

# FREEDOM PARK

Freedom Park Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 19, 2021 Lowell Town Hall  
Start Time: 5:00 pm

## CALL TO ORDER FOLLOWED BY PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**ROLL CALL:** Heidi Laub, Alice Dahl, Dorothy Eich, John Alessia and Mindi Arnold-Buchler. Other attendees: Kevin Gray, Public Works Director and guest David McClean.

**DISC GOLF:** David McClean spoke to the board about hosting a disc golf tournament for June 27, 2021. He asked the board if they would find him a sponsor to cover the cost of the special event fees. Alice Dahl stated she would work on this for him. David took a moment to update the board about the course and what his volunteer group has been able to complete on the course. He did speak about trying to place mulch and timbers on the course in the future. Mindi asked David to speak with Kevin Gray when he got closer to this project timeline so they could coordinate. Mindi then reported the disc golf park gift line-item current balance was \$265.89 if he chooses to use those funds toward future maintenance projects on the course. Kevin asked David if he had intentions to move the remainder of the concrete bags that are on the course. Discussion followed. Kevin and David agreed to meet to discuss this and future projects. Mindi stated the special event application and certificate of insurance deadline would be March 27, 2021. Alice asked what would happen with COVID-19 when the event date approached. Mindi asked David to think about planning the event in pods of 25 just in case restrictions are in place at that time. David stated he has already been considering planning the tournament for this type of restrictions. David thanked the board for their time and excused himself from the meeting.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Alice Dahl motioned for Heidi Laub to remain in the Chairman position. John Alessia seconded that motion. Motion carried. Alice Dahl motioned for John Alessia to remain in the secretary position. Dorothy Eich seconded the motion. Motion carried. John Alessia motioned for Alice Dahl to remain in the Vice Chairman position. Dorothy Eich seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** John Alessia made a motion to accept the October 2020 meeting minutes. Alice Dahl seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

## **REPORTS:** Parks Director Report-Mindi Arnold-Buchler **Dog Park**

Mindi reported the dog park code was changed and 31 memberships have been purchased thus far. She reported that 47 members were affected by the Covid -19 shut down which will result in a small loss in revenue with discounts given to returning members. Mindi asked the board to start thinking about changing the gates and lock system soon. There have been several issues with the locks and gates in the past and she hoped for a more permanent solution in the future.



### **Board Members**

Heidi Laub  
Chairman  
West  
Creek  
Township

Alice Dahl  
Vice-  
Chairman  
Cedar  
Creek  
Township

John Alessia  
Secretary  
Lowell Town  
Councilman

Dorothy Eich  
Town of Lowell  
Member

Mindi Arnold-  
Buchler  
Director of  
Parks

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

A few maintenance requests have come through from the health department and Kevin has addressed them. A new thermostat was placed in the office and the hallway entry light was repaired. Kevin has been plowing and shoveling at the site. Mindi reported she updated the Town website with Lake County Health Departments information as a courtesy as the park office and the town hall have been receiving several phone calls.

### **Recycling Center Fencing**

Mindi reported the PVC fence that surrounded the recycling center did not withstand the high wind storm a few months back and that several panels are broken and have fallen. She asked the board if they would like to have the fence repaired or removed when weather permits. The board agreed to remove the fence instead of repair it.

### **Janitor**

Mindi asked the board if they were considering opening the restrooms for the season and hiring a janitor. She stated this process would need to begin before the April meeting. Seasonal positions are hired in April to begin work in May. The board asked if Mindi could check in via email in March for further direction. Mindi agreed to do so.

### **Maintenance Report-Public Works Director-Kevin Gray**

Kevin reported the furnace in the maintenance shop was repaired. The one-ton dump truck has been repaired and has the plow attached for the season. Kevin discussed removing the fuel tank on the property and going into a key system that the town operates for their vehicles. Freedom parks gas usage would be reported and deducted from their budget, just as other town departments. Kevin believes the diesel fuel tank will remain on site. Four loads of sand were brought to the volleyball courts and will be spread when the weather permits. Heidi asked if the Lowell Rotary club was still interested in helping with renovating the volleyball courts. Mindi stated she knew COVID-19 had slowed their opportunity to run events that would create funds for community service projects. She hoped they will be able to host their purse bingo soon with restrictions being lifted for gatherings. Kevin reported he will try to spray the trees in the spring since he was unable to finish that project at the end of the season.

Kevin also reported that someone is doing donuts in the parking lots and now on the soccer fields. Discussion followed and Kevin will seek out quotes on cameras and video surveillance for the park.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Heidi asked if the janitor position would be the same as second part-time maintenance position that was incorporated at the end of season last year. Mindi stated there would be two different seasonal positions available for the season.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Program Fees from Lowell Parks at Freedom Park**

The Lowell Town Council approved Freedom Parks proposal to charge a \$5 per participant fee from Lowell Park programs hosted at Freedom Park. This fee will apply to the soccer program and any future programs that are brought to Freedom Park from Lowell Parks. Funds collected will be placed into a capital improvements line item for Freedom Park. Another part of this agreement states Freedom Park board will need to approve any new Lowell Park programs at Freedom Park before moving forward with the program.

#### **Freedom Park Usage by Lowell Parks**

Mindi had asked if the board was ok with moving forward with the arrangement of allowing Lowell Parks to host free to attend events at Freedom Park at no charge. The board stated they agreed to this. In addition to the agreement, Freedom Park Board will need to approve any Lowell Park events hosted at Freedom Park before moving forward with the event.

Heidi asked for a motion to pass the usage and fee agreements. John Alessia made the motion. Alice Dahl seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS and CORRESPONDENCE:**

None.

**NEXT MEETING:** April 20, 2021 at 5pm

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Dorothy Eich asked the board if she would need to fill out a special event permit for Barktoberfest. Mindi explained the permit will need to be filled out and the \$25 fee will be collected for the permit. The rental fee for use of the park was waived when the board adopted new the new fee structure in 2020. Dorothy stated she is planning the event for October 2, 2021. Mindi provided Dorothy with the Freedom Park Special Event application.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm