

Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA)

Meeting Minutes

Date: May13, 2020

Location: ZOOM Meeting – Covid-19- Emergency Executive Order

Perry Beachum (Chair) City of Lowell resident
Heather Hoffman (Secretary) Vergennes Twp. Clerk
Betsy Davidson (Treasurer) Vergennes Twp. Resident
Mark Anderson (Vise Chair) Lowell Township Trustee
Vacant- Lowell Township resident
Greg Canfield- City of Lowell Council Member
Rich Conrad, at large rep-
Anderson called Meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Board Members present: Hoffman, Davidson, Canfield, Anderson, Conrad

Others present: Dave Austin- Williams and Works- T. Gossiaux, Lowell City resident, Laura Garrison, Lowell Township resident, Amanda Rogers

Absent: Beachum

AGENDA- Approval of Agenda: Davidson 1ST, Canfield 2ND- ALL YES Motion Carried

MINUTES: Motion to Approve by Davidson 1, Conrad 2nd – All YES- Motion Carried

Treasurer's Report: Invoices to be paid: Williams & Works-\$7207.20 GRANT Writing- APPLICATIONS; Williams & Works-\$4369.20- Lowell Ledger \$72.22 public meeting notice; Lowell Women's Club \$30.00 Hoffman Motioned to pay the bills as presented- Conrad 2nd – all members voted YES. Motion Carried

NEW LARA BOARD MEMBERS: Lowell Township and Vergennes Township approved new representatives for the LARA Board. Lowell City will have this on their May 18, 2020 meeting agenda to discuss. New reps to be approved at the next meeting: Lowell Township Resident Rep.: Amanda Rogers; At Large Member: Laura Garrison (Lowell City resident); Alternate At Large- Tom Gossiaux (Lowell Township resident)

MERCANTILE SAVINGS ACCOUNT: The Board held discussion about combining the two separate Mercantile Accounts into one account – one account has not been active, and we are charged a dormmate fee) Once the banks open back up, the accounts can be combined. Hoffman, motioned combine the two bank accounts into account at Mercantile Bank. Canfield 2nd the motioned. All members voted yes. Motion carried.

Public Comment- No Public comment

Phase 2 Application: Dave Austin provided an update on the DNR application submitted on April 1. The DNR has submitted questions and they are due Friday. They have questions about the trail maintenance plan. They require letters of commitments for funding by October 1st. T

- There was discussion about easements on east side of river (Grand Rapids Gravel, and Dr. Regan) and Austin will draft the letter for property owner approval to allow the trail to transverse their property.
- MDOT, asked for additional information about the Grand River Dr. portion if the proposed trail. North Country Trail said they don't have additional funding in their budget to assist in funding this phase– the portion on the Grand River Drive is part of the Iron Bell Trail and there had been hopes they would be interested in seeing that portion of the Iron Bell Trail completed. (Iron Bell Trail is funded by the DNR)
- Portion of the Grand River Trail will be PAVED Foreman to Vergennes this week. There will be benches and warning strips added. Many people are using this trail. Parking at the school parking lot has been busy. Discussion about adding additional signage at the parking lot directing trail users to the trail. There was discussion about whether, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the timeline for DNR and MDOT could shift to allow more time. There was information provided that suggests MDNR are not looking at changing their timelines due to Covid. They are on a tight timeframe due to their funding. Austin will ask them if they may look at relaxing their timeline. MDOT had questions about the Jackson Street improvements.

Easements: Dave will draft the easement language to go to the property owners.

Five railroad easements needed from abandoned areas of the railroad. Fundraising has halted due to Covid. We are still waiting on the Frye foundation on the grant application that was submitted.

Existing Trail items: Mowing: Agreement with Zack for 2020 mowing season. Anderson will check with Beachum mowing. Anderson and Austin will look over bench and platform issue on Alden Nash. Anderson getting a quote- West Michigan Tree – Brush Kill.

Maple Ridge Drive- Cooper Woodland Trail flooding. Discussion on the Cooper Woodland flooding-developer's engineer should review, developer's stormwater management plan (needs to be reviewed again by township to ensure that it was built like it was approved. We will keep it on the table to discuss at a future meeting.

Cooper Woodland, trees have fallen across the path that need to be picked up. Hoffman contacted Vergennes Township supervisor about cutting and dragging trees off of trail. Wittenbach responded that he could get this done.

Hoffman motioned to adjourn meeting; Davidson 2nd-Meeting Adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned 7:46 pm.

Next Meeting Scheduled for June, 10, 2020