

Lowell Area Trails Meeting
“Connecting our Community”

July 14, 2004
4:00 - 5:30 pm
Athletic Office Conference Room
Lowell High School

Present: Mari Stone, Alan Rumbaugh, Dan Edwards, Al Halbeisen, Jessica Johnston, Barry Hobrla, Dave Pasquale, Betsy Davidson, Dick Cooper, Marsha Wilcox, Bob Papp, and Megan Malone.

North Country Trail Association

Bob Papp, Executive Director of the NCTA, attended the meeting and discussed the NCTA strategic plan. Included in their goals is to hire a Fund Development person, initially for a period of 2 years, to assist with grant writing and other needs related to funding right of way acquisition and planning funds. The NCTA is offering the LARA partial use of this person to help in our fund raising efforts. If the LARA is interested then grants from the Lowell Community Fund would be pursued to help fund the cost. The NCTA already has accounted for nearly 50% of the cost. Along with the Fund Development person the NCTA can offer assistance with mapping and real estate services. The NCTA goal is to have funding for the position in time to advertise and hire in early 2005.

Dan will review the proposal and prepare a summary for consideration by the committee at the next meeting (August 11). The NCTA is holding some grant applications until after the LARA decides whether to participate.

Public Information

The LARA booth was open during the Riverwalk Festival, Saturday July 10. Betsy's dad provided fence sections that can be used for future exhibits. Traffic at the booth was less than at Expo in March, but the enthusiasm for trails is still strong. More volunteers signed up. Betsy will prepare an e-mail newsletter for people on the volunteer list.

Fund Balance

The \$6000 grant to pay bills for Mark VanAllsburg's work on the agreement has been added to the fund. The balance is now at \$14,456.38.

Cooper Woodland Preserve

A date for cleanup work at the Woodland has been set for Saturday August 21. Marsha Wilcox attended the meeting and brought a summary of information on the property limits and items to consider for access to the preserve.

The timber harvest has left brush piles, including tree tops. Dick Cooper suggested that companies exist that may be interested in salvaging fire wood sized pieces of timber from the woodland. Any company that works in the preserve would need to provide certification of insurance and hold the Lowell Area Schools harmless in case of any

accidents on site. If salvageable timber is removed brush piles would be reduced and could be left for wildlife habitat and decomposition.

Al H, Al R. Megan and Marsha visited the Cooper Woodland Preserve after the trail meeting. Marsha showed where property corners exist for the 66 foot easement to the property from Foreman Road. Through the preserve we went to the east side of the property, which adjoins the Cook property. The east side down to the sanitary sewer easement has a very steep slope which would be difficult for a trail grade. We then went to the north side where the overhead electric lines run through.

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 August 11, 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

Following is my draft work plan and action items for the cleanup; (help required)

Preliminary work

- Request permission from Economicology LLC (Wege) for access to preserve. (*Mari?, maybe also ask about temporary foot trail route north of preserve to school*)
- Solicit timber salvagers need to complete work by August 10. (*Dick Cooper contacts*)
- Brush-hog paths; to the preserve from the Foreman Road drive access, around the perimeter of the swampland and along the timber harvest access, and along the overhead electric easement. (*Wilcox and Malone*)
- Inside of preserve clear paths of downed trees, if not taken by salvage. (*Halbeisen and anybody else with chainsaw*)
- Mark trees along potential trail routes.

Cleanup day, August 21, 8 am to 4 pm (two 4 hour shifts)

- Provide babysitting if requested (*YMCA*)
- Remove loose brush from trails.
- Wood chipper (*Perry?*) and spread out chips in low/wet areas of trails
- Stockpile firewood pieces, if not salvaged.
- Cut brush along 66 foot easement to make accessible.
- Provide lunch for workers. (*Need cooking and serving volunteers*)
- Port-a-John
- Special projects
- Preview tour of connections to Cherry Creek and High School