

**LARA Board Meeting, March 14, 2018 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall**

Attendance- Perry Beachum, Betsy Davidson, Gary Goff, Mark Anderson, **Guests:** Dave Austin, Ron Gunderson, Mark and Theresa Mundt, Jim Pfaller, Mark Fritsma, Ryan Sullivan, Steve Doyle, Don Renell

Minutes- February minutes supported by Anderson, 2nd by Goff

Treasurer's Report- Payments to Zach's Landscaping-snow plowing- for \$480.00, Williams and Works: \$2990.00 for grant work, \$2274.41 for Phase 1A work, and \$2533.35 for Rec. Plan. Supported by Anderson, 2nd by Beachum.

Public Comments: None

Phase 1A-Gee Drive to M-21: Dave Austin to contact Vergennes Township about a top coat on the trail at the entrance to the new housing development on Alden Nash. Dave also reported that with grants from the Community Fund, LCTV, and Meijer, LARA is only lacking \$8,000.00 of total construction budget for Phase 1A. There is a 10% override built into the project, so trail completion is ready to proceed. Motion to direct Ryan Excavating to complete Phase 1A project. Supported by Anderson, 2nd by Beachum.

Phase 2- Rail Trail Connection: LARA Rec. Plan has been submitted on time. DNR wants an amendment stating that if LARA is ever dissolved, the 3 member communities will take responsibility for the connection trail. Rail Trail Connection feedback has been received from the March 5 public information meeting and online. Dave Austin sent the DNR a variance request for the 10 foot trail requirement on Bowes Rd. east of the apartment building. No response as of yet. Motion to approve the DNR Trust Fund Grant Application (see attached page). Supported by Anderson, 2nd by Davidson. Roll call vote for this motion: Yes: 4, No: 1 (vacant At Large board member), Absent: 2. Motion carried.

Rail Trail Connections Comments: **Ryan Sullivan** (890 Bowes Rd.) feels the trail will adversely affect his property value. **Mark and Theresa Mundt** (800 Bowes Rd.) and **Jim Pfaller** (810 Bowes Rd.) have concerns with tree loss and increased foot and bike traffic. They are not in favor of the trail on their properties. **Steve Doyle** feels the trail is completely out of character for Bowes Rd. and he has concerns with trail appearance and property values.

Lowell Expo: March 24, 2018. LARA will have a booth at the expo.

Adjourn: 8:00 p.m.

Gary Goff, LARA Secretary

