



**Board Meeting, January 11, 2006 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell Township Hall**

Present: Board Members, Mari Stone, Dan Edwards, Al Halbeisen, Betsy Davidson, Perry Beachum, Jim Pfaller, and Leslie Stougaard and Guests; Tamara Karczewski, Mark Fritsma, Steve Oaks

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of December meeting approved.

LARA Treasurers Report

Balance as of 1-11-06 is \$23,221.06. Balance includes Lowell Area Community Fund Grant money to be used for first segment preliminary plans and grant applications. Passed motion to approve accounts payable and report. Betsy reported that BHD& T will review the account for tax purposes.

Funding and Grants Report

Dan working on applications for Look and Rotary Grants to use for matches to obtain other funds. Jennifer will review the applications.

Plan to discuss fund raising events at next meeting.

Public Relations

Lowell Athletic Boosters will send a letter of support for the trails.

It was suggested to issue a press release when the first easement is completed. The release will point out that easements are voluntary and that LARA does not have authority to condemn property to obtain easements.

Discussed providing updates to YMCA at next board meeting. Steve will check on date.

Lowell Expo is Saturday March 25. Discuss exhibit at next meeting.

Sign standards

No report.

Easements

Lowell School Easements

The easement has been revised so there is no limit. Still having issues with language on environmental insurance. Our insurer says the type indicated is not typical and they do not carry it. Mari will have revisions made and go to Lowell Education Foundation for approval.

Lone Pine Development

Al has contacted engineering firm for development to get information on legal description for trail easement.

Wege property easement

Waiting for meeting with Wege contacts.

Foreman Road easements

Still need to contact Hunt family.

Alden Nash

Al contacted Kent County Road Commission to get right of way information and road plans for Foreman Road and Alden Nash. Plans will be given to LAP for use in developing phase 1 route options.

Dykema property, south of Bowes Road and north of Grand River.

Jim will invite Jane Dykema to a future meeting. They are will to grant an easement that would allow connection to Lowell Township Park on south side of Grand River.

NCTA Coordination

Al obtained letter confirming that rail line south of Grand River to Elmdale has been officially abandoned. Title on some segments of the rail line may revert to adjacent land owners and would require easements to be obtained.

Al discussed plans for trail crossing at Cascade Road with Kent County Road Commission. KCRC feels that cost of structure at this location is not warranted due to low volume of traffic on the road. When they remove bridge they will lower the road and raise the trail grade so that an at-grade crossing would be feasible.

Other

Passed motion to approve LARA meeting dates for 2006.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The foregoing constitutes my understanding of matters discussed and conclusions reached. Please review and share your additions or corrections at our next board meeting on **Wednesday February 8, 2006 at 6 pm, Lowell City Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,
Al Halbeisen, P.E.
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For more information refer to the website
www.lowellareatrailway.org

Commonly used acronyms;

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Landscape Architects & Planners (LAP)

Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA)

Lowell Area Schools (LAS)

Lowell Community Fund (LCF)

Lowell Education Foundation (LEF)

Lowell Institute for Volunteer Excellence (LIVE 5)

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)

Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance (MTGA)

North Country Trail Association (NCTA)

West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition (WMTGC)