September 24, 2026, FOLP meeting minutes

In attendance: John Hillmer, Becky Burton, Mark Fischer, Mark Herr, Rita Keber, Kris Maki, John McCarthy, Anne Riendl, Christina Ciszek, Steve Huser, John Kolbe
Absent: Melissa Jarecki, Karl Timm
DNR representative: Mike Ring

Meeting started at 3:01 pm in Lapham Lodge Meeting Room

- June meeting minutes approved by the board unanimously as amended.

Old Business

Treasurer's reports (updated May, a June and July) were attached to the agenda

<u>Lapham Lodge</u>

- Building Committee report was attached to the agenda
- Guthrie and Frey will be consulting on the well and pump systems for the Lodge on September 29.
- Lapham Lodge received additional donations
- Recognition Wall was "completed" with an additional name being added that was added a few months ago, but Building Committee is considering two more names that just qualified with their donations
- Tax forms have been submitted for solar tax credit. If it is paid, it will be deposited to the Lodge Fund
- The front door was broken for a day, but has been fixed (not Lodge business, but the gate was also fixed)
- Thanks to Rita and Paul K. for keeping the trees and other plants watered over the summer. Spigot "butterfly" key is in FoLP locker. There are others in the DNR maintenance garages in both DNR and Buckthorn Busters areas.

<u>Snowmaking</u>

- Snowmaking report was attached to the agenda
- Hydrants will be repaired on September 30 (they were delivered mid-Sept). One or two of the old ones need to be replaced (definitely one near Summer Stage). At least one will be used for the new ski trail
- Equipment and materials are available to fix a wire problem at the top of Tail End
- This summer, pumphouse slab was poured; new insulated building was added
- The pump is providing 100+ gallons/minute
- Paul K. is now officially processing Snowmaking income, thank yous, and reports (Rita handles deposits for Paul).

- Work has begun on a new ski trail near Tail End.
    - Trees are being removed by Buckthorn Busters
    - About two lights will be installed.
    - It will not be on maps, so good signage will be important.
- Bass may be stocked in Lupo Pond
- Loppet is scheduled for January 16. There's no need to reserve the Lodge. The Lodge conference room will be used by the Loppet organizers.

Habitat

- Habitat report was attached to the agenda
- New Polaris 6-seat UTV was purchased at a deep discount (18K vs. list price of 22K); lights and safety features were then added. Habitat volunteers donated $1K to the purchase.
    - It has been used for the Governor's Day of Service, and Feel the Burn in addition to use by Habitat and anticipated use by Snowmaking and the DNR.
    - It has been donated to the WiDNR.
    - Motion made by Steve H. to transfer money from the General Fund to pay a portion of the cost of the new UTV. Proposed motion from the Habitat Report:
        - "To approve a $3,000 contribution from the Friends of Lapham Peak General Fund toward the previously completed $18,600 purchase of a new six-seat Polaris Ranger Crew 1000 on July 1, 2026. More than $1,000 has been donated toward the purchase by individual Buckthorn Busters. Habitat funded the remainder of the purchase. Because the vehicle is being used for Friends of Lapham Peak events and activities, a contribution from the General Fund is requested."
        - 9 voted in favor, 1 was opposed. Motion carried

Hausmann Nature Center and Jarecki Prairie

- HNC Report was attached to agenda
- Terrazzo floor was refinished. See agenda for approval process.
- Wine & Women in the Woods had 136 paid registrations, including VIP registrations. Net profits are estimated to be $10,844.48. Surveys have been very positive.
- DNR will clear Pine Grove Path while the Jareckis are away

Personalized Bricks in Butterfly Garden

- BG brick report was attached to agenda
- Due to price increases from That's My Brick and increase in the minimum brick order needed for free shipping, we will increase donation levels for the bricks. Small bricks will increase from $150 to $175. Large bricks will increase from $300 to

$350. This will allow us to pay for shipping of orders of fewer than 10 bricks. New brochures are needed. They will reflect the price increase. The web pages will be updated to the new prices.

Membership

- Rita reported that membership rates have not increased since 1989. Lifetime members rarely pay additional donations.
- Rita proposed eliminating lifetime, senior, and corporate memberships. Current lifetime members will retain their status.
- Individual memberships would increase to $30. Family memberships would increase to $50.
- Anne made the motion. It carried unanimously
- The Board thanked Rita for her service
- New brochures will be ordered to reflect the changes

Colorama/Feel the Burn

- Kris reported that there were 155 registered so far
- An additional $292 was received in donations. This will pay for awards.
- $1500 of sponsorship includes a new sponsor, F45, which will have give-aways on the day of the event
- Kris has sent a list of volunteers and their assignments
- Anne is working on an online bill pay issue that arose on September 15
- The design for T-shirts was shown
- Arrows will be put up on the Thursday before the race
- Maps will be in packets, but may also be online
- $996.24 from FTB will be moved to Habitat

Fright Hike

- John Hillmer reported that it would occur October 23rd and 24th
- Habitat has cleared hydrants, poles, and other structures
- Post meeting note: 370 tickets have been purchased as of 9/25-JH

Accessible fishing pier and path

- John M. reported that an award might be received from the Federal Recreation Trails Program (managed by the Wisconsin DNR). The plan passed the risk assessment phase, making it eligible for a $20K grant. Grants and donations for the pier and path now total over $50k.
- Construction will not begin before spring.

Supervisor's Report

- Report from Mike Ring was attached to agenda
- Construction and paving projects are underway
- Hazardous trees on the Glacial Drumlin Trail (GDT) will be removed by professionals
- Operating budgets has not changed.
- Heating and cooling costs for the lodge have averaged around $1500/month.
- The Evergreen parking lot will be repaved in 2027
- The Paul Sandgren Recreation Trail culvert bridge has been delayed
- Staffing has decreased and various changes will be made to optimize use of remaining staff members; staff from other Units will assist as well.
- Lapham Peak has the highest winter visitation rate of DNR recreational properties. The DNR is interested in maximizing winter revenue. This will influence staffing of the office. Staffing during ski season will be important for trail pass purchases
- A new Ford F350 pickup truck will be arriving
- The new policy of selling DNR passes with vehicle registration has been very popular
- Mike thanked the FoLP and Ice Age Trail volunteers for help with erosion control, clearing of trees off trails, and helping with the Governor's Day of Service and Wine & Women in the Woods
- There will be less mowing (both in area and frequency) in 2027 due to the decrease in staffing.
- Road work will continue
- The button on the west side of the pedestrian crossing of Highway C needs repair
- Deer may be dying of EHD, a hemorrhagic disease
- Talbot Woods Trail is closed. GDT ends at Dousman for now
- In future events, such as Fright Hike, Colorama, Candlelight Hikes, etc., wardens may be needed to handle traffic control due to changes in insurance policy requirements
- The Smokey Bear suit will be available for Colorama. It is at Pike Lake

Anne reminded the DNR of the 160 hours of Snowmaking work per season that the DNR/Snowmaking MOU calls for, especially given recent staff changes; Mike Ring acknowledged this. She asked whether Collin would be available for Fright Hike parking. Mike will check. She asked whether the Lodge sewer/septic system is working. It is.

Kay Redmund Reserve

- Currently holding a meeting on the Bugbee Property. There will be an estate sale over the weekend to dispose of items from the property.

Liability insurance

- Christine reported that we renewed our coverage with SECURA on July 1st, but is consulting with S. Wolf & Associates on getting coverage with them. They only cover non-profit organizations. If we switch companies, we can get a refund from Securra for the unused period of coverage.

Hobby Farm on NW corner of Lapham

- Has butterfly garden
- Has large parking lot with sign that asks for donations to Lapham Peak and IAT
- May be invited to a future meeting

Upcoming events

- Oct. 3 Colorama, set-up on Oct. 2
- Oct, 23-24 Fright Hike
- October 15 Board Meeting
- Nov 14, 9-noon, Workday
- November 18 Annual Meeting 5:30 refreshments, 6:00 business. Will include elections.
- December Board Meeting (TBA). Rita will host
- January 16 Loppet
- January 20 Board Meeting
- January 30 Candlelight hike

New Business

- Annual reports for fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2025-Sept. 30, 2026) due October 31st.
- Identify possible Board members
- Asked for $26k from Cherish Wisconsin for clearing between Two Tier and Ice Age Trail

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.
Minutes recorded by Becky Burton, Secretary