



**Board Meeting, December 12, 2007 @ 6:00 pm
Vergennes Township Hall**

Present:

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

Guests; Larry Mikulski, Beth Cosmos and Pinky McPherson

Meeting Minutes

Amendments to July, October and November Minutes and August minutes approved.

LARA Treasurers Report

Checking balance \$25,321.92 includes \$20,000 Fundraising Assistance Grant. \$12,630.00 in Money Market Account. Reports approved.

Old Business

TREAD Fund Development Committee (Dan, Mari, Jodie and Betsy) – Keith Hopkins working with committee; scheduling and holding interviews with potential fund raising campaign leaders.

Study of Wege property to be presented December, 20th. Options for Wege land included low, medium and high intensity plans.

Safe Walks to Schools update – Groups provided letters regarding maintenance responsibilities.

New Business

Rails to Trails – Multi-agency group looking at potential acquisition and conversion of railroad lines from Greenville to Lowell (Foreman Road) and from Lowell (Division Street) to Ionia. LARA would be responsible to make connection in Lowell.

2008 Schedule – Board approved schedule with meetings on 2nd Wednesday of each month, starting at Lowell Township Hall and rotating to Lowell City Hall and Vergennes Township Hall.

Easements

Foreman Road

Committee to contact Graatz's after January 1 for meeting to discuss options.

Larry asked about connection to Cherry Creek Elementary. Discussed ending trail at driveway, staying in Foreman Road right of way. First phase of trail will officially start at Creekside Park, crossing Foreman at Gee Drive.

Lowell Schools

Beth Cosmos asked about status of trail on High School property. Following is a summary of the history of evaluating the options and discussions with Lowell School Board;

April 2006 Open House – Residents asked about options for trail on High School site.

June 2006 LARA meeting – Residents attended meeting at LHS to discuss concerns.

August 2006 LARA meeting – LAP presented exhibit and cost estimates for options on LHS. Options 3 and 4 were eliminated due to cost and safety concerns. Modification of Option 2 was suggested.

September 2006 – Options 2A and 2B, diagonal routes north of football stadium, were added to exhibit. LARA Board approved taking the Exhibit to Lowell School Board workshop meeting on September 25th.

December 2006 Community Open House at LHS – Route options discussed.

May 2007 LARA meeting – Board approved motion to request easement for Option 1 (south of football stadium and along west side of LHS property) from LAS. Route and Draft Easement presented to Lowell School Board workshop meeting on June 25th.

Alden Nash West

No action.

Wege property

Pinky asked about status of trails on Wege land and expressed support for trails near the road.

Other

Meeting ended @ 7:30.

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 9, 2008 at 6 pm, Lowell Township Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,
Al Halbeisen, P.E.
2120 Parnell Ave SE
Ada, MI 49301

616-897-0074, hhengltdgr @ aol.com

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)