

**Lowell Area Recreation Authority**  
“Connecting our Community”

**Board Meeting, January 19, 2005 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Lowell Township Hall**

**Present:** Mari Stone, Dan Edwards, Al Halbeisen, Betsy Davidson, Perry Beachum, Jim Pfaller, and Leslie Stougaard and guests Bob Ford and Nancy Krupiarz.

**Guests:** Nancy Krupiarz of Rails to Trails talked about the Safe Routes to School program and how the Lowell Schools have been involved. One walking audit has been held and another will be held in January. Nancy explained that funding for the program would be administered under MDOT’s Transportation Enhancement program and she felt that the first segment of the Lowell Area Trail network is a good fit for the program.

A new video of the Safe Routes program was shown. Additional information can be found on their website [www.saferoutesmichigan.org](http://www.saferoutesmichigan.org) and by phone (800) 434-8642 (Governors Council on Physical Fitness).

Bob Ford of Landscape Architects and Planners (LAP) discussed the need to obtain easements for the properties along the first segment. He discussed the pros and cons of easements or land donation. Bob can provide sample forms and instructions for meeting with owners. Bob recommended that LARA assign members to contact each owner and is willing to attend some of the meetings.

**Old Business;**

**Wege property easement**

Mark VanAllsburg sent comments to Al from the Wege property manager, Mark Pursley. Based on the comments we are proposing to use the sanitary sewer easement to cross the Wege property from the northwest corner of the Cooper Woodland to Alden Nash Avenue. Al has prepared a letter and copy of the MDEQ permit application for the stream crossing to send to Mark Pursley. A permanent easement will be needed for the permit to be approved. We will also need a permanent easement from the Cooper Woodland Preserve property for the trail and crossing. Melanie Brim, chair of the Lowell Education Foundation is being sent a copy of MDEQ Permit and the letter to Mark Pursley, explaining the need for an easement.

**LIVE 5**

The Lowell Leadership 5 class has an offer from Ionia County National Bank (ICNB) to sponsor the project to construct the boardwalk over the stream crossing on the north side of the Cooper Woodland Preserve. ICNB wants to install signs at the trail entrance off of Foreman Road, at the bridge and at the trail where it meets Alden Nash. The LARA Board discussed the need to establish criteria for sign style, size and sponsorship.

LIVE has a logo contest that is generating a lot of questions on whether it is for the bridge only or for the entire trail network.

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**Funding applications**

The North Country Trail Association (NCTA) has selected Rob Corbett and it's new Director. They are now recruiting a new trail manager to replace Rob and searching for the grant coordinator. LARA will receive 15% of the person's time to work on our fund raising. Dan suggested that this person's time for LARA be used to work on the local or private grants to be used for matching funds.

The Lowell Community Fund (LCF) will announce the next grants on February 14, 2005.

**New Business;**

**Community Expo, March 26**

LARA will participate with display and information booth.

**Administration**

Motion by Beachum, seconded by Stougaard, to authorize the Treasurer to open accounts with Ionia County National Bank, giving the Chair and Treasurer access, and requiring the addition of the Chair signature on drafts over \$100. Motion approved.

Board agreed that we should issue a press release regarding our present status.

**LARA Treasurers Report**

Balance as of 12-07-04 is \$12095.35

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 Feburary 9, 2005 at 6 pm, Lowell City Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,  
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For more information refer to the website  
[www.lowellareatrailway.org](http://www.lowellareatrailway.org)