



**Freedom Park Committee**  
**Members**

Randy Hall  
Chairperson  
Freedom Park Board

Harold Mussman  
West Creek Township  
Executive Secretary  
Freedom Park Board

LeAnn Angerman  
Freedom Park Board  
Lowell Town Council

Alice Dahl  
Cedar Creek Township  
Freedom Park Board

Tom Sullivan  
Park Superintendent

# FREEDOM PARK

Freedom Park Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday May 17, 2016  
6:00pm

Start Time: 6:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Board Members Present:

Randy Hall, Harold Mussman, Leann Angerman and Alice Dahl  
Were all present. Also present, Park Superintendent Tom  
Sullivan and Park Secretary Candy Johnson. Town Manager  
Jeff Sheridan and Town Counsel Member Will Farrellberg  
were also in attendance.

also present; guests Mike Triumph and Scott Baum.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the April 2016 Freedom Park Meeting  
minutes was made by Harold Mussman and seconded by Randy  
Randy Hall. Motion carried 4/0

Review Freedom Park Claims:

After discussion of the presented claims, motion to approve  
the claims as presented was made by Alice Dahl and  
seconded by Leann Angerman. Motion carried 4/0

Reports

Freedom Park Updates:

This week and into next week, we are going to have the trees  
and bushes planted that The Lions Club donated to Freedom  
Park. Leann asked where the trees/bushes would be planted.

Freedom Park Updates Continued:

LeAnn Angerman asked where the trees were going to be planted. Tom advised that the pines (5) would be planted by the soccer area. These trees will replace the pines that did not survive the winter. These new trees are larger and better established. There were also (7) maple trees and (4) bushes that will be planted throughout Freedom Park.

In other business, the kiosk will be started tomorrow. The area where it will be installed is near the main entrance to Freedom Park along the north side of the roadway. Tom advised he would need to rent an auger, so, the kiosk should be up and in place by the end of the week.

Next, Tom talked about the mowing of the disc golf area. He advised that there are areas along the north side of the course that are currently too wet to mow. Hopefully the area will be dry enough to bush hog and mow next week. There was no other discussion.

Old Business:

Dog Park Update:

Candy Johnson reported that there are currently 69 members and total bark park revenue of \$3410.00.

Volleyball Court Update:

Tom advised that the Water Department is going to step in and dig out the volleyball court in preparation of the delivery of the sand. This should be completed by the end of this week or next week at the latest. Once the court is dug out we will go ahead and order the sand. LeAnn asked about the estimated cost of the sand, approximately \$3000.00 (this amount is what was quoted.) Alice suggested that the current amount was quoted some time ago and that we should reconfirm what the total cost of the sand including delivery will be. Once delivered, LeAnn asked what would be needed to get the sand in place. Tom advised that he would need to borrow a backhoe from the Street Department. Tom advised it would be nice to have (2) backhoes and an extra man. It would really help to get the job done in a timely manner.

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Volleyball Court Update Continued:

Tom advised that he would need to confirm planning with Gregg Shook. There was no other discussion about the volleyball court.

Walking Path:

Discussion followed with regard to work on the walking path. Town Council Member Will Farrellbegg was present. Will is also a Lions Club member. He advised the "The Lions Club" would like to donate financially toward the completion of the "path project" out at Freedom Park.

Alice Dahl advised that she had recently spoken with Kevin Madison who is a heavy equipment operator, about the Freedom Park walking path project. He would like to submit a bid to do the path work; however, he needs to know exactly what supplies are needed, along with the exact anticipated length of the walking path once completed. Once the contractor has a true picture of all that is needed, he will be able to submit an accurate bid.

Discussion about available funding followed as well as the manpower that would be needed to complete these projects.

Discussion between the Freedom Park Committee members followed. There was extensive discussion with regard to Freedom Park.

Once again the subject of the Park Office being located at Freedom Park was discussed. LeAnn Angerman addressed this issue saying:

Yes, there are (3) separate entities here, the Town of Lowell, West Creek and Cedar Creek and yes, our park employees are out at Freedom Park.,

What I think sometimes we forget, and Alice and I talked about this today; if what we need to make this group work better (Freedom Park Committee) is to pull the Parks Department completely out of Freedom Park,, we can do that, but what we need to do to make that happen is; Tom Sullivan goes back to working only for the Town of Lowell, nothing in Freedom Park. (Randy Hall) So that means that the Park Dept. moves their office from Freedom Park too.

(LeAnn) Right, I can't do this overnight; it may take some time to get that done. It may take a year to get it done because we have to get someplace

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for the Park Office to go. But, is this something we want to talk about, and if we do, we can talk about it, but here is what needs to happen, because this is a very detailed situation to get into. This would mean that all (3) entities split everything at 1/3 absolutely. Also, if there is no Tom Sullivan then you need to hire a new Tom Sullivan. It's the Towns truck Tom uses.

The Town pays Toms benefits, you do not pay anything towards benefits. You don't pay for Candy or Mindi.

All of these things, each entity has to be willing to encompass all that expense split exactly three (3) ways. If everyone agrees that we can split all that three (3) ways, we can start looking at that. I think sometimes what people don't see is how much the Town of Lowell actually put into Freedom Park. Yes, the Park Office is at Freedom Park, and Tom, how much of your time is spent at Freedom Park? Tom replied 80% to 90%. Leann replied that West Creek and Cedar Creek do not pay 80% to 90% of his salary and you do not pay anything towards his benefits. You don't pay anything towards the Town truck. (Randy Hall) So why did the Town of Lowell want to be a part of Freedom Park? Why does Freedom Park always have to be separate? (LeAnn) replied: because all (3) entities went together to purchase Freedom Park. Evergreen, Liberty, Reservation and Moose are all "Town Parks". Discussion followed with regard to the logistics of how Freedom Park operates and the timeframe of how projects are able to be completed in a timely fashion. Discussion followed with regard to the Parks Soccer Program and the fact that the soccer fields are here at Freedom Park and the revenue that is generated by this park program. Should Freedom Park receive financial compensation because the Park Soccer Program since the soccer fields are all located at Freedom Park. Could this program be a source of revenue for Freedom Park? Discussion followed about all expenses involved with running a program like Parks Soccer. There was also discussion about the use of Town equipment for Freedom Park projects and volunteers using this equipment to work on these projects. Discussion followed about the pumping station that was put in on Freedom Park property and the water tower that will be located out here at Freedom Park. There was also discussion about the differences between

"contracting" out projects and having Town employees involved in Freedom Park projects. LeAnn also added that the reason all equipment repairs are completed by the Town employees when possible, is because it is more cost effective for the Parks verses outsourcing needed equipment repairs. Discussion followed.

Disc Golf:

Mike Triumph who is an avid disc golf player was present to address some concerns and ideas concerning the disc golf course. Mr. Triumph advised that he is an avid disc golfer and has been involved in the sport for over 25 years. He has been involved with installing courses, designing courses, and maintaining courses and currently on Thursday evenings he runs a disc golf league out at Freedom Park. Discussion followed about the mowing of the grass at the course and the fact the grass is too tall making it difficult to find lost frisbees when people are playing the course. Mr. Triumph advised that he has volunteered his own time and equipment in order to make this course playable; however he does not have the time to mow on a regular basis. He stated that the last time he had mowed was about a month ago. He went into detail about what he had mowed in order to keep the course playable. He advised that he understands that there have been parts of the course that have been too wet to mow, however when the mowing is done with a batwing, Tom is cutting huge fields and he is cutting the course at 4". This is fine for the main areas but you can't play soccer on that, they come out with another mower to maintain those fields. Mr. Triumph advised that he has basically doing the same thing on the disc golf course with his own tractor to cut the course to 2 1/2" using a "mulching" deck. He feels that the course is not being utilized because it is not being mowed to a length that is not conducive for game play. Mr. Triumph stated that he would like to organize and run tournaments out on the disc golf course. Discussion followed with regard to his bringing his own equipment out to Freedom Park and the liability involved with his volunteering his time and equipment. LeAnn asked if there is a proper grass

length to be maintained for disc golf courses. Mr. Triumph advised that the course just needs to be playable. LeAnn asked about tournaments and how many tournaments would be played on the course. Mike advised that they play one tournament a year, but we would like to do 2 tournaments a year, 1 in the spring and 1 in the fall, however we do league play every week, year around. At this point Mr. Triumph suggested that there is a parcel of acreage between the soccer fields and the disc golf course this is regularly mowed. He suggested that if manpower is an issue, why not let that parcel of park property go un-mowed and dedicate more mowing time to the disc golf course. Randy suggested that leaving a portion of the park in a "prairie" state might be beneficial. LeAnn asked Tom what he thought about this idea. Tom responded that the un-mowed grass is going to get tall and if/when we decide to mow that area again, it will be quite a project. Randy advised that there is an un-mowed area at "Mittal" which is mowed maybe, once a year. There is also a section over by the proposed baseball fields that is not mowed, so this area would look somewhat the same. Discussion followed. Mike Triumph suggested that having the Fire Department do an "open burn" on these un-mowed parcels might be beneficial and would bring the area back to a natural "prairie" state. LeAnn asked Tom if he has other concerns about leaving the area that is being discussed. He stated "the aesthetics". (LeAnn) What can we do that would make this section like a "nature preserve area" rather than leaving that unused area un-mowed? Tom suggested signage and prairie type plantings. LeAnn stated that converting an area to a "prairie state" would mean we need to upgrade the Master Plan. (LeAnn) This is a huge decision; I am not saying I would not support this change. I think if it was done the right way we could even cut walking paths through that natural area if we did let it go un-mowed. If we were to do this, would it accomplish one of the goals here, which would be keeping the disc golf area trimmed low enough so is playable for disc golfers? Tom advised that the area has just been too wet to mow at 2". Discussion followed. Jeff Sheridan discussed the extra time it would take to keep the disc golf area mowed as discussed (approximately 10 hours per week). LeAnn asked what the salary for the part-time employee is. Tom replied \$10.00

per hour, so approximately an additional \$80.00 per week to get that done. So anticipating the mowing season, we would begin mowing in mid-March. This would involve approximately 3 months of mowing weekly and 3 months of mowing bi-weekly mowing. Discussion followed with regard to the disc golfers putting in; say \$1.00 each per week to help defray the additional costs involved with mowing. LeAnn asked if each entity would be willing to put in an additional \$250.00 a year to help defray these additional mowing costs.

At this point another guest, Scott Baum who also was present to talk with the Freedom Park Committee advised that he was present because he plays on an adult soccer league. He advised that we want to bring their home field out to Freedom Park. Scott advised that he has spoken with Tom and we have been thinking of areas where we could set up our field. We were thinking of a new area of Freedom Park but there is nowhere that is flat enough for an adult soccer field. We were paying \$200.00 a year to play on our current location. We are willing to come to Freedom Park and set up a lease agreement or a contract where each season spring and fall we will pay \$100.00 to use the field. Scott said he was thinking we would use a current field and somehow we would paint additional lines for adult play. Scott advised they would supply their own goals and any needed maintenance to the field we play on. An adult soccer field is the size of a football field. Discussion followed. At this point Mr. Sheridan suggested that Scott Baum and Supt. Sullivan meet and choose a location for a field a field and come to next months meeting with location for the adult soccer field. Scott added that like disc golf, we would hold tournaments which would benefit Freedom Park financially. Scott added that their league has their own insurance. So a "certificate of insurance can be provided to the Town. There was no other discussion with regard to adult soccer and discussion went back to the mowing of the disc golf course.

LeAnn asked Tom if each entity put in an extra \$250.00 for the mowing, would that be enough for the additional time required to maintain the disc golf course. Discussion about what would need to be mowed followed.

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Alice Dahl made the motion that each entity would put in additional funds of \$250.00 for the mowing of the disc golf course. Harold Mussman seconded the motion. Motion carried 4/0.

Tom asked how the budget would work with the additional funds. Mr. Sheridan advised that it would require an additional appropriation. Mr. Sheridan advised that he would work with Judy Walters with regard to getting this done.

LeAnn reconfirmed that the park property that we had talked about not mowing will continue to be mowed. The additional funds will take care of the additional time that will be required to mow the disc golf course as needed.

In other business, we need to discuss the golf Cart and why it is needed at Freedom Park. Discussion followed. We did have a golf cart in the past. The cart belonged to Scott Geisen who was our part-time employee at Freedom Park for several years. He recently passed away, so the golf cart is no longer available. LeAnn advised that she had looked on line at golf carts and costs vary a great deal. LeAnn asked Tom to check on prices and availability of a used golf cart and get back to the Freedom Park Committee with this information.

Discussion went back to contacting Kevin Madison with regard to the exact footage of the proposed walking path.

Randy Hall stated that he would like to go ahead and make the motion to allow the adult soccer league to have their playing field at Freedom Park if Scott Baum and Tom come up with a location for this field, excluding the area that has been designated for baseball fields. LeAnn said she has a problem with this being approved before an actual location for the field is chosen. There was no second so this decision will be made next month.

There was no other business and the motion to adjourn was mad by Randy Hall and seconded by Harold Mussman. The motion carried 4/0 at 7:20p.m.