

Freedom Park Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, July 20th, 2021, Lowell Town Hall  
Start Time: 6:00 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE FOLLOWED BY CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL:** Dorothy Eich, Alice Dahl, Heidi Laub. Other attendees: Kevin Gray Public Works Director, Craig Hendrix Town Manager, Paulina Hasty Parks and Recreation, and Matthew VanDrunen of Lowell Volunteer Fire Department.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Heidi Laub made a motion to accept the January 2021 meeting minutes. Alice Dahl seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Flannel Fest**

Matt VanDrunen asked for the Flannel Fest Event hosted by the Lowell Fire Department to be approved. He asked for the event fee to be waived and to be allowed to sell alcohol at the event. Alice Dahl made a motion to approve. Dorothy Eich seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**REVIEW OF FREEDOM PARK CLAIMS:** Claims were presented to the board. Alice Dahl made a motion to accept the claims. Dorothy Eich seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Bark Park Update**

Paulina Hasty reported the Bark Park has eighty-seven members. Heidi Laub asked if that total was higher or lower than previous years. Paulina Hasty was unsure about previous years but added that the total went up about fifty-five members from January. Dorothy Eich added that the total is lower than previous years, stating it is usually around ninety-seven members. Heidi Laub suggested it may be lower because of Covid.

**Maintenance Update**

Kevin Gray stated that since the last meeting he has sprayed the trees, parking lots, and trails. He plans to finish spraying this upcoming week, adding he hopes to have it finished by the Barktober Fest. Kevin Gray added he has repaired gates at Bark Park numerous times, has done many repairs on equipment, both zero turns and the John Deere needed fixing, weed eaters needed fixing multiple times. He stated that the starter plate fell off the Kobota. Alice Dahl asked if it was the Kobota that was recently purchased. Kevin Gray confirmed it was the same one they purchased about three years ago. He informed that the Kobota required engine removal and that was a large job. Alice Dahl asked if we contacted the company to see if this was a normal occurrence. Kevin Gray stated that we are no longer under warranty and this is not something that should be happening with the Kobota. Gazebo, volleyball court, and soccer fields have been sprayed as well.

### **COVID-19 Test Site at Freedom Park Update**

Kevin Gray stated that the county is no longer renting the house for Covid-19 testing. Kevin Gray informed that the utilities are still on because they are needed to run the well. The utility bill is higher than budgeted for because the county rented longer than they had planned. Kevin Gray stated the income from them offsets the utility cost. Heidi Laub asked if the town was still planning on tearing down the house. Kevin Gray and Alice Dahl discuss how the cost would depend on when the project is completed, who would complete the project, and who would fund the project.

### **Connecting Water**

Kevin Gray explained that when the house is torn down then we will not be able to use the well. He has a plan to tie the water to the water tower. Alice Dahl inquired about the cost of the project. Craig Hendrix added that the white house at Freedom Park would be taken down this winter and the project would have an estimated supply cost of under one-thousand dollars.

Alice Dahl discussed wanting to pave the walking trail at Freedom Park. She stated that herself and Heidi would like to fund as much of the trail that they can. Heidi Laub recommends having a special meeting just for the budget where they can discuss this project further. Craig Hendrix agrees. Craig Hendrix, Heidi Laub, and Alice Dahl converse about the type of payment, account, and logistics of the paving project. Alice Dahl suggested doing paving project this year, Craig Hendrix suggests waiting until next year for paving project. Alice and Craig then discuss the logistics of bids and how it works for the Town rather than the State.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Barktober Fest**

Dorothy Eich asked if Parks would donate a couple passes for Barktober Fest, like she has received in previous years. Alice Dahl made a motion to donate. Heidi Laub seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **Rental Profit**

Alice Dahl asks what the profit from the rental of the white house was. Paulina Hasty stated that the profit was six-thousand six hundred dollars.

#### **Equipment**

Alice Dahl asks if the equipment at Freedom Park is good enough to keep using. Craig Hendrix stated that it is not. Craig Hendrix suggests taking the twenty-thousand dollars and purchasing new equipment. Heidi Laub asks since Kevin Gray will be leaving, and he currently fixes the equipment, what the plan is. Kevin Gray states that town employees would have to fix them. Heidi Laub asks why we own equipment rather than hiring out for the upkeep jobs. Kevin Gray says he will get quotes to hire out. Kevin Gray states that replacing the equipment we have would be about fifty to sixty thousand dollars.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS and CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

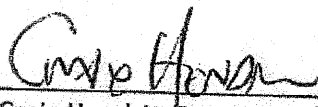
**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 5 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business, Alice Dahl made a motion to adjourn at 6:23 p.m., seconded by Dorothy Eich and carried with three ayes.

  
Heidi Laub, Chairperson

Attest:

  
Craig Hendrix, Recording Secretary