



**Board Meeting, August 9, 2006 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall**

Present: Board Members, Mari Stone, Dan Edwards, Al Halbeisen, Betsy Davidson, Perry Beachum, Jim Pfaller, and Leslie Stougaard.

Guests;

Eric Lundstrom, Beth Cosmos and son and presentation by Bob Ford, LAP.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of June and July meeting approved.

LARA Treasurers Report

Balance as of 8-9-06 is \$20,112.38.

Motions passed to approve paying bill for Post Office Box and for the monthly report. Budget discussion was deferred to September meeting due to time constraints.

Old Business

Bob Ford of Landscape Architects and Planners presented a comparison of potential routes (5) on the high school property. Perry requested that a modification of option 2 to cross diagonally from the stadium area to the west parking lot be evaluated by LAP. A far eastern route was considered to be not desirable for a variety of reasons and a route on the east side of the main drive was expensive and could impact access to recreation fields. LAP will review option 2A and tweak the others for presentation to Lowell Area Schools.

New Business

Letters of support have been requested for the RV Park Concept, North Washington property and the Lowell Township Riverfront Park;

LARA will request that Jim Hall give a presentation of the RV concept. Kent County Fair Board members should also be involved in meeting with Jim.

No proposal has been made on North Washington property so LARA does not have a position.

A motion was passed to provide a letter of support for the Riverfront Park grant request. The potential connection of the trail to the park and the use of trails inside the park is included in the master plan. The park is having an open house on Saturday, which Al will attend to represent LARA.

Development Committee (Dan, Mari, Leslie and Jennifer)

Dan has been working on Case Statement which will be a tool for fund raising and grant applications. Jennifer provided suggestion to develop the case statement.

Marketing Committee (Betsy, Tamara, Jennifer and Eric)

Planning to host Chamber event in October at NCTA office.

Easements

Lowell School Easements

Pending approval of route options. Goal is to have options ready for September board meeting.

Alden Nash West

Al traded voice mails with Steve regarding easement.

Wege property easement

Mari received letter from Wege lawyer confirming their agreement to allow the use of the sanitary sewer easement for the trail. LAP will work on description of the easement. Discussion on how to include short segment between sewer easement and northwest corner of Cooper Woodland Preserve.

Foreman Road easements

Still need to contact Hunt family and consider calling Gratz family again to review options along Foreman Road.

Fairground Connection to Stony Lakeside Park

Jim had meeting with Jim and Becky Reagan to discuss possible easement along the south edge of their property adjacent to the Grand River. The Reagan's are concerned about loss of open space and would prefer to see an option for trail along Bowes Road.

Other

Mari and al will attend September Rotary meeting to discuss grant application.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 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 September 13, 2006 at 6 pm, Vergennes Township Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,
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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)