

Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA)

Meeting Minutes

Date: November 13, 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 6:05 pm

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

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

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

Lowell Township seat is still vacant.

Treasurer's report- \$204 invoice and bill paid to Addorio – for annual fee for Constant Contact (a service to get information out via an email) Davidson motioned to pay bills, Canfield 2nd. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Information provided -Crushed asphalt is down on the Flat River trail project beyond Vergennes St. About 95% completed through Belding. The mile from Foreman to Vergennes will be paved in Spring 2020.

Gary Goff- Gary informed the Board that the paths are in dire need to tree cutting and trimming back shrubbery along the on the foot paths on the Cooper Trail and Cherry Creek Trail. The trail is in need of maintenance and Gary and a group of volunteers have done this for year, but are in need of some fresh faces and they really need some strong younger individuals to assist them. There are large trees that have fallen down during the storms over the spring and summer and there are still a few large trees that could not be cut up and hauled away on the trails. Gary has assisted in removing trash along trail and thrown

away the trash left in trash cans along the trail. He addressed the Board and asked for assistance to complete this in the future. Currently, he has removed the trash one time a month. He said that people are using these receptacles and - the trash cans along the trail need to be dumped. Help is needed badly. In years past, the Impact group has provided helpers for their LOVE PROJECT. This spring they worked on different projects and we are hopeful that they will consider the TRAILS again as the work they do is so incredibly helpful. We are looking for help along brush on the trail- Cooper Trail need to be cleaned up spring 2020.

The Little League property has removed adverse signage along the Cooper trail.

When talking with the Little League, they expressed concern about the water run-off from Assistant Care Facility project being built along Foreman and Alden Nash in Lowell Township. They ran tile under the road on Foreman and are dumping water from their property under the road and the runoff is in Vergennes Township. There is concern as to where the water will be going? It was noted there is water covering the trail where there has never been water before. There was thought that the Drain Commission should be notified. Dave Austin said they would have no authority as it is not a county drain. Austin said that the company who did the excavating would have needed a permit to close the road and tear up the asphalt to lay the tiling underneath. Hoffman said she would talk to Vergennes Township Supervisor Wittenbach regarding the run-off and what permits were pulled to allow the water to be removed from that sight and sent through tiling to the Vergennes side of the road, possibly impacting those properties. How do we know what that possible run-off will do to the properties on the north side of Foreman.

Dave Austin let the Board know that trail maintenance will be completed by Mike Harding –removed roots from Metric and Cherry Creek Elementary- remainder of crack sealing will be performed in the spring. The early snow has put a halt to many projects. Including trail maintenance.

UPDATE ON THE TRAILS- PHASE 2 PROJECT:

The Railroad declined LARA application which requested approval to allow a pedestrian walkway under the train trestle to transverse the railroad tracks. The application cost LARA \$11,000. They gave three reasons to not allow the path to go under the trestle -finalizing their summery -Due to the potential risk of safety and welfare they are denying the application.

Now we are onto Plan B: Thoughts were to go back to the Railroad Company with two new potential locations for at-grade crossing. We must cross SOMEWHERE on the trail. We need to get across somewhere and people cross the rail all the time. We need to find a solution to get across the Railroad tracks. Austin suggested reaching out to King Milling and the Doyle family for their support of the trail crossing the railroad at grade somewhere along the railroad tracks. Since their company is the only one that is using the tracks, their approval of us crossing, could possibly help with negotiations with the railroad company. If the Railroad Co denies the Plan B option, we may have to look at a completely different way for this trail to connect the entire 125 miles.

Dave Austin provided photos of possible options. Canfield to talk to Doyle family and show them the photos of the various at-grade options we would like to go back to the Railroad Co. with.

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:12 pm.

Next Meeting December 13, 2019