

Freedom Park Board Meeting
Thursday, September 15, 2022
5:00 pm at Lowell Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER FOLLOWED BY PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Heidi Laub called the meeting to order and led the meeting attendees in speaking the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL-Heide Laub, Alice Dahl, Craig Hendrix, John Alessia, Kevin Gray, Dorothy Eich and Cyndi Hughes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-John Alessia made a motion to approve minutes from March 8th, 2022, and Alice Dahl second the motion. Motion carried with four in favor, and none opposed. Some discussion took place about increasing annual participation to next year's budget. More funding is necessary to maintain the park and park equipment. Heidi Laub noted that she signed the previous minutes.

REVIEW OF FREEDOM PARK CLAIMS- Heidi Laub made a motion to accept the claims and Alice Dahl second that motion. Everyone was given a current budget and old budget in the folder. Motion carried with four in favor, and none opposed.

REPORTS-Kevin Gray reported that the large mower was broken, and he is unable to fix it. That the gas was good for the rest of the season. He also reported that the Town upgraded the existing dump truck and plow. The new truck replaces two existing vehicles that are be retired. The recent storm blew out some windows at the park and that all the windows need to be fastened and he will get it don't in the winter. It was also reported that the bathrooms have been painted and many people have been commenting on how great the park is looking. Cyndi Hughes reported that the dog park membership is up to 93 members for 2022.

OLD BUSINESS

BARK PARK ADA IMPROVEMENT-

Craig Hendrix reported the update on the ADA Improvement projects and the bidding process was discussed.

POWER AT THE RESTROOM

Duane's Electric completed the installation of the electricity in the restroom facility.

PARK OFFICE DEMOLITION

Craig Hendrix reported that the demolition of the park office was on hold due to other projects being a priority.

MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Salary of current maintenance staff was discussed as well as future increases. Kevin informed the board about the signs he ordered for the trail and volleyball court status. He also reported that he planted the saplings around the fire pit area that the lions Club donated. Some discussion was had on future sapling being planted along fenced area. Some discussion was had on the current well and if American Water needed to be tied in.

NEW BUSINESS

BARKTOBERFEST

Craig Hendrix explained to Dorothy Eich that dogs are not permitted in the park except for in the dog park area. A waiver will be necessary from the Town Council to have a dog walk on the trail for the event. He noted that he will ask the council for approval at the next meeting.

PICKLEBALL COURT PROJECT

Much discussion was held on this project including various locations for the courts and the proposed work and materials. Kevin reported that the original location was not good due to a septic field. After much discussion the board is going to review different options including the current skate park. They will discuss this again after some research is complete.

INSTALLATION OF EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

Heidi Laub reported she emailed Kevin Gray the spots she was looking to have the equipment installed. Kevin will review the proposed locations for the exercise equipment to be installed.

DRAFT BUDGET 2023

Craig Hendrix asked each entity to increase their annual park contribution to \$12,500 starting in 2023. The increase in material, labor and amount of work being completed in the park requires additional funding. Heidi Laub reported that she had already completed her budget for 2023. She suggested budget for the park be discussed in early spring prior to the townships submitting budgets for approval. The townships will review additional funding in 2023 as they arise.

NO ANNOUNCEMENTS OR CORRESPONDENCE AT THIS TIME

NEXT MEETING

No specific date was set but there may need to be a meeting before March to update on the pickle ball court research.

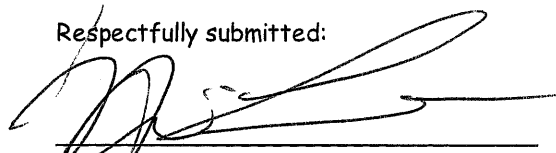
PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

John Alessia made a motion to adjourn at 6:11 pm. Dorothy Eich second the motion. Motion carried with four in favor, and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted:



Heidi Laub, Chairperson

Attest:



Craig Hendrix, Recording Secretary