

June 18, 2026, FOLP meeting minutes

In attendance: John Hillmer, Becky Burton, Mark Fischer, Mark Herr, Melissa Jarecki, Rita Keeber, Kris Maki, John McCarthy, Anne Riendl,

Absent: Christina Ciszek, Steve Huser, John Kolbe

DNR representative: Mike Ring

Guests: Steve Schmelzer, DNR (Steven.Schmelzer@wisconsin.gov)

Jim Marschalek, Snowmaking Committee (Jim.Marschalek@gmail.com)

Meeting started at 3:02 pm in Lapham Lodge Meeting Room

- Board welcomed guests
- DNR representatives reported on DOT initiative to allow motorists to purchase DNR passes (“passports”) when registering vehicles. Similar programs have resulted in higher sales in other states.
- Visitation at Lapham is up 50%, staffing is down 20% since before the pandemic. The DNR has a maintenance backlog of about \$2 billion.
- A new strategic plan is in the works
- Hunter numbers are down. Average age of hunters in Wisconsin is 60. Deer overpopulation is a concern. High populations result in increased chronic wasting disease, decrease in deer food supply, and increase vehicle-deer collisions.
- Possible strategies for reducing deer population at Lapham were discussed. This conversation will continue.
- May meeting minutes approved by the board unanimously after correcting a mention of Mark H to Mark F.

Old Business

Treasure’s report

- See report from Karl Timm, including
 - Received \$1000 grant Hausman accessible trail from Greater Delafield Community Fund
 - Received \$3500 incentive grant for Nature Center naturalist from Friends of WI State Parks
 - Fright Hike: \$1,750 in sponsors
 - Colorama: \$500 in sponsors
 - Habitat \$996 in merchandise sales
 - Nature Center \$784 in merchandise sales
 - Feel the Burn: \$60 in entry fees

Lapham Lodge

- See report from Mark F.
- The Lapham Lodge received a \$3K donation
- Donor names will be added to the Recognition Wall as donation was planned before the Recognition Wall was closed to additional names
- The grinder pump was fixed. Switches were corroded. DNR staff will change cleaners in case that was the cause.

Snowmaking

- Minutes from 4/14/26 meeting provided
- Jim is the new chair of Snowmaking.
- The Friend's Board wishes to thank Anne Riendl for her many years of service as the Chairperson of the Snowmaking Committee, during which she led the committee during major system expansions and the improvements, making Lapham Peak the top cross country skiing destination in the region.
- Motion made by Anne to sponsor Prowl the Peak race at Lapham, 8/6/2026 in the amount of \$500, coming from the General Fund. Motion carried.

Habitat

- See report from John Hillmer.
- Extensive clearing done near Summer Stage
- New wood rack at WRSB

Hausmann Nature Center and Jarecki Prairie

- See Report from Melissa Jarecki
- An Eagle Scout completed new kiosk
- 837 visitors in May, with 132 attending speaker events
- \$1K received for the path
- Terrazzo floor needs work. Refinishing will cost about \$11k. Melissa proposes cost split 3 ways: HNC, FoLP General Fund, DNR

Membership

- Rita reported that there are currently 103 paid annual members and 228 Lifetime Members

Personalized Bricks in Butterfly Garden

- See report from Becky Burton

- Six bricks installed before meeting

Fright Hike

- John Hillmer reported that it would occur October 23rd and 24th

Feel the Burn/Colorama

- Kris did cost research on T-shirts. Decreasing the number of colors in the design decreased the cost
- Bangin' Burgers must get their business insurance in order to participate
- Volunteers needed

Accessible fishing pier and path

- John M. reported a donation of \$13.5K that will get us closer to the needed \$20K match needed for the Knowles Nelson grant already submitted. The donor was the Kettle Moraine State Forest Alliance, Inc.. A representative of the organization, Robert Wehner will be invited to a future meeting.
- Rita received a \$500 donation to use where most needed. This money will be added to the pier fund to bring us closer to the match.

Supervisor's Report

- See report from Mike Ring
- Balancing the budget is the goal.
- Lapham Lodge rentals earned approximately \$11k this year.
- Utility costs were higher than expected
- DNR equipment consigned to the Wisconsin Surplus auction site sold, except for toilet paper dispensers

Kay Redmund Reserve

- Mountain bike trails will cost about \$250k Southern Kettle Off-Road Riders (SKORR) are spearheading the effort
- The Ice Age Trail will still have an easement, and a trail relocation may occur to take advantage of the new ownership

Liability insurance

- Christine is still reviewing the policy and attempting to get the full policy from Securra. The Board agreed to renew the policy for next year.

Hobby Farm on NW corner of Lapham

- Will open to the public August 8.
- Karl will be the point person for FoLP

Upcoming events

- July 11, Feel the Burn
- Tuesday, July 14 is joint meeting/potluck with the Board and the Snowmaking committee at Lapham Lodge. This replaces the July Board Meeting
- There will be no Board Meeting in August due to a history of low attendance
- September 17 will be Wine and Women in the Woods, so the September Board Meeting will take place a week later than usual, 3:00 pm in the Lapham Lodge.
- Wednesday, July 29, 6:35, Lake Country Dockhounds fundraiser. Tickets available through Events tab
- Aug 11, John M manning table for Trail Running Film Festival at the Waukesha Public Library
- Oct 3 Colorama
- Oct 23-24 Fright Hike

New Business

Tower restroom and picnic area

- John M. submitted an application to GCA, under their Deep Roots program, for development of a concept plan and cost estimate to build a new restroom and picnic pavilion to replace the current pit toilets. See copy of application provided by John M.

Lapham Lodge Reservation Request

- The Sierra Club requested that FoLP arrange for them to meet at the Lapham Lodge on August 1. The Board decided that because various non-profit organizations might make similar requests, we refer these organizations to the DNR to make reservations in the usual way.

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm.

Minutes recorded by Becky Burton, Secretary