

Friends of Lapham Peak Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Feb 26, 2026, Location: Lapham Lodge

The meeting was opened at 3:10 pm.



Attendance

Present: John H, Anne R, Mark H, John K, John M, Rita K, Kris M, Melissa J, Steve H, Mike R (DNR)

Absent: Becky, Mark F, Karl, Chris

Approval of Prior Minutes

January 15, 2026, Board Meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent and will be posted to the FLP website.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's reports for January and February were reviewed. Outstanding reconciliations remain related to Fright Hike revenue transfers, pending final reconciliation. Donation streams across snowmaking, lodge support, habitat, and merchandise continue to remain strong.

Old Business

Lapham Lodge

Updates from Mark's January report were reiterated. Lodge donations continue to support operating costs, including the monthly Starlink fee of \$120, paid from the Lodge Fund. Rental income remains at the park to offset any overages above the planned ~\$18,000 annual operating commitment outlined in the MOU with the DNR. The board acknowledged receipt of the final \$10,000 Knowles-Nelson grant funds and noted eligibility for a \$15,336 solar installation tax credit. Wi-Fi terms and conditions will be posted on site.

Snowmaking

Snowmaking operations for the season have concluded. The season is anticipated to total at least 85 days of skiable snow.

Ski League / Series / Loppet

Kris reported continued success of the Ski Series and Loppet. Preliminary financials indicate profits exceeding \$11,000 for the season, with a small number of expenses and donations still outstanding.

Habitat Crew

Hillmer reported 663 volunteer hours logged in January. A total of 129 piles of brush and debris were removed, including the large pile located at Jay's front yard.

Nature Center

Melissa reported that the Nature Center Volunteer Open House is scheduled for April 11. An incentive grant request for \$3,500 has been submitted and will be matched by FLP, with an additional 15% contribution, to fund naturalist John Wood for the upcoming year.

Butterfly Garden

Rita reported that no additional volunteer assistance is needed for spring workdays at this time, per Liz.

Membership

Rita reported 66 paid members for the year to date, in addition to 227 lifetime members. Melissa will continue promoting membership through social media outreach.

Accessible Trails & Pier Projects

John M provided updates on grant applications for the ADA fishing pier and associated trail connections. The total project cost is estimated at approximately \$65,000, with \$20,000 allocated for the trail and \$45,000 for the pier. Board members reaffirmed that John M remains the designated spokesperson for this project.

Extension to Pine Grove Path to HNC Project

Melissa is working on grants for this; John M is willing to design it.

Signage

Mike R reported that DNR Legal recommends only a "Caution" sign for the Hwy C crossing. Additional signage is being explored for Oak Wilt areas. The need for signage at the Jones Road Ice Age Trail parking lot was discussed, and Mike agreed to investigate options.

Supervisor's Report

Motion by John K that FLP General Fund support a portion of the DNR's purchase of an Exterra Raptor Boom Arm Mower with Rotary Head for use with the unit's existing tracked skid steer (FLP's contribution shall total \$9,168.35, toward the overall purchase price of \$34,394). Melissa seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously. June 20-21, 2026, is the DNR's Invasive Species Awareness Weekend. FLP activities are planned for July 11th with our "Feel the Burn" Run/walk. Mike touched on the DNR's Development project statuses for the Park including those for the GDT, as well as staffing. Mike indicated summer stage has requested one of our free dates. We did not yet act on this request. John M will see if the Ski Club wants a date prior to November 1st.

4 free dates in 2026 are currently:

1. Feel the burn
2. Fright Hike
- 3.
- 4.

Bugbee Report

Mark shared background information from an initial meeting regarding a potential collaboration involving the Bugbee/Redmond property. At this time, the DNR indicated it cannot commit to any actions or agreements due to current budget and staffing constraints. The Board discussed that neither Friends of Lapham Peak nor the DNR will act on any requests related to this matter until additional information is available and further discussions occur. Draft language outlining potential roles for Friends of Lapham Peak and the Ice Age Trail Alliance was reviewed. The Board noted that FLP has not agreed to the proposed language and is considering it **as a request only**, with no

decisions made at this time. The item will remain informational and may be revisited as more details become available.

New Business

Volunteer Coordination

Volunteer requests were discussed, including a Generac employee group (~15 volunteers) and a high school group requesting participation of 40–50 students. Mike R will serve as the primary point of contact, with support from Hillmer or Mike Neimon as needed.

Spring Workday

May 2 was selected as the workday, from 9-noon, with lunch to follow. Possible activities include washing windows, addressing muddy areas at kiosk at Homestead Hollow.

Grants

- Final K.N. \$10K payout for Lodge received!
- K.N. Grant: John McC applied for grant to provide new ADA fishing pier
- Federal Recreational Trail Program (RTP) Grants (Incentive Grants)?
 - o John M will try for additional help for path/trail to planned fishing pier
 - o Melissa will try for steps/path to backdoor or HNC
- Greater Delafield Fund: Melissa applied for PGP/HNC trail
- Friends of WI State Parks incentive grant, \$3500 (for 2026 naturalist)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by John Hillmer, President

For Reference: Future Agenda Items and Dates

Website futures

Snowmaking is asking: how are we using our websites, and I will add our social media sites to the mix too:

- <https://laphampeakfriends.org/>
- <https://www.laphampeaksnowmaking.org/>
- <https://laphampeakinteractive.org/>
- <https://frighthike.org/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofLaphamPeak>
- <https://www.instagram.com/friendsoflaphampeak/>

General Fund Projects

What projects should we be considering for the future

- Modern Bathrooms and Pavilion at the Tower Parking Lot
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Other Future Fund-based Projects that might need General Funds (i.e., for Grants, or support?)

- Nature Center Updates
- Snowmaking's "Up the Hill" Ski trail expansion
- Pine Grove Path to HNC
- ADA Pier and Trail at Lupo Pond

Upcoming Events:

1. March 19, FLP Board Meeting
2. HNC Open House/Volunteer Kickoff, April 11th.
3. May 2nd has been selected for the Spring workday, 9-noon, with lunch to follow.
4. July 11, Feel the Burn
5. Women whine in woods, September 17th at 5:30-ish.
6. Oct 3 Colorama
7. Oct 23-24 Fright Hike

Eagle Scout Projects

- New signs for Nemahbin Spring (IAT – Work is ongoing, per IAT)
- Tree Identification for Purple Trail, completed (signs and website)
- Kiosk for Hausmann Nature Center, Firewood Rack at WRSB (Melissa/Hillmer-Neimon)
- Box Steps for IAT (IAT)

More Options for future projects:

- Improve fire pit at Mike Fort; Improve fire pit at WRSB
- Box steps for the path from Nature Center to Pine Grove Path