

Lowell Area Trails Meeting
April 13, 2004
4:00 - 5:30 pm
Conference Room
Lowell City Hall

Present: Mari Stone, Perry Beachum, Alan Rumbaugh, Dan Edwards, Al Halbeisen, Andy Linebaugh, Paula Blunn, Jessica Johnston, Tamara Karczewski, Dan Schneider and Betsy Davidson

Meeting with Lowell Community Foundation Board

Trail committee members met with the Board to discuss the status of the trail development efforts and to discuss the desire to establish a long term plan and request for annual funding. The goal is to use foundation grants and donations as the local share to match with larger grants that can be obtained through state and federal programs.

The Board would like to see information on the types of grants that are being considered and will discuss what level of annual funding could be provided to the trail. They also stressed the need to see that a working agreement is established between the local agencies.

Funding status

Mika Meyer submitted a bill for services on the draft agreement. Mari will check on process for payment of invoice.

It was suggested that a financial report be included as part of meeting notes. Betsy will check on the status of funds already donated and report at the next meeting.

Public Information

Several events are upcoming that could be of interest to trail committee;

- Chamber of Commerce, visit to Portland Trails, May 2
- Grant writing workshop., May 7
- Vergennes Twp., Alden Nash corridor study, May 12 and 19
- Michigan Trails Legislative Day, May 18 in Lansing.

Suggested event

- Host Chamber Breakfast

Suggestion also made that maps of the overall trail system and the first segment proposed be made available for public review.

Discussion of Draft Agreement

Mari is planning to take the draft agreement to Vergennes Township for input. As discussed previously it is anticipated that issues such as annual maintenance, insurance and administrative costs will need to be estimated or determined.

Al clipped an article out of Saturday's GR Press about trail maintenance costs for the DNR trails. Their costs range from \$1000 to 3000 per mile per year.

Andy reported that the Lansing trail system considers their trail to be covered by same liability insurance that covers their sidewalks.

The goal of the committee is to get the agreement approved by the end of summer. Support from township and city residents would be helpful in having the boards approve the agreement.

Discussion of Cooper Woodland cleanup

Al met with Marsha Wilcox to review woodland. There are many piles of brush that have been left after the logging operation. Marsha will try to have the logging company come back to cut the brush down to a height of 4 feet, per their contract. The piles provide cover for wildlife, but the number of piles left may be more than necessary. Contact with a wildlife specialist will be made to determine if some of the brush piles should be removed.

Cleanup efforts will not start until late June, due to requests for volunteers to clean up the Showboat in April and May.

On the agenda for the next meeting will be setting goals and review the draft agreement.

Dan E. suggested that we adopt a motto for the committee and suggested “Connecting our Community”.

The foregoing constitutes my understanding of matters discussed and conclusions reached. Please review and share your additions or corrections at our next group meeting on **Wednesday May 12, 2004 at 4 pm, Lowell High School, Athletic office..**

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