

**Lowell Area Recreation Authority**  
"Connecting our Community"

**Board Meeting, February 9, 2005 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Lowell City Hall**

**Present:** Mari Stone, Dan Edwards, Al Halbeisen, Betsy Davidson, Perry Beachum, Jim Pfaller, and Leslie Stougaard, Barry Hobrla, Dave Pasquale and LIVE 5 members.

**Meeting Schedule for 2005**

Motion by Beachum, seconded by Pfaller to approve the Meeting Schedule for 2005. Motion approved. Meetings scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6 pm. Locations will vary. March 9 meeting to be held at Vergennes Township Hall.

**Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Pfaller, seconded by Stougaard to approve the December Meeting Minutes. Motion approved. Motion by Beachum, seconded by Pfaller to approve the January Meeting Minutes. Motion approved.

**Guests:**

Representatives of the LIVE 5 class attended the meeting to give update on their project. LIVE 5 held a logo contest for the bridge project and brought the entries to the meeting. LIVE 5 requested that the LARA board make the selection of the winning logo and notify LIVE 5 by February 18, 2005.

LIVE 5 has an offer from Ionia County National Bank (ICNB) to sponsor the project. LIVE 5 questioned whether LARA would have requirements for signage that the ICNB wants to install at the bridge. The LARA Board discussed the need to establish criteria for sign style, size and sponsorship levels. A committee was formed with Leslie and Perry volunteering. Alan Rumbaugh of the Chamber will be asked for input.

**Old Business;**

**Lowell School Easements**

Al talked to Marsha Wilcox prior to the meeting and will be getting copies of the Cooper Woodland Preserve easements. A permanent easement will be needed from the Lowell Education Foundation for the trails and bridge project. We will also need permanent easements from the Lowell Area Schools for the trail route through the High School property.

**Wege property easement**

Mari and Marsha met with Wege group to discuss easement. They are in agreement to allow use of the sanitary sewer easement to cross the Wege property from the northwest corner of the Cooper Woodland to Alden Nash Avenue. The legal documents will be prepared.

**New Business;**

**MDEQ Permit**

Al prepared a cover letter explaining the project and MDEQ permit application for the stream crossing to send to MDEQ. LARA is listed as the applicant for the permit to avoid confusion with the MDEQ. Motion by Pfaller, seconded by Beachum to approve the permit application. Motion approved. Mari signed the permit application and a check for \$100 for the application fee was prepared.

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**Community Expo, March 26**

LARA will participate with display and information booth. LIVE 5 and NCTA will have booths adjacent to LARA. A separate meeting will be held to plan the exhibit.

**LIVE 5 Logo Contest**

Contest entries were reviewed. Motion by Beachum, seconded by Halbeisen to select the entry” Bridging our Community” that was submitted by Austin Blough. Motion approved.

Another entry was judged to be very appealing as a logo for the Lowell Trailway. LARA will contact the person that submitted the entry for approval to use the logo with revisions.

**Route Planning**

Reviewed aerial map to discuss potential routes.

Perry will contact Shari Miller to discuss who to work with on working out a route through the High School property and how to proceed with defining an easement and getting Board of Education approval.

Township representatives will review property records to determine owners that should be contacted for potential easements.

A motion was approved to request easements in the Cooper Woodland Preserve for the trails. Based on discussion in the meeting and subsequent discussions and approvals by the board members LARA will request 100 foot wide easements along the south and west property lines of the Preserve and along the Consumers Power easement that runs east and west through the northern portion of the Preserve. At the time the gift of the Cooper Woodland Preserve property was made to the Lowell Education Foundation it was agreed that easements would be allowed within the property for improved and unimproved trails to be used by “bicyclists, horseback riders and hikers”. Within correspondence relative to the agreement it was also suggested that the Sanitary Sewer easement could be utilized for the trail routes. We therefore request that the permanent easement include any portion of the sanitary sewer easement within the Preserve.

**Administration Items**

Betsy has contact several firms about insurance for LARA. Dale Triplett will be invited to March meeting to discuss the coverage.

Post Office Box 98 has been rented for LARA at the Lowell Post Office.

**LARA Treasurers Report**

Balance as of 02-07-05 is \$10,708.45

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Pfaller, seconded and approved.

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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 March 9, 2005 at 6 pm, Vergennes Township Hall.**

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

**Commonly used acronyms;**

Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA)  
Lowell Community Fund (LCF)  
Lowell Institute for Volunteer Excellence (LIVE 5)  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)  
Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)  
North Country Trail Association (NCTA)