

Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA)

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 08, 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

Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm

Board Members present: Hoffman, Davidson, Beachum, Canfield, Anderson ABSENT Conrad
Vacant seat- Lowell Township resident
Others present: Dave Austin- Williams and Works- Steve Thompson- BHT&D

AGENDA- Approval of Agenda: CANFIELD 1ST, HOFFMAN 2ND- ALL YES Motion Carried

MINUTES: October, 2019 meeting minutes were motioned to approve by Canfield, seconded Davidson. All yes, Motion carried.

Lowell Township seat is still vacant.

Steve Thompson BHT&D provided the Board an overview of the 2018-2019 audit. LARA did not approve a formal budget for 2018-2019 fiscal year as noted in the minutes. Although treasurer reports were provided, there was not a formal budget noted in the minutes. The Auditor informed the board that it was a violation and the LARA Board needs to be in compliance. The LARA Board agreed to approve a formal budget for the 2019- 2020 Fiscal Year. For future reference. the Board will adopt the budget in the JUNE meeting and have discussion prior, in the May meeting.

For fiscal year July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 Anderson Motioned to accept the budget as presented, Seconded by Canfield. All members voted. Financial Statement has been recorded well. The financial statements are in accordance to the General Accepted Accounting Principle.

Steve suggests that the Board take steps to monitor the budget amendments and Fiscal Year Budget approval. He suggests that the May meeting has a budget discussion and BUDGET approval

Two parts to the financial statement: Management's discussion and Analysis: There can be narrative added to put some verbiage of what has been accomplished and what the plan is for the future.

Anderson Motioned to accept the audit, Canfield seconded. All Yes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report- Invoices to be paid- 2 from Williams and Works, August, September and October. \$1,171.56. \$364.00 and \$325.00. Invoice for the annual membership to the Lowell Chamber of Commerce for \$100. Harding Enterprises for crack sealing- Anderson motioned to pay all the invoices as presented with exception of Harding Invoice to be paid as follows: \$2750 of the \$3200 invoice -Dave Austin talk to Harding about the crack sealing job to see what still needs to be completed in the spring.

2020 Meeting Dates

Anderson motioned to approve the 2020 Meeting Dates:

January 8

February 12

March 11

April 8

May 13

June 10

July 8

August 12

September 9

October 14

November 11

December 9

Hoffman seconded motion. Motion carried. Hoffman to place meeting dates notice in the paper.

Canfield Motioned Beacham to continue as Chairman- Anderson 2nd

Beachum motioned to continue with Hoffman as Secretary -Canfield 2nd

Beachum Motioned Davidson to continue as Treasurer-Canfield 2nd

Vice Chairman Beachum Motioned Anderson Chairman- Canfield 2nd

All voted yea- Motion carried

Public Comment:

Mark Blanding, discussion about North Country Trail.

Board Discussed Phase 2- Austin provided information on the PHASE 2 PROJECT:Railroad had concerns and has denied the application to cross under the trestle. Austin then inquired for an AT GRADE trestle. The Railroad said that less desirable would be the AT GRADE crossing, so this is still an option, but per conversations with them, less desirable than the under trussle option that was already turned down by them.

Largest grant is a 3M dollar grant from MDOT that starts in October of 2020. Since we are looking at a major change to the design, and every plan done and approved by October of 2020, the question of if there a way to extend the grant, needs to be asked. LARA will need to formally request a grant extension. He noted there is some wiggle room for the funding. LARA should request the grant extension. The MDNR grant has been pushed out the last two years. LARA needs to rethink when to resubmit the application that would be due April 2020.

Questions on the table:

- Do we want to talk to the railroad about an at grade option, and if not, we need to decide what a plan b option would be. Crossing the river at N Hudson or at the Township park brige are options that were discussed. Pros and Cons of each option were discussed.
- We need to discuss the MDNR grants.
- Would you be able to use the 'prescriptive easement' to continue to use the at grade RR crossing since it has been in place for the last 40 years.
- For the Pedestrian Crossing there would be planned to assist in safety To go over the railroad, we must go over the railroad by 22'.

Austin will draft a letter to the Railroad.

The Lowell Expo is March 28th.

Hoffman motioned to adjourned-Davidson 2nd. All members voted yes.

Meeting Adjourned 8:09 pm.

Next Meeting February 12, 2020