

LARA Board Meeting, August 9, 2017 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall

Attendance- Betsy Davidson, Gary Goff, Mark Anderson, Heather Hoffman **Guests:** Mark Fritzma, Ron Gunderson, Greg Canfield, Dave Austin

Minutes- Supported by Davidson, 2nd by Anderson

Treasurer's Report- Checks paid to: Annual renewal of LARA domain name (45.00), Williams and Works Phase 1A (7225.97)

Public Comments: **Greg Canfield** mentioned a dead tree overhanging trail on the corner of Alden Nash and Foreman. The tree is on private property. He also wanted to be updated on Phase 2 progress. **Heather Hoffman** reported that the driveway crossing the trail just north of the boardwalk was constructed according to county specifications. She also said the trail will get a 2nd coating near the entrance to the new housing development in the same area. **Dave Austin** brought up a future need to create a trail standard for refinishing the trail (such as sawcutting) when construction disrupts a portion of the trail. **Ron Gunderson** (rail trail authority board) updated progress on completion of the rail trail pieces approaching Lowell: a 1.5 million dollar grant for completion is still on track, but no update on the DNR grant getting awarded.

Phase 1A-Gee Drive to M-21: Dave Austin met with easement owners. There is a concern about vegetation planting to create privacy concealment. Dave suggested a good faith monetary offer to satisfy owners. The offer is based on the following: 1. Temporary Grading Permit Good Faith Offer (Permit Area/Total Land Area) x Value of Land x 10%. 2. Permanent Easement Good Faith Offer (Easement Area/Total Land Area) x Value of Land x 50%. This would amount to the following offers to land owners: 1600.00 to Vaught, 250.00 to Salvador, 650.00 to Mulder, 3.00 to Michigan Wire. Motion to approve good faith offer supported by Anderson, 2nd by Davidson.

Additional info. from Dave: Michigan Wire wants fence construction to be taken care of by LARA. Lowell Light and Power will reset power poles and remove trees at no cost. AT&T wants \$14,600 to move 3 utility boxes. LARA could slightly move the trail to avoid 1 or 2 of the boxes.

Phase 1A trail extension cost has become more than LARA has in the budget at this time. LARA could just proceed with the wall along the Vaught property, the tree removal, and the fence at Michigan Wire. LARA wants Dave Austin to proceed with the bid process to be able to get a firm understanding of the amount of money still needed to complete the project.

Phase 2-Rail trail connection: Discussion of the future Lowell connection trail and maintenance money: to be able to use Rail trail authority board endowment money for maintenance, the Rail Trail Authority Board needs to be involved in construction and design of the Lowell connection trail. There was also discussion of a trailhead on Front St. as a joint effort with LARA and the rail trail group.

Adjourn: 8:05 P.M.

Gary Goff, LARA Secretary