

# FREEDOM PARK

Freedom Park Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 20, 2020 Lowell Town Hall  
Start Time: 5:00 pm

## CALL TO ORDER FOLLOWED BY PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**ROLL CALL:** Heidi Laub, Alice Dahl, Mark Myers, John Alessia and Mindi Arnold-Buchler.  
Other attendees: Kevin Gray, Public Works Director.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Alice Dahl made a motion to accept the August 2020 meeting minutes. Mark Myers seconded that motion. Motion carried.

**REVIEW OF FREEDOM PARK CLAIMS:** Claims were presented to the board.

## REPORTS:

### Parks Director Report-Mindi Arnold-Buchler

#### Dog Park

Director of Parks, Mindi Arnold-Buchler reported the dog park sale brought in \$350 and 15 new members. The board agreed not to increase bark park fees for 2021. Mindi stated that new drinking dishes and two scoopers were purchased for the dog park. Alice Dahl reported that a donation of a fire hydrant came from Dorothy Eich. Dave Hirata donated his services to restore it and reported he would continue to do so if it was needed in the future. Mindi stated she would send Mr. Hirata a thank you from the board. Alice reported she sent one from Cedar Creek Township too. Kevin Gray was able to pick up the donation and place it at the park.

#### Restrooms

Portable restrooms were discussed and the board has decided to keep one portable unit on-site throughout the year. John Alessia suggested to reach out to the vendor and ask if they would discount the rental additionally if the board would pay a one-year contract with them instead of going month to month. Mindi stated she would reach out to them.

#### Disc Golf

Mindi brought up disc golf use for tournaments and how special event pricing should be handled for the volunteer group that helps maintain the course. The board stated they would like to charge the adopted fee structure and policy on special events and they would like the group to approach the board and ask for assistance in finding a sponsor to offset the fee. Alice stated she would be able to assist them in finding sponsors to offset fees. Heidi asked if the board decided to put a donation box on the disc golf course. The board discussed the opportunity but did not feel that it was cost effective to purchase and install one in an effort to collect a few donations.



### Board Members

Heidi Laub  
Chairman  
West Creek  
Township

Mark Myers  
Vice-Chairman  
Town of Lowell

John Alessia  
Secretary  
Lowell Town Council

Alice Dahl  
Cedar Creek  
Township

Mindi Arnold-Buchler  
Director of Parks

## **Maintenance Report-Kevin Gray**

### **End of Season Report**

Kevin stated that the end of season maintenance is almost finished. Some tree work and mowing have taken place. He believes the part-time maintenance position will be finishing up in the next week.

### **Tractor**

The board was presented with two quotes for new mowing equipment. Kevin explained the types of models that were quoted from Bales and Ruim Equipment with a third quote that was expected to come in soon. Discussion continued. The board did not act at this time and asked Kevin to look into used options and finance options.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Lake County Use of Freedom Park Office**

Mindi updated the board that an agreement has been reached on Lake County's use of the house for a COVID-19 test site. The county will pay \$1,100/month to Freedom Park which will include utilities, garbage and snow removal. Lowell Town Council approved and signed the agreement in their October 12, 2020 Town Council meeting. Lake County will have this on a future agenda for the commissioners to act on. Mindi asked the board to designate \$250 of the rent to go towards appropriation 341 for utilities and the remainder of \$850 to go into a Capital Improvement Fund. John Alessia made a motion to deposit \$250 of the rent collected in to line item 341 for utilities and the remainder to be deposited into a capital improvement for the life of the lease. Mark Myers seconded that motion. Motion carried.

### **2021 Budget**

The board was presented with the 2021 budget proposal. Mindi reviewed the budget with them. Mark Myers made a motion to accept the 2021 budget as proposed. John Alessia seconded that motion. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Signage at Freedom Park**

Mindi prepared an evaluation and assessment of signage at Freedom Park. Mitchell Zulaka provided estimates for the board review. The board discussed the need to update signage and funds to be used to do so. Dog park signage will be updated as soon as possible and dog park gift will be used to fund the dog park signage update. Other park signage will be updated at the start of 2021. The board discussed using remaining 2020 funds in 2021 to finish the remaining signage updates.

**Program Fees at Freedom Park**

Mindi asked the board to plan a work session to discuss Lowell Park program fees. The board discussed a few options and plan to meet in the future.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS and CORRESPONDENCE:**

Alice Dahl took this opportunity to discuss future plans for Liberty and Freedom Park. John Alessia updated her and the board on the vision the town has for Liberty Park and how it can benefit Freedom Park. Discussion followed among the board about the future plans, funding and development of Freedom Park.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The board discussed the option of quarterly and or as needed meetings. January, April, July, October were established as meeting months with the meeting taking place on the third Tuesday of each month at 5pm at Lowell Town Hall. John Alessia made a motion to meet quarterly and as need with January 19 2021 at 5pm as the next regular scheduled meeting. Mark Myers seconded that motion. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 6:02pm