



**Board Meeting, December 14, 2005 @ 6:00 pm
Vergennes Township Hall**

Present: Board Members, Dan Edwards, Al Halbeisen, Betsy Davidson, Mari Stone, Leslie Stougaard and Jim Pfaller and Guests Nancy Krupiarz of Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance (MTGA) and Jennifer Tripp and Clare Cain of North Country Trail Association (NCTA), Eric Lundstrom and Mark Fritsma of Lowell area.

Meeting Minutes

No official minutes from November meeting due to lack of quorum. Dan, Mari and Betsy met with LEF to discuss easement for Cooper Woodland Preserve.

LARA Treasurers Report

Balance as of 12-14-05 is \$ 8669.47. Motion to approve report approved.

Funding and Grants Report

Betsy and Mari attended Rotary Club meeting on October 19 and were encouraged to apply for Look and Rotary Grants to use for matches to obtain other funds.

Public Relations

Discussed providing updates to City and Township Boards and to the LCF, LAS and other local groups.

Sign standards

No report.

Easements

Lowell School Easements

Lowell Education Foundation has made revisions to lease for the Cooper Woodland Preserve, based on suggestions made by LARA. Some items have not been addressed. Board members will review easement and send comments to Mari. Motion approved to have Mari sign the lease and easement pending revisions and review by attorney.

Lone Pine Development

Al has contacted engineering firm for development to get information on legal description for trail easement.

Wege property easement

Mari and Marsha Wilcox planning to set up meeting with Wege contacts.

Foreman Road easements

Perry, Al and Bob Ford had initial meeting with Graatz family to discuss easements and trail alternatives if no easements.

Still need to contact Hunt family.

Alden Nash

Al will contact Kent County Road Commission to get right of way information and road plans.

Dykema property, south of Bowes Road and north of Grand River.

Jim sent letter to Jane Dykema asking for consideration of easements that would allow connection to Lowell Township Park on south side of Grand River.

Gee Drive

Status of road construction plans?

NCTA Coordination

Several items to be considered or updated;

- Volunteer for trail cleanup at Cherry Creek
- Field trip Greenville Trails
- Volunteer list update
- Map of first trail segment, update on posters
- Grant list
- Contacts for presentation
- Timeline update
- Attend WMTGC meetings

Clare Cain, new Director of Trail Management, introduced. Clare reported that rail line south of Grand River to Elmdale has been officially abandoned. Title is not clear on some segments of the rail line. Clare is asking for help in contacting property owners for potential leases.

Other

City representatives attended "Cool Cities" seminars. Current focus is on arts and trails.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 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 January 11, 2006 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;

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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)