



**Board Meeting, August 11, 2010 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Lowell Chamber Offices**

**Present:**

LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Mari Stone, Andrew Schrauben, Perry Beachum, Linda Regan, Gary Goff and Betsy Davidson. Guests; Dave Austin

**Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of July 14 meeting were approved.

**LARA Treasurers Report** - Davidson gave her report – She is contacting donors on a monthly basis. It was noted that the Frey Foundation grant has been reduced to 18K because of a calculation they use for local matching – they are looking at our budget differently. Davidson has protested, but has not succeeded in getting them to change their view.

**Old Business:**

**MDNR/MDOT Grant updates** – Proceeding with agency reviews – will finalize KCRC permits/reviews prior to these. Austin is in the process of “fine tuning” the special components of the trail: 3 Boardwalks, 2 overlooks on the Wege property, rest stops at steep grades, and the engineering issues on the hill between the High School and the Alden Nash West development, which will require deep cuts to make the grade without switchbacks.

**Easements** are the primary focus – we need to secure them before bidding can begin. They require a financial offer, and he is calculating amounts, in most cases a few hundred dollars. The property owner can turn it down, but we still must make the offer. Beachum and Halbeisen are assisting with this task.

**Signage** – Regulatory and interpretive is needed. The section through the HS needs overall signage at the N and S access points. From there, users will see a series of directional signs as they make their way through the property. Other locations needing overall signage will be at access points such as Creekside Park, Wege property, anywhere there is parking or features. These signs should indicate where rest rooms are available, as well as additional trail parking. We discussed the potential use of porta-johns. It was noted that Cannon Township has used a large handicapped version with success. We will consider this option and seek feedback.

Chamber Event, September 9, 2010 – This runs from 5 to 9 pm at Creekside Park. We will have subs and beverages, a raffle, info to hand out, and possible bikes to demo on the trail.

**New Business:**

None was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20.

The foregoing constitutes my understanding of matters discussed and conclusions reached.  
Please review and share your additions or corrections at the next Board Meeting.

*Mari Stone*

Respectfully submitted,  
Mari Stone  
LARA Secretary

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)