



**Board Meeting, December 10, 2008 @ 5:30 pm
Vergennes Township Hall**

Present:

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

Meeting Minutes

November meeting minutes approved.

LARA Treasurers Report

Checking balance \$38,429.02. \$114,851.84 in Money Market Account.

Old Business

TREAD Fund Development Committee (Dan, Mari, Jodie and Betsy) – Pledges are over \$300,000. Frey Grant of \$40,000 announced, conditional on connection to Rail Trail project. Public fundraising campaign to be announced when private campaign reaches 50% of goal.

New Business

WMTGC will submit grant application for funding on Greenville to Lowell Rail Trail. Public information effort will be needed. Discussion on holding a joint booth with WMTGC, NCTA and LARA at the Lowell Community Expo to help explain the differences and connections between the groups.

Five proposals for Design Services were received in November and considered by the board. Three firms, Landscape Architects & Planners, Prein & Newhof and Williams & Works, were invited to this month's meeting to give brief presentations and answer questions.

After the presentations the board discussed the proposals and presentations. Perry made a motion to select Williams & Works to perform the design services. The motion was approved, 6 members voting yes. Al Halbeisen abstained from voting because of his involvement in previous and existing contracts with the three firms.

Funding for the design services will come from the Lowell Area Community Fund Grant. Williams & Works will be authorized to proceed with the preliminary phase, with the goal to have grant applications ready for the MDNR and MDOT funding programs in April and May respectively. Mari will contact Dave Austin of Williams & Works to notify him of the decision and will write a letter to the other firms.

Easements

Wege property

Al received legal description for the easement from LAP. Al will review and prepare for submittal to Wege for approval.

Other

Meeting ended @ 8:30.

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 14, 2009 at 6:00 pm, Lowell 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 Area Community Fund (LACF)
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)
Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance (MTGA)
North Country Trail Association (NCTA)
Trail Resources Enrichment and Development (TREAD)
Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition (WMTGC)
Wittenbach – Wege Center (WWC)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
Flat River Outreach Ministry (FROM).