



**Board Meeting, May 11, 2005 @ 6:00 pm  
Lowell City Hall**

**Present:** Board Members, Mari Stone, Dan Edwards, Al Halbeisen, Betsy Davidson, Perry Beachum, Jim Pfaller, and Leslie Stougaard and Guests Alan Rumbaugh, Jennifer Tripp, Dave Pasquale, Dick Cooper, Tamara Karczewski, Eric Lundstrom and Aaron Ogg (GR Press)

**Meeting Minutes**

April Meeting Minutes reviewed and corrections noted; include **2%** limit of cost of signs/plaques to honor donations and name and title for Jennifer Tripp, NCTA Development & Communications Coordinator.

Approved the April Meeting Minutes with corrections noted.

**Old Business;**

Sign standards – Leslie prepared Proposed Donation Structure.

**Lowell School Easements**

Lowell School attorney revised easement for Cooper Woodland Preserve and sent comments to Lowell Education Foundation. One comment was why not have LARA lease entire Cooper Woodland Preserve. LEF meets again next Wednesday. LIVE 5 bridge project is on hold until easements can be obtained.

**Wege property easement**

Mari trying to get better contact with Peter Wege to get the permanent easement approved. Mari reports there has been reluctance by Wege's real estate people involved to establish permanent easement until after the development is started.

**New Business;**

**NCTA Development and Communications Coordinator**

Jennifer Tripp has met with Dan and Betsy and will continue to meet monthly on 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. Jennifer has set up list of Outreach Activities and a proposed timeline for fund raising. Jennifer pointed out the need to have more than one segment in planning at one time to get the trail network established. With difficulties encountered in getting easements on the first segment it makes sense to have alternative segments planned. We discussed the potential for the segment of the trail to cross the Flat River at the Fairgrounds with a connection to Stoney Lakeside Park. Perry will make contact with potential easement owners on that segment.

**Public Relations Subcommittee**

Betsy, Dan and Tamara volunteered to form a subcommittee to start a list of potential donors.

### **Easement Subcommittee**

Perry and Al H. will work together as the easement team. Perry will serve as the lead for contact with owners of potential easements. Al will coordinate with Bob Ford of LAP for technical assistance on easements. Sample Easement forms and answers to **FAQ**'s will be prepared. Al Rumbaugh will contact Jeff Best of the Kent County Road Commission for information on trail easements within the Road Commission right of way.

Lowell School Easements will be reviewed with Board Members Mark Lessens and Peter Haefer, designated as contacts by Shari Miller.

### **Bradford White Nature Area**

Dedication of site in Lowell Township will be Saturday May 14.

### **Administration Items**

Mari has received more information on liability coverage from Burnham and Flowers. They specialize in municipal coverage and offer coverage that other insurance agencies could not.

### **LARA Treasurers Report**

Balance as of 05-12-05 is \$ 8652.77.

Meeting adjourned at 8 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 8, 2005 at 6 pm, Vergennes Township Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,  
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For more information refer to the website

[www.lowellareatrailway.org](http://www.lowellareatrailway.org)

### **Commonly used acronyms;**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)  
Landscape Architects & Planners (LAP)  
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)