

Friends of Lapham Peak

Board of Directors Meeting

March 9, 2023



Attendees: (* Unable to attend)

*Mark Fischer, Mark Herr, John Hillmer, *Melissa Jarecki, Rita Keber, Colton Kelly (DNR), John Kolbe, Anne Korman (DNR), *Kris Maki, John McCarthy, Anne Riendl, Karl Timm, *Dan Wiley

Meeting held at Hausmann Nature Center: Called to order at 4:05 pm.

Minutes: February minutes reviewed, adjusted with comments and corrections; with Mark F gone tonight, John Hillmer will make the changes and get them published on the website

Next Meeting: Next Board meeting will be at 4pm at Hausmann on Thursday April 13

Treasurer's Report

Attached is the treasurer report for February (with an updated January copy attached too). There were 2 minor updates to the January report: moved \$200 from the Lodge to Habitat and added \$25 for the General Fund.



2023 Jan Treas
Report v3.xls



2023 Feb Treas
Report.xls

For February:

- mailed the 1099-MISC to Angela and e-filed to the IRS and WI
- transferred Colorama 2022 profits to General Fund
- transferred Fright Hike 2022 profits: 1/2 to Snowmaking and 1/2 to Habitat
- had a Lodge paver refund of \$200 as seen on the PayPal page (someone ordered 2 by mistake)

Anne made the motion to establish the finance committee that was noted in last month's minutes. Motion seconded by Karl, with members: Mark H, Anne R, Karl, and Dan, who will review at quarterly intervals, the financial reports from all the institutions which hold FLP money. The motion passed unanimously.

Lapham Lodge -Mark H reported:

BUILDING COMMITTEE

- On Feb 8, John McCarthy and Mark Herr participated in a Microsoft Teams meeting with Galbraith Carnahan Architects (GCA) and GRAEF Engineers to confirm the design of the Lapham Lodge heat pump HVAC system.
- On Feb 9, the Building Committee and GCA held a Microsoft Teams meeting to decide on the height of the east elevation windowsill height (2'-6"), and to confirm the location and height of the counter tops along the east wall of the Gathering Space overlooking the trail.
- On Feb 15, John McCarthy and Mark Herr presented the Lapham Lodge project to the DNR District Supervisors Meeting held at Lapham Peak's Hausman Nature Center.
- On Feb 15, WE Energies submitted a cost of \$23,528.05 to extend natural gas service to Lapham Peak with an additional cost of \$2,844.77 to extend the natural gas service from Hwy C to Lapham Lodge. The Building Committee strongly recommends that the DNR authorize and pay for the natural gas extension. Natural gas rates are one half the cost of propane, and a portion of the extension costs will be refunded by WE Energies upon the first building connection.
- On Feb 17, the 95% construction drawings and specifications were received from GCA and GRAEF for review by the Building Committee. It is anticipated that the 95% construction documents will be submitted to the DNR for review the week of March 5, and will be submitted to the EDA upon receipt from the DNR of the signed EDA Site Certification Documents. The EDA Site Certification Checklist and the EDA Bid Document Review Checklist have been prepared and are ready to be submitted to EDA with the 95% construction documents.

- On Feb 23, the signed Land Use Agreement between FLP and the DNR for the construction of Lapham Lodge was received from the DNR. The Building Committee continues to recommend that the DNR submit the LUA for the operation of the Lodge as soon as possible for FLP review.

FUND-RAISING COMMITTEE

- Total future pledges, grants and net cash as of Feb 28, 2023, is \$2,165,299.21 (90.2% of \$2.4 million goal). That is an increase of \$9,828.17 since January 31, 2023.
- On Feb 15, over 800 Lapham Lodge brick paver order forms were mailed to persons who had not yet donated. Order Forms were also sent to persons who ordered \$200 bricks to see if they might want to upgrade to a \$500 brick. Also, brick order forms were submitted to all donors \$200 and over.
- On Feb 15, Sign Effectz, Inc submitted an initial donor wall design concept and cost proposal. The committee continues to work with Sign Effectz on concept refinements.

Added Notes:

- Our target is April 14th for going out for contractor bids. The Natural Resources Board meets on May 23/24 and we are hoping they can accept the project for the Lodge at that meeting.
- Donor bricks have brought in between \$33-35K so far.
- Mark H added that the DNR is interested in the potential savings that Natural Gas would provide to the Park, and they are considering this. The DNR's new biennium budget begins this summer (2023-2025) so timing is good for them to try and get this into their plans.

Snowmaking- Anne R sent snowmaking minutes:



Feb SM Minutes.pdf

Anne R added that all of the SM plans for the Park have been given to the Colton.

Anne R also continues to work with Jim M on the SM committee to see if we can get a private company (FLP) space on Google Drive (or someplace similar) for us to store and share secure documents.

Habitat-John H presented; he emailed the attached report:



March 3 Habitat Report.pdf

- John shared the next locations they intent to work. Rita reminded that small birds, such as warblers, look for brush to hind in, so we should consider looking for options for them as we remove invasives. Red and gray dogwood is being used in wet locations, and other brush such as Nannyberry and other Viburnums is helpful and kept.
- John & Colton have started the plans with Evan, our Burn contractor, for the spring/summer/fall 2023 burns, as well as with the DNR on extending the areas within the Park that can be burned as and when needed.
- Colton indicated that DNR Wildlife Management might be able to also help us with Crown Vetch spraying this year.

Ski Series - Kris sent copies of her reports. The bottom line is that profits for the ski series (both nights) and Loppet look like they will be at or about (or over) \$7,800 total!



2023 Ski Series Income.pdf



Report on Ski Series for 2023.pdf

Nature Center (new and old business)

Colton and Melissa met and discussed dates and the need/opportunity for a paid DNR LTE staff person to help this year with the Nature Center, and that there is a grant that looks like it would be a good fit to help us with the cost of the LTE and possible other Nature Center costs (should we desire that).

Dates the Nature Center will be open include:

- **April: 22nd&23rd 29th&30th**

- **May:** 20th&21st 27th&28th
- **June:** 3rd&4th 10th&11th
- **July:** 8th&9th 15th&16th
- **Aug:** 5th&6th 12th&13th
- **Sept:** 2nd&3rd 9th&10th 30th
- **Oct:** 1st 7th & 8th



The incentive grant coming up this April that could help with the LTE costs:

- [Incentive Grant Guidelines - Friends of Wisconsin State Parks \(newfwsp.blogspot.com\)](http://newfwsp.blogspot.com)
- Application is Due: April 7th
- 1:1 Match
- Up to \$3,500 from DNR
- Utilize for LTE Naturalist wages, Taxidermy, Educational Displays, Supplies, etc.
- **Extra ranking points if applicant supplies 15% over 1:1 match**

We agreed with discussion that this is something we recommend Melissa pursue including the extra 15%, and that the Nature Center fund would cover this. $\$3500+(15\%*\$3500)=\$4025$ from the Friends, \$3500 from the DNR. **If Melissa is not available to work on this in time to meet the April 7th due date, then we will need help from someone else on the board to work on this.**

Currently, we have several animals being mounted for the nature center:

- Our 10 point buck is being mounted by Jim Horneck in Oconomowoc (he mounted our Tundra Swan)
- An Otter, Loon, and Kingfisher have been taken to Animal Arts Taxidermy (Deerfield) for mounting

It was noted that Melissa could use some help with Nature Center merchandise (including the merchandise that we sell in the front office). Is anyone interested, available??

Butterfly Garden: Colton had updates for us:

- On site meeting held on 2-28-23 with Steve Brown (Outdoor Accents) & DNR Engineer
- Tracer wire added to the project for future locating of 1 ¼" Poly Pipe
- A combination of trenching and directional boring will be done
- Digger's hotline will be locating utilities; scheduled to be complete by **March 20th**
- Project Total: \$4,205 (Piping only-sprinklers will be purchased separate, pipe is being donated by the installer; Eva has offered \$2K, Friends would cover the rest from General. After discussion, we agreed to support this plan, knowing that the sprinkler heads are another piece of this yet to be determined.

Membership (and Donations) Rita provided updates:

Membership

85 paid members (19 not renewed in 2023)
 181 lifetime members
 8 renewed memberships

Donations

1 to habitat firewood = \$10 less fees: \$9.31
 1 Butterfly Garden Brick = \$150.00

Orientation Sign:

Anne K and Colton said this was being constructed now; it will go inside the case to the right of the front office door. Wording for the Nature Center was updated/corrected to say:

["Visit the Hausmann Nature Center to view educational exhibits that include the history of Lapham Peak, Native American artifacts, native plants and animals, taxidermy, and more. The Nature Center also offers nature programs and an incredible panoramic view of the surrounding area. Visit the gift shop for nature-based books and souvenirs."](#)

FirePit: Colton said he's been in contact with Freddy (re: his Eagle Scout project)

- Freddy talked with Western Culvert; they'll have a 48" fire ring by end of month
- They visited the Evergreen fire ring for measurements/ideas; it should look like this:

NEW BUSINESS

Grants:

- Knowles-Nelson Stewardship – done (Lodge, 2nd installment in progress)
- Weizenicker (in progress, Nemahbin Springs new boardwalk and new maintenance UTV trail for access to the Spring; John H shared the plans for this)
- Delafield Fund (submitted, Nemahbin Springs, this is also asking for money to help with the Nemahbin Springs new boardwalk)

Crossing Lights on Hwy C

Colton indicated a new DNR Partnership Enhancement Grant will be coming available in April, one that would help us fund the traffic crossing signs at Highway C

- This will be needed more than ever with Lapham Lodge Construction
- November Deadline for the grant
- 50/50 Match up to \$5,000 (\$10,000 total)
- Lights are estimated at \$12K (see attachment)
- Ice Age Trail Alliance is offering \$2K



CrossingLights.pdf

Questions of installation, maintenance/insurance (replacement when they are damaged, etc.) need to be followed up on

Spring/Summer Prospects: Colton summarized:

- Sprinkler System Install
- Prescribed burning & Crown Vetch Spraying
- Nemahbin Springs Boardwalk Improvements
- SummerStage ADA improvements (Colton shared plans)
- Crosswalk Install (apply for grant first)
- Bridge Repair (Paul Sandgren Trail, new deck)
- Trecker Fire Ring
- Erosion Mitigation
- Red Osier Dogwood planting around warm up loop (replace cleared buckthorn)
- **LAPHAM LODGE**

Special Event Dates:

- Feel the Burn: June 24th
- Colorama: October 7th
- Fright Hike: October 27th & 28th
- Spring/Fall Work Days?

Partnering with other State Parks:

- Anne R said that she's been talking with Friends of Peninsula regarding paid staff helping their Friends group with various tasks
- Mark H and John M have been asked by Friends of Mirror Lake to talk to them about our Lodge experiences (fundraising, etc.)

On a very snowy night, we adjourned at 6:15pm

Respectfully Submitted, J. Hillmer, filling in for Mark F