



**Board Meeting, May 9, 2007 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall**

Present:

LARA Board Members, Mari Stone, Perry Beachum, Dan Edwards, Al Halbeisen, Betsy Davidson, Jim Pfaller and Linda Regan.

Guests; Larry Mikulski, LAS, Dave Pasquale, City of Lowell

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of March meeting approved. April meeting cancelled due to bad weather.

LARA Treasurers Report

Balance as of 5-9-07 is \$ 10,828.13. Motions passed to approve report.

Moving CD to Ionia County National Bank for better rates.

Old Business

Application for 501(c)3 status for LARA. Dan addressing legal review comments. Has to fill out another form since LARA formed more than 24 months before application.

Wege land donation. Meeting held March 29. Next meeting is May 17 (postponed at later date).

Garlic Mustard Club held cleanup day April 22 at Cooper Woodland Preserve.

New Business

Lowell Community Fund meeting, April 10th, had some discussion of obtaining a grant for professional fund raising. Impression that some LCF members believe entire trail network needs to be funded at one time, rather than in stages. Need to clarify LARA Master Plan versus the segment goals. Next LCF grant application deadline is August 7.

Project Consideration – Compile document of activities and accomplishments of LARA. Al and Mari will work on compiling the history. Include information on grants, public meetings, work days and easement progress.

Safe Routes to School – Grant request includes portion along Gee Drive. Eleven schools have applied for funding.

Adopt-a-Road – Betsy has enrolled LARA as sponsor in Kent County Road program for segment of Foreman Road from Gee Drive to Alden Nash. Next cleanup period is July 21st thru 29th. Plan on cleanup on Saturday July 28th at 9 am.

Caledonia Schools Trail – Greg Pratt will set up visit to tour the trails at Caledonia.

TREAD Fund Development Committee (Dan, Mari, Jodie and Jennifer)
Community Advisory Board Reception – Mon. June 25th at Chamber office. Invited potential community members. Utilize history document (see above) to explain LARA activities.

LARA will host trail hike at Wege-Witenbach Center on June 3 at 2 p.m.

Easements

Foreman Road

Hunt family has contacted Township and is concerned that Adopt a Road signs give people impression that sanitary sewer easement is designated trail. Perry asked for meeting with the Hunts to explain. Also, at last meeting Perry suggested reviewing the options with the Graatz family.

Lowell Schools

Larry has e-mail from Consumers Energy (CE) regarding trail easement under power lines. CE would review trail plans for location near their facilities and any grade changes. If the plans do not present any safety issues then CE would issue a letter of non-objection.

LARA passed motion to request easement for trail route option #1 (south of football stadium and along west side of high school property) from Lowell Area Schools.
Easement to be discussed at June 25th workshop.

Alden Nash West

Mari has asked Dave Austin to contact Steve Hanson to work out details of easement.

Wege property

The easement location for the trails across the Wege property adjacent to Alden Nash may be discussed at the next Wege land donation meeting. LARA prefers to pursue easement regardless of land donation outcome.

Other

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 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 July 11, 2007 at 6 pm, Lowell Township.**

Respectfully submitted,
Al Halbeisen, P.E.
2120 Parnell Ave SE
Ada, MI 49301

616-897-0074, hhengltdgr @ aol.com

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)

Trail Resources Enrichment and Development (TREAD)

West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition (WMTGC)

Wittenbach – Wege Center (WWC)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)