

Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA)

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 21, 2019

Location: City Hall

Perry Beachum (Chair) City of Lowell resident
Heather Hoffman (Secretary) Vergennes Twp Clerk
Betsy Davidson (Treasurer) Vergennes Twp Resident
Mark Anderson (Vice Chair) Lowell Township Trustee
Vacant- Lowell Township resident
Greg Canfield- City of Lowell Council Member
Rich Conrad, at large rep

Board Members present: Hoffman, Davidson, Beachum, Canfield, Conrad. Absent: Anderson
Others present: Dave Austin- Williams and Works

MINUTES: June Minutes were approved as presented with a Motion made by Canfield 2nd by Davidson.
Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT- The treasurer's report was read- Invoices to be approved- Railroad - \$11,750 - Addorio – Mailbox renewal and domain name \$255.17 Insurance annual renewal \$2,161 pink arrow banner \$100 sponsor; Zack's clean-cut lawncare May – July \$1,205 Included weeding and spraying /brush hog and skid steer and trimming needs. Worked on Pavilion; Williams and Works Three invoices for Phase 2 grants \$2,275.00. Motioned by Canfield, Conrad 2nd. All yes- **Motion carried.**

BHT&D – Audit for 18/19 is completed. We passed and this needs to be signed. Beachum made a motion to sign Audit document, Canfield 2nd- All yes **Motion carried.**

Reminder, LARA received the \$25,000 grant funding that was approved by the Lowell DDA last year - this was a contribution made for the trail from the Gee Dr. to M21 down Alden Nash.

Old Business:

Trail Maintenance-Beachum reached out to Mike Harding to get a quote for crack sealing along the trail. The quote was \$1,500. There was discussion that there may be more needed to maintain the trail in some areas. Saw cutting some areas of the trail where cracks have opened up, may be needed. Dave Austin volunteered to meet with Harding to go over the trail needs. Canfield motioned to get a quote from Mike Harding to provide trail maintenance to include crack sealing and saw-cutting larger cracks with repair and to approve Dave Austin to meet with Harding to discuss trail needs. In the interest of time, a bid will be approved not to exceed \$4,000. Hoffman seconded the motion. Perry suggests to do crack seal this fall, then get quotes for re-sealing the trail. Besty reminded the Board of the resealing maintenance plan and she would revisit this. All voted yes. **Motion Carried.**

Public Comment: Two residents were in attendance. Both live in Vergennes Township. One is new to the area and looking to get involved with the trails. The other resident is a long-time resident and user of the trail system. The back of her home is along the trail and she was interested in information on plans for trail improvement- Dave Austin gave some history of the Rail Trail project that was approved to begin construction late this year - crushed asphalt trail surface that was approved by MDOT. The Rail Trail will be paved from Foreman to Vergennes- North of Vergennes to Belding will be crushed asphalt -a great improvement to the existing surface.

New Business:

1. **PINK ARROW COMMUNITY DAY** – Friday, AUGUST 23 10 am – 7 pm – West End Reveal, Museum, Pickleball Courts, Pink Arrow Shirts, the new bridge, the new Lowell Township Park 10 am – 7 pm, blood drive, Impact Church, Pink Arrow Game September 13, 2019 Pink Arrow Quiver Run – September 14, 2019 at 8 am- Pink Arrow Quiver Run, Turkey Trott, Harvest Hustle
PINKARROWPRIDE.ORG
2. **Phase 2 – Connection to Flat River Valley Trail (FRVT) and Grand River Valley Trail (GRVT)**
Dave Austin gave an overview of the Rail Trail. Several years ago there was a grant that paid to study the best way to transverse the area since the Railroad in our area is NOT abandoned, unlike all the other areas that this trail transverses. The project is a 6.5 million-dollar project to follow the proposed trail through Lowell. He discussed the 5 million-dollar committed funding, and the 1.5 million-dollar funding deficiency. LARA is working with a timeline to find donors and funding for the 1.5 million dollar gap.
 - There is some interest in the North Country Trail group and the The Iron Bell Trail group which attaches to the North Country Trail -this is a seven-state trail system. There has been some interest in our Phase 2 project from these two larger trail groups which could allow larger foundations to show interest in what our finished trail could provide for enhancement and growth of their trail systems. This interest could help provide the necessary funding to complete or help a project of our size/type.

Next deadline- October 1st for funding commitment deadlines.

Wrap up the Grand Rapids Gravel Easement and the Reagan property easement. Austin will work towards that. Letters of commitment must be submitted to the MDNR.

Canfield motioned to adjourned- All members voted yes.

Meeting Adjourned 6:50 pm.,