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**From:** annebelovich  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2017 3:15 PM  
**To:** davidjthomsen  
**Subject:** CUP

Hi David,

I have written a little summary of my thoughts on your wonderful project. Let me know if I need to change anything-- inaccuracies or omissions or? Is there anything else I can do?

Best wishes,

Anne

#### FREEBORN RESERVE

For many years I have had the pleasure of passing by the Freeborn Lutheran Church and its associated country cemetery on my way to my nearby home. The building is small by present day standards and has a simple, pure architectural style. This reflects the fact that it was built by the local farmers with hand tools more than 100 years ago. In recent years I have watched a restoration process of the church and adjacent, associated property that will preserve this wonderful part of our local history.

A special part of this new development is the establishment of an outdoor public display that will record the history and inform the public about the early settlers of the area. There are two mortice and tendon cabins at the site built of handsplit logs from the ancient cedars that once grew in this area. They are beautifully crafted, without nails, using a building method that has been used in northern European countries for thousands of years. I am proud to be able to say that one is my donation from where it previously stood on my property. I was always concerned about what might happen to the cabin after my death. Many of those that existed at one time were cut up and burned for firewood or destroyed in other careless ways. Now I know that it will be preserved for many, many years.

The Bonhoeffer Botanical Garden should be considered a treasure, both locally and for people anywhere who want to study the wonderful collection of native plants or simply for those who want a beautiful place to walk and observe a true natural environment. The collection of native plants is astonishing. Not only are they extensive and planted in an ecologically proper manner, they are labeled with the plant's name. The paths through the garden are well graded and places that need extra safety features are provided with hand rails. I have walked through the garden with a disabled military veteran who had no trouble with the terrain. The natural vegetation also provides a refuge and feeding ground for butterflies, birds and the local mammals, including beavers.

I want to express my appreciation of the work and planning done by Dr. David Thomsen and the volunteers who have worked under his direction to make this wonderful contribution to our community and elsewhere possible.

Anne Belovich