

**LARA Board Meeting, April 12, 2017 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Lowell City Hall**

**Attendance-**Al Halbeisen, Perry Beachum, Betsy Davidson, Gary Goff, Alan Teelander, Heather Hoffman **Guests:** Dave Austin, Andrew Schrauben, Don ?, several members of River Valley Rail Trail

**Agenda-**Support by Teelander, second by Halbeisen. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report-**Payment to Williams and Works for \$2186.61 and \$36.00 payment to Lowell Women's Club for advertisement. Motion to pay these bills supported by Halbeisen, second by Hoffman. Motion carried. Davidson presented July 2017-July 2018 budget. Motion to adopt budget supported by Teelander, second by Halbeisen. Motion carried.

**Public Comments:** None

**Phase 1A-Gee Drive to M-21:** Dave Austin (Williams and Works) discussed easement issues. He recommends using same easement language as was used for previous trail areas. There are 5 separate property easements along this trail section. It is still unknown whether the trail on Michigan Wire property will stay in the right of way or pass through their property. City of Lowell still working on sidewalk ordinance to include "trail language". Maintenance of trail should come from City of Lowell or LARA.

**Phase 2-Connection to River Valley Rail Trail:** There was much discussion on possible minor changes to Route B/C, the route that has been recommended by LARA to connect to the River Valley Rail Trail north to Belding and east to Saranac. RVRT members that were present supported this discussion. The grant process can continue whether or not there are any changes to the B/C route.

**Adjourn:** 7:50 p.m.

Gary Goff, LARA Secretary

**LARA Board Meeting, May 10, 2017 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Lowell City Hall**

**Attendance-**Al Halbeisen, Betsy Davidson, Gary Goff, Alan Teelander, Mark Anderson, Heather Hoffman **Guests:** Ron Gunderson, Mark Fritzma, Robert Brown, Don Renell, Frank Holwerda

**Minutes-**April 12 minutes supported by Halbeisen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Teelander, motion carried

**Gee Drive Extension-**Dave Austin presented the current issues concerning the trail extension from Gee Drive to the Meijer corner. The critical issue is the matter of Easement/Maintenance/Liability. The easement defines who owns the trail, who maintains the trail, and what the liability of the property owner is. This needs to be addressed by LARA and the city of Lowell. The following items need to be met for the successful completion of this trail extension:

1. Determine who will issue the easements: LARA or City of Lowell
2. Finalize easement language concerning ownership, maintenance and liability. Update city ordinance if necessary.
3. Obtain easement signatures
4. Finalize design
5. Get Kent County Commission Permit
6. Seek project bids and award contract
7. Construct extension trail

**Public Comments:** Michigan Senate Bill 118 has passed, ensuring rail banking of future rail trails. The DNR will take ownership of the newly obtained Elmdale spur and section of rail trail from Montcalm Ave. to Jackson St.

**Adjourn:** 6:37 p.m.

Gary Goff, LARA Secretary

**LARA Board Meeting, July 26, 2017 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Lowell City Hall**

**Attendance-** Perry Beachum, Betsy Davidson, Gary Goff, Alan Teelander, Mark Anderson, Heather Hoffman **Guests:** Don Renell, Mark Fritsma, Dave Austin

**Approval of Meeting Agenda-**Supported by Davidson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Teelander

**Minutes-**1 correction from public comments: Elmdale corridor and Montcalm Ave to Jackson St. rail has not yet been obtained by the DNR. Future ownership unknown. Supported by Teelander, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hoffman

**Treasurer's Report-**Checks paid to: Gary Goff for brush hog rentals (59.74), Insurance renewal (1866.00), Clean Cut Lawn Care (244.00), Williams and Works Phase 1A (2916.00). New people to co-sign check (2 signatures required): Hoffman, Beachum, Anderson. Supported by Goff, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Teelander

**Public Comments:** None

**Board Comments:** Trail needs trimming, especially on boardwalk north of Foreman. Anderson to contact professional sprayer for boardwalk area. Washout in front of deck near Alden Nash crossing. Anderson to contact concrete person to look into this problem. Issue with newly constructed house -driveway using part of trail just north of boardwalk. Dave Austin suggested city and townships develop ordinance dealing with construction projects going across trail. There is a need to update LARA brochure. Davidson to work on this. **Trail clean-up night to be scheduled on August 15. Meet at the Foreman/Alden Nash parking area.**

**Phase 1A-Gee Drive to M-21:** Dave Austin gave project update: The county is OK with the trail extension design, but wants some addition to the Michigan Wire easement area to be able to extend extra culvert under Alden Nash. AT&T has to move 1 or 2 green utility boxes. There is a cost for this. Easements for the trail just need formal signatures from land owners. Several trees will need to be cut down. Lowell Light and Power has expressed interest in doing this. Lowell Light and Power also has to relocate 3 service poles. Advertising for contract bids to go out the week of Aug. 14. Bid to be determined around August 30.

**Phase 2-Rail trail connection:** No update.

**Adjourn:** 7:20 p.m.

Gary Goff, LARA Secretary