happen, but it was a lot of work for a small amount of money raised (which would have been a lot less without a sizable donation that came in to offset expenses for the event). We will want to re-think what we can do next year.

**Feel the Burn 5K:** 80 total people attended: 60 registered online, 20 in person, Kris is working on the details with Racewire and chasing things down for us.

**Colorama:** We are using [silvercirclesportsevents.com](http://silvercirclesportsevents.com) for the event management. We will be using smart phones with QR codes for pre-registered runners and walkers to receive their numbers on site. We will not require all to be registered online as we did last year; paper registrations and day-of registrations will be possible. John H will verify that a cellular hot spot (i.e., iPhone with Hot Spot turned on) can provide Wi-Fi service at Trecker for any who need it. Two sponsors from prior years have declined this year as they are spending their advertising dollars differently. So, we are looking for new sponsors.

**Fright Hike:** We organized all the props in the Evans Red barn (uncovered them all, and spread them all out for easy access, and recognition); this makes it easier for the skit teams to come in and select things for their stages. Over a thousand dollars in ticket sales have already been sold to the event!

**Butterfly Garden:** The Delafield Fund provided a grant of \$500 for the Garden to help with a watering system. Various alternatives are being considered.

**2018 Sign?** Louise asked Anne K for an update on the return of money that was provided to the DNR for a Uniform Park sign. (\$782?)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Membership Brochures:** Rita asked for approval to order more brochures; the board agreed she should do this.

**Forestry Harvesting Fallout:** Rita and others commented that the State Contractors really did a “messy” job spraying herbicide all over the pine forest floor, and that several dead animals have been found, and that all good plants were killed along with all the bad plants. It was a massive spraying operation, with large equipment that just sprayed without care for what they were hitting. Anne K noted that they were spraying their “forest fields” -- it’s what they do. John H commented that this reflects poorly on the work we do, as Park Visitors don’t know they “the State” did this, when they then see us volunteers working out here they can easily assume it was us. While this was outside of our (local Park control) – we believe some signage would have been good explaining what was going on, and we should insist on a process improvement to include that in the future.

**Mulch:** Large piles of mulch have been delivered to the Park and are being distributed around the trails; help will be needed to spread those.

**Lapham Loppet:** Kris said that two coaches are already asking about the date for the Loppet, and that January 12<sup>th</sup> would be best. She is therefore asking that we set the date as the 12<sup>th</sup>, we agreed. It will be added to the calendars.

**Work Day:** Rita asked that we set the date for the fall work day as Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, she wants to include that information in the Fall Newsletter. We agreed.

**Adjourned at 8:02pm:** Next meeting – Wednesday Sept 14, 5:45 via Zoom, Respectfully Submitted, J. Hillmer

Attachment:



Mast Nat Prog  
Email.pdf