

Lowell Area Recreation Authority
"Connecting our Community"

Board Meeting, December 8, 2004 @ 4:00 pm
Office Conference Room
Lowell High School

Present: Mari Stone, Dan Edwards, Al Halbeisen, Paula Blumn, Betsy Davidson, Perry Beachum, Jim Pfaller, Leslie Stougaard and Emma Palova (GR Press).

Lowell Area Trail Agreement for LARA

The agreement was approved by all three boards at the November 15 meetings and representative were appointed. Mari Stone and Dan Edwards represent Vergennes Township, Al Halbeisen and Leslie Stougaard represent Lowell Township, Perry Beachum and Jim Pfaller represent City of Lowell and Betsy Davidson is the at-large representative.

Lowell Area Schools does not have an official board member but are encouraged to have a representative attend the meetings. Representatives from the YMCA, Chamber of Commerce and North Country Trail Association are also desired.

Election of Officers

Chairperson – Mari Stone
Vice Chair – Perry Beachum
Secretary – Alan Halbeisen
Treasurer – Betsy Davidson

Meeting Schedule

Meetings will be held monthly, usually on 2nd (or 3rd) Wednesdays. Meeting time will be 6 pm. Location will rotate between township, city and school locations. Next meeting to be held on January 19, 2005 at the Lowell Township Hall. Bob Ford of Landscape Architects and Planners (LAP) and Nancy Krupiarz of Rails to Trails will talk about Safe School Route grants.

Administration

Betsy is getting quotes for insurance coverage.

LARA will get a post office box for official mail.

Funding applications

Lowell Community Fund (LCF) has awarded grant to North Country Trail Association (NCTA) to fund a grant coordinator. LARA will receive 15% of the person's time to work on our fund raising. Dan has been coordinating with NCTA on memorandum of agreement and will work with them to have a liaison with LARA. First the NCTA needs to hire a new director.

Next LCF application deadline is December 30. LARA will work on request for funding additional work needed to get refined cost estimate and MDNR grant application prepared for first phase of trail from Wittenbach Nature Center to Cherry Creek Middle School. Dan Edwards will take lead on funding strategies. Al will contact LAP to update proposal for work on first phase.

LARA-120804.minutes.doc

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Cooper Woodland Preserve

Lowell Education Foundation (LEF) granted funds to improve the entrance to the Cooper Woodland Preserve. Work was done in October with second cleanup day. LEF has indicated they would approve moving the Cooper Woodland Preserve sign to the parking area located at Foreman Road, east of Alden Nash.

Wege property easement

Mark VanAllsburg prepared description of temporary easements desired and sent them to Mark Pursley. A meeting with Peter Wege for presentation of the trail plan has been suggested but has not occurred.

LIVE 5

The Lowell Leadership 5 class is planning to construct the boardwalk over the stream crossing on the north side of the Cooper Woodland Preserve for their 2005 project. Betsy is chairperson for the group and Al has met with them to discuss technical requirements. They will be working on a LCF grant application, a logo contest and are getting material cost estimates.

LARA Treasurers Report

Balance as of 12-07-04 is \$12095.35

Lowell Area Schools

Perry suggested that we have a formal presentation to the Lowell Area Schools Board of Education. They have been approached about participation in LARA but have not been presented with the overall trail plan. Easements will be needed on school property for the trail route.

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 January 19, 2005 at 6 pm, Lowell Township Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,
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For more information refer to the website
www.lowellareatrailway.org