



**Board Meeting, February 14, 2007 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall**

Present: Board Members, Mari Stone, Perry Beachum, Dan Edwards, Al Halbeisen, Betsy Davidson and Jim Pfaller.

Guests; Greg Pratt, LAS, Dave Pasquale, City of Lowell, Mike Berg, Grand Rapids Gravel Co./Dykema

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of December meeting approved with correction in public meeting notes regarding plowing trails in winter. No quorum at January meeting due to confusion in meeting location.

LARA Treasurers Report

Balance as of 2-14-07 is \$ 10,932.57. Motions passed to approve report, budget and setting up Money Market account.

Old Business

Terms of Office. Amendment to LARA agreement eliminating the term limit has been approved by Vergennes Township and City of Lowell. Lowell Township Board has not approved the amendment yet. The LARA representative appointments have been approved by the governing communities.

Election of LARA officers; Chairperson – Mari Stone, Vice Chair – Perry Beachum, Secretary – Alan Halbeisen, Treasurer – Betsy Davidson.

Dan has completed application for 501(c)3 status for LARA and needs review by Mark Van Alsbury. Status requires a conflict of interest policy to be adopted. Dan provided draft policy to be reviewed before the next meeting.

New Business

Discuss options for part time assistance with administrative help, grant writing, etc. Need job description and qualifications. Could be college intern position.

Development Committee (Dan, Mari, Jodie and Jennifer)

Met with Jodie and Rick Seese. Expansion of committee with local resource people has been recommended.

Marketing Committee (Betsy, Tamara, Jennifer and Eric)

Lowell Expo is Saturday March 24.

Easements

Al has met with LAP to outline options to consider for segment from Creekside Park to the Wege property via Foreman Road and/or Cooper Woodland Preserve. LAP will prepare exhibit and cost estimates similar to work done for High School route options.

Lowell School Easements

Need review of Consumers easement by LAS attorney. Plan for connection at Cherry Creek Elementary School to be included in options considered by LAP for Foreman Road.

Mari suggested site visit to review trails at Caledonia schools.

Alden Nash West

Need update of discussions with Steve Hanson about trail in sanitary sewer easement.

Wege property easement

Al has met with MDEQ staff and reviewed the option to stay to west side of property with access from Foreman Road, with crossing location of stream approximately 200 feet west of Alden Nash. When location is approved by Mr. Wege the MDEQ permit will need revision. Boardwalk will be needed to cross approximately 150 feet of wetland. MDEQ confirmed requirement that boardwalk width be no more than 10 feet to minimize disruption to wetland. MDEQ will provide statement of that for future use in case MDOT funding is utilized (MDOT prefers wider structures).

Foreman Road easements

Review of cross section options in and out of right of way to be included in LAP study.

Connection to Lowell Township Riverfront Park

Mike Berg explained status of Grand Rapids Gravel site on Bowes Road, west of the Lowell Water Treatment Plant. GR Gravel is planning to develop the site after completion of aggregate mining and is willing to include trail easements. Location of trail easement is to be determined.

Other

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 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 March 14, 2007 at 6 pm, Vergennes Township.**

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

Commonly used acronyms;

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)
Lowell Light & Power (LLP)
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)
Wittenbach – Wege Center (WWC)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)