

**LARA Board Meeting, December 12, 2018 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Lowell City Hall**

**Attendance-**Rich Conrad, Perry Beachum, Betsy Davidson, Gary Goff, Greg Canfield, Mark Anderson, Heather Hoffman **Guests:** Dave Austin, Courtney Rapson, Mike Minier

**Minutes-** November minutes supported by Davidson, 2nd by Anderson

**Treasurer's Report-** Payment to Zach's Clean Cut for mowing for \$330.00. Motion for LARA meetings to be held the 2nd Wednesday of each month in 2019. Treasurer's Report supported by Anderson, 2nd by Goff.

**Public Comments:** Representatives from Little League Baseball, Courtney Rapson and Mike Minier, discussed future use of an 18 acre Little League property near the Cooper Woodland. A foundation is being started to allow the property to stay within the community and allow the property to be used by the community in the future. Incorporated trails and access to Cooper Woodland are envisioned as the property is developed into Little League fields.

**Lowell Township LARA Board Opening and Secretary Position:** Gary Goff is moving and can no longer serve on the LARA board. LARA is in need of a Lowell Township Board Representative. Heather Hoffman has graciously volunteered to be Secretary.

**Snowplowing:** The Lowell Area Trailway in front of Metric Manufacturing will be plowed at every snow. The rest of the trail that is plowed will be plowed at 4 inch snowfalls.

**Maintenance-Municipality Rail Trail Commitment and Annual Maintenance-**Lowell Township and Vergennes Township will contribute \$5,000.00 annually toward trail maintenance. The City of Lowell will contribute \$10,000 annually.

**Phase 1A-Gee Drive to M-21:** The silt sacks have been removed along the new trail. LARA will complete the final payment to Ryan Excavating. Mark Anderson will contact Ryan about removing some sand and seeding those areas in the spring.

**Phase 2-Rail Trail Connection:** **1.** The MDOT Grant is a conditional agreement of 3.1 million dollars. **2.** The DNR Grants are being formally withdrawn at this time. Reapplication will occur in the spring by April 1. **3.** Private Funding: Meijer has been very positive about providing considerable help in fulfilling any funding shortage. **4.** LARA needs to address the railroad crossing issue and the considerable application process soon. This is a 6-8 month process.

**Adjourn:** 7:25 p.m.

Gary Goff, LARA Secretary