



**Board Meeting, May 14, 2008 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall**

Present:

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

Guests; Dave Austin, Alan Rumbaugh, and Mark Fritsma

Meeting Minutes

April meeting minutes not ready.

LARA Treasurers Report

Checking balance \$12,636.43. \$13,496.51 in Money Market Account. Reports approved.

Old Business

TREAD Fund Development Committee (Dan, Mari, Jodie and Betsy) – Campaign cabinet nominations – Chairpersons; Betsy Davidson, Jodie Vokes and Liz Baker. Keith prepared proposal for donation levels. Grant application for LCF for \$150K includes money for fund raising campaign, some engineering and Lead Gift to start campaign. Cabinet start up meeting May 29th. Discussed setting policy for payment of expenses in campaign. Expenses will need to be established in the fund raising budget.

Dan gathered information on MDNR Grant process. Grant needs to be approved by MDNR before any costs that are to be reimbursed can be incurred. Grant application also needs legislative approval before funds are reimbursed.

LARA office space at Chamber office. Needs painting and flooring.

Safe Routes to School – Meeting held April 14th to discuss grant application with MDOT. MDOT focus on routes that would not be served by school buses (less than 1 mile from City). Foreman route does not have enough homes to be high priority. Gee Drive section is higher priority because of existing homes and has good chance for funding. Requested that the trail from Gee Drive to Cherry Creek be included in SRTS grant application to get that much constructed.

New Business

Garlic Mustard pull at Cooper Woodland Preserve on Saturday May 17 @ 10 am.

Easements

Foreman Road

Gratz daughter (Marge Mayhew) is willing to meet to discuss easement. Perry and Theresa will contact her.

Lowell Schools

The southern and western portions of the trail would start as unpaved sections until other portions of the trail are constructed and the need for future phases is determined. Al prepared requests for easements for Lowell Area Schools. Written requests outline the reasons, descriptions and conditions for the easements to be presented to the property owner and Board of Education, respectively. Al will send to Greg Pratt.

Alden Nash West

Second phase to be developed and constructed this summer. Steve Hanson is willing to include trail in construction if LARA pays for paving and landscaping (wholesale cost). has reviewed trail plans and discussed revisions with Williams & Works and Steve.

Wege property

Committed to easement along Alden Nash as indicated in study report.

Other

Meeting ended @ 7:05.

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 11, 2008 at 6 pm, Vergennes Township Hall.**

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

www.lowellareatrailway.org

Commonly used acronyms;

Friends of Lowell Area Trails (FLAT) Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA)

Lowell Community Fund (LCF)

Landscape Architects & Planners (LAP)

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)