



FREEDOM PARK

Board Members

Heidi Laub
Chairman
West Creek Township

Alice Dahl
Vice Chairman
Cedar Creek Township

Dorothy Eich
Secretary
Park Advisory
Committee

Will Farrellbegg
Lowell Town Council

Mindi Arnold-Buchler
Director of Parks

Freedom Park Committee Minutes
Tuesday, November, 2019
Start time 6:00 pm
Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Freedom Park Committee members present: Alice Dahl, Will Farrellbegg, Dorothy Eich, Heidi Laub. Also present; Mindi Arnold-Buchler, Parks Director, and Kevin Gray, Public Works Director

Craig Hendrix, Lowell Town Manager was present.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve October 15, 2019 Freedom Park Committee minutes was made by Will Farrellbegg and seconded by Alice Dahl. The motion carried 4/0.

Review of Freedom Park Claims for August and September:

Board needs to see why Freedom Park is paying for the Internet and NIPSCO in the house. After review of the claims, Will Farrellbegg motioned to accept these claims for other than the two things (Internet & NIPSCO) that need explanation, and Alice Dahl seconded. The motion carried 4/0.

Reports :

Nick Beck, Eagle Scout was recognized for completing the horse shoe pits. Shoes will winter in the office.

Old Business: Budget should have been addressed in August, delayed due to items to be worked out.

New Business: Town of Lowell will be moving The Lowell Parks Department office out of the house and into the Town Hall. Discussion on removing the stuff that the Town of Lowell stores in the buildings at Freedom Park. Realtor Opinion the office rent could generate \$500-\$600 monthly. The house is not zoned business, would need variance for renting the buildings. There maybe asbestos in the barn, need to get that tested.

New Business:

Craig Hendrix questioned how the budget and township funding works. How to move forward on equal participation on budget. Budget not enough for operating the park. Money is needed for improvements. The road needs fixed. Craig suggested \$12,000 each to match the budget. Bond was previously backed up by taxes, now may need referendum. Mindi advised the Board is 701 not recognized as a Park Board by the DNR for grant purposes. Park programs should be responsible to pay a fee to Freedom Park to use the soccer field. About 450 players a year. Add a few dollars to each player so money can come back to Freedom Park. Special event fees need to be larger. Budget discussion continued as work session. The goal is for the revenues generated at the park to make the park to pay for itself.

Announcements and Correspondence:

The Trustees asked that the future meeting time be changed, to be held monthly during working hours. Motion by Will Farrellbegg to change Freedom Park Board meetings to 9:00 AM on the third Tuesday of the month, Second by Alice Dahl. The next meeting of the Freedom Park Committee will be held on Monday, December 2nd 2019 at 9:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Dorothy Eich made the motion to do so and Alice Dahl seconded it.