



**Board Meeting, April 8, 2009 @ 6:00 pm  
Vergennes Township Hall**

**Present:**

LARA Board Members, Mari Stone, Perry Beachum, Jim Pfaller, Dan Edwards, and Betsy Davidson. Beachum chaired the meeting in the absence of Halbeisen. Guests; Dave Austin, Williams & Works; Jodie Seese, Capitol Campaign

**Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of March meeting approved.

**LARA Treasurers Report**

The Treasurers Report was reviewed and approved. Discussion regarding the new Quickbook reports, including a more detailed listing of unpaid bills and another giving detail by project. Will be most helpful for grant reporting.

**Old Business**

Expo Recap – Jodie gave overview of the Expo efforts and Capitol Campaign to date. There will be a booth at Riverwalk with Buy-a-Brick info. They would like to hold a ceremonial groundbreaking in the fall which could feature potential grant awards.

Campaign Cabinet Report – Betsy reported that the cabinet has been “released” from scheduled meetings, and they are now focusing on smaller donors, local challenge programs, and special events. The Cabinet Chairs would like to keep Keith going on an as needed basis, and Betsy reported that there are funds left in the budget for his time and also for some hourly help. Jodie Seese has offered her services for a short time to wrap up loose ends with donors, pursue additional opportunities, and conduct gatherings/presentations to community groups. The Board agreed to the use of the remaining funds in the fundraising budget for Jodie and Keith.

Design Services Update – Dave Austin told the board about his activities to date. He handed out a memorandum (attached) outlining the status of the grant applications to date. Regarding easements:

Four areas on LAS property need to be addressed. Mari will contact Greg Pratt to set up a meeting. Question – do we need easements for these sites? Austin noted that we will at least need a ROW for construction.

Economicology/Wege Property – This is almost complete, and Mari and Al will wrap this up by May.

Alden Nash West – Jeff Brinks at W&W is working with Steve Hansen on this development, and Austin will find out the current status. Mari will contact Hansen, and

also inquire with Linda Regan when she is back in town about the sewer easement and what the township needs from LARA.

Gratz/Foreman Rd. – Efforts will be made to contact the Gratz family one more time to discuss a potential payment for easements. Should this fail, the KCRC RoW along Foremen will need to be used, which will result in the loss of many trees. Austin will provide some estimates of additional costs should this option be needed.

Austin raised the question of using crushed limestone for a portion of the Economicology property. The Board felt it would provide a good alternative, and was interested in the environmental advantages, reduced cost (60% less), and ability to function as a good base for future paving. It would support foot and bike use, and likely would allow LARA to construct the trail even with a shortfall in Phase I funding goals. Austin also advocated the use of recycled materials for decking, boardwalks, trash receptacles and benches.

**New Business** – None

**Standing Committee Reports** – Covered in prior discussion

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The foregoing constitutes my understanding of matters discussed and conclusions reached. Please review and share your additions or corrections at the next Board Meeting scheduled on **Wednesday May 13, 2009 at 6 pm, Lowell City Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Mari Stone  
616-897-5709, clerk@vergennestwp.org

For more information refer to the website  
[www.lowellareatrailway.org](http://www.lowellareatrailway.org)

**Commonly used acronyms;**

Kent County Road Commission (KCRC)  
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)  
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)  
West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition (WMTGC)  
Wittenbach – Wege Center (WWC)  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)  
Safe Routes to School (SR2S)