



**Board Meeting, September 13, 2006 @ 6:00 pm
Vergennes Township Hall**

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

Guests;

Alan Rumbaugh (Chamber of Commerce), Stacy Messersmith (YMCA), Jennifer Tripp (NCTA), Tamara Karczewski, Greg Pratt (LAS), Beth Cosmos and Jim Hall.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of August meeting approved.

LARA Treasurers Report

Balance as of 9-13-06 is \$20,998.16. Motion passed to approve the monthly report.

Old Business

Review of revised options for potential trail routes on the high school property. A modification of option 2 (2A and 2B) to cross diagonally from the stadium area to the west parking was evaluated by LAP. Prior to the meeting a map of the revised options was reviewed with Larry Mikulski of LAS and he preferred option 2A.

Option 2A runs on the west side of the football parking lot and option 2B runs on the east side and would need to cross the parking lot driveways. Due to concerns with potential expansion or renovation of the stadium and the tight fit of 2A many of the board prefer the 2B option. A combination of the two options could be worked out.

By consensus the board agreed to present Option 2A/2B at the September 25 workshop for consideration by the Lowell Area Schools Board of Education at the October 9 meeting.

New Business

Jim Hall gave a presentation of the RV park concept and master plan for the City property along the Flat River. The potential connection of the Fairgrounds to the undeveloped property on the east side of the river and then to Main Street is included in the trail master plan. LARA may not support all elements of the plan but does support the concept of the park and connection to the Fairgrounds. A motion was passed to provide a letter of support for the RV Park "concept", with the understanding that additional details will be worked out.

Development Committee (Dan, Mari, Leslie and Jennifer)

Dan has done additional work on the Case Statement which will be a tool for fund raising and grant applications and welcomes comments from other members.

Rotary approved grant for \$1000 for 1 year.

Marketing Committee (Betsy, Tamara, Jennifer and Eric)

Updated list of 2006 Activities

September 20 – Safe Routes to School meeting and training session

Planning to host Chamber event October 12 at NCTA office.

October 14 – Harvest Run & Clown Parade

Planning volunteer activity for Saturday October 21. Group will work on proposed route at Lowell High School to give LAS Board a preview of the route for approval.

Easements

Lowell School Easements

Route option 2A/B will be presented to LAS for October board meeting.

Alden Nash West

Al traded voice mails with Steve regarding easement prior to last meeting.

Wege property easement

LAP provided description of the easement along sanitary sewer and short segment between sewer easement and northwest corner of Cooper Woodland Preserve. Al will provide easement form to accompany legal description.

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

No action.

Other

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 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 October 11, 2006 at 6 pm, Lowell 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)

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)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)