



Board Meeting, August 10, 2011 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell Chamber Offices

Attendance - LARA Board Members; Andrew Schrauben, Linda Regan, Perry Beachum, Betsy Davidson, Gary Goff. Guests; Dave Austin, Larry Mikulski. (notes taken by Davidson in Stone's absence)

Treasurer's Report

- Received the \$50,000 from WMTCG and \$50,000 from LACF.
- Talked with Kristine Huizen at Frey Foundation – the connecting route can be applied for through Frey Foundation
- MDOT needs their first payment. The City has received the first bill and we owe a check to the City. Dave is checking out if the City needs to invoice us first before we write the check. \$144,687 is the first amount.
- Dave and Betsy will be reviewing the construction invoices/available funds
- Audit - Reviewed quotes from Hungerford, BHTD, VHCPAs. Discussed our options. Annually it will be about \$2500-\$3000 factoring all the quotes. We receive \$1000 from municipalities \$3000 total. We will need to visit in the future our operating expenses. Also need to review the authority agreement for potential amendments such as fiscal year. Davidson, Stone and Regan will review quotes and bring recommendations back in September.

Construction Report

Phase I - Austin reported work is done at Metric Manufacturing. Looking at the railroad track and what is needed there. Construction should be off school property by Aug 15. Sidewalk at Cherry Creek has been done for a while. Really working on Cahoon property – boardwalk. They are grading and Dave has been talking to Blair. All the retaining walls are in on Alden Nash.

Wege property – boardwalk and installation of the 2 observation decks to be started in next week.

Alden Nash West – rain caused problems because of the steep grade. Had erosion and washouts. Has been working with Hansen.

High School Property – Beachum expressed concern about the 2 large upcoming football games that people may try to drive in on the trail. Austin suggested a berm or something temporary to get through the football season and then the board and townships could discuss a more permanent solution. Discussion on installation of a temporary barrier – Austin will ask the contractor about ideas. Changes this year to use more shuttles from middle school, cherry creek and airport for overflow parking. Austin to contact Board if we need to have a work night to setup temporary fences.

Other Business

Ribbon Cutting Event – Beachum advised that if it at Pink Arrow it will need to take place very early in the morning. They aren't really using the trail. This might not be the right venue. Davidson will look into holding the ribbon cutting at Harvest Hustle on October 8. That may be a better fit. Invitations to be sent to Municipalities, Schools, Chamber, Email Lists & Group Lists, Trailway Blast, Trailway website, Chamber website.

Cherry Creek Pavilion – School administration discussions are continuing regarding the exact location. May need to be moved back farther because of plowing. There is a trail that runs back to the trail around the pond. We were thinking west of the pine trees. There would be no bathrooms. Project will include the pavilion, plaque wall, and bricks leading up to it.

Mikulski would like to get a sketch to the School Board. Discussion regarding parking. Some desired at Cherry Creek – east side front, with signs that say trail parking. He doesn't think they will have a problem with it. They talked about it at a workshop last Saturday. Second Monday of September is next board meeting. Austin will sketch something up and email it for the meeting. Mikulski will put a couple stakes out there. Maintenance – picnic tables, trash, etc. Collaborative? Lowell Schools property – insurance? Easement? Larry will talk to the insurance people for the schools.

Phase II - Austin and Goff will be attending the rail trail meeting on Thursday. Funding estimates were put together for the 125 mile trail – then they took the rough estimates and did DNR MDOT and local matches. A large sum from Meijer as well. Our Lowell gap connection was included in this paving estimate. We can use those figures in a grant request – we will plan for our connecting point as the rail trail group is working on paving.

LLP & St Mary's - Halbeisen met with LLP to talk about easements for the connector. Also need to connect with St Mary's about their easement. Mikulski happens to be head of maintenance and grounds at St Mary's.

Wege Easement to Cooper Woodland Preserve - It was recently discovered that an easement was never recorded for access to the Cooper Woodland. Now we need to get with Wege representatives to finalize the easement. There is no legal connection to the Cooper Woodland at this time.

Various issues – Need to provide for pet cleanup on the trail. Bricks – where to display next? LLP? Beachum to check. Jeff McCuster from North Country Trail / National Park Service would like to attend one our meetings to discuss our projects.

Pinnacle Insurance Renewal - Motion by Beachum to approve the Pinnacle invoice in the amount of \$1052.00, Goff seconded, motion approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

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

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)
Flat River/Grand River Valley Trails – (FRVT/GRVT)