



**Board Meeting, August 12, 2009 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall**

Present:

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

Guests; Dave Austin, Jim Hall, Mark Fritsema, Amanda and Andrew Schrauben

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of July meeting approved.

LARA Treasurers Report

The Treasurers Report was reviewed and approved.

On the subject of the Capitol Campaign, Davidson reported that work by Jodie Seese to date amounted to \$900. Anticipate an additional \$700 to complete. Brick sales will be a focus for the fall, with Lowell Township taking the display (created by Jim Pfaller, thank you) first, and then it will be at the City in October. Davidson also noted that Lynn Draigh has been working on a grant request for the campaign.

Old Business:

MDOT/MDNR grant updates – Received conditional commitment of 258 K. This will help match with the 435 K requested by the DNR, and 360 K from LARA fundraising. The program application process is next.

Gratz Easement – Halbeisen received a positive response from the sisters, but their father was very negative. No response since that initial meeting. He will follow up with a last attempt and our best offer.

Lowell Schools Easements – We will need a letter of intent to grant the needed easements at Cherry Creek and the HS for the conditional commitment from MDOT.

Alden Nash West Easement – Discussed the landscape plan and the problem with the unknown size of the proposed plantings. Stone will contact Hansen to discuss the revised engineering plan from Jeff Brinks of Williams & Works.

Cook Property, Possible Easement – As a fall back plan, talks have been held with the Cook Family regarding the SW corner of their property near the Cooper Woodland. We would need to revisit the easement agreement with the LEF for this to work. This configuration could allow us to use an inland route instead of obtaining an easement/land from the Gratz property along Foreman. The last option would be the Foreman Road ROW.

New Business:

We will have the Foreman Road clean-up on Tuesday, September 22, at 6:00 pm. Meet at the West side of Cherry Creek.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 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 Sept 9, 2009 at 6 pm, Vergennes Township Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,
Mari Stone
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For more information refer to the website
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)