



**Board Meeting, May 10, 2006 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall**

Present: Board Members, Mari Stone, Dan Edwards, Al Halbeisen, Betsy Davidson, and Jim Pfaller and Guests; Mark Fritsma, Dave Pasquale. Jennifer Tripp unable to attend meeting. Staff reductions at NCTA have increased Jennifer's workload.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of March and April meetings approved.

LARA Treasurers Report

Balance as of 5-10-06 is \$22,382.14. Account payable include several items for Lowell Expo and LARA Open House. Motion approved to pay accounts payable and accept the report.

Presented Operating Budget for 2006 for consideration. Suggestions on potential expenses and inclusion of donations in budget are to be incorporated into budget for approval at June meeting.

Old Business

Discussed follow up from Open House April 20; mostly resident's concerns for route south of High School. Plan to meet at Lowell High School for June 14 meeting and invite school representatives to review trail options on school property. Include walking tour of LHS route and discussion of Cherry Creek route to Cooper Woodland Preserve.

New Business

Trail clean up at Cherry Creek Elementary School, 8 am to 12 noon on Saturday, June 3. Scope of work includes clearing brush and fallen trails from trails around pond west of school. Will also attempt to open connection between pond trail and sanitary sewer easement that could lead to Cooper Woodland Preserve. Coordinating with Gary Goff, teacher at the school. Contact Gary for possible access to restrooms in schools. Betsy will organize supplies (water, first aid) and Jennifer will publicize the event to get volunteers. Discussed getting equipment to move wood chips, with rental funded by LEF grant or through use of City/School equipment.

Development Committee (Dan, Mari, Leslie and Jennifer)

Needs to develop plan for brick sale and logistics of delivering/storing bricks.

Planning to recruit experienced community members to help with fund raising campaign.

Public Relations Committee (Betsy, Tamara, Jennifer and Eric)

See old and new business.

Easements

Lowell School Easements

Celebration for first easement with Lowell Education Foundation for Cooper Woodland Preserve. Mari will prepare a press release.

Alden Nash West

Mari had positive comments from Steve at Township meeting.

Wege property easement

Still in limbo as Wege considers future of property.

Other

Discussed starting planning work on trail segment on City property east of Flat River. Great potential for connection with Fairgrounds across Flat River and improvement of North Country Trail route through downtown.

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 June 14, 2006 at 6 pm, Lowell High School.**

Respectfully submitted,
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For more information refer to the website

www.lowellareatrailway.org

Commonly used acronyms;

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
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)
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)