



**Board Meeting, December 14, 2009 @ 6:00 pm  
Vergennes Township Hall**

**Present:**

LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Mari Stone, Jim Pfaller, Perry Beachum and Betsy Davidson. Guests; Dave Austin, Emma Palova

Motion to excuse Regan and Edwards.

**Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

**LARA Treasurers Report**

The Treasurers Report was reviewed – Motion to authorize Davidson to transfer funds to a better rate account.

**Old Business:**

**MDOT Enhancement Grant** – Dave is submitting a revised route map.

**MDNR Grant** – Legislature will act on recommendation of MDNR – we need to do nothing until we hear from them.

**Lowell Schools Easements** – Now that funding is secured, Austin and Halbeisen will work on formalizing with the schools.

**Alden Nash West Easement** – Vergennes will be reviewing Phase III for the development, and will make their final approval contingent on successfully concluding this easement. Need to finalize a landscaping plan that satisfies all parties, ask Lowell Township to develop and adopt an agreement regarding the sewer easement use, and get the LARA easement signed.

**Survey for Alden Nash, Gee Dr. to Foreman Rd.** – Field work/survey was done before the snow cover. Design work is next, with soil borings and specifications. Discussion regarding DNR funds covering these expenses – Austin will confirm whether this will come from our match or their funding.

**New Business:**

Davidson reviewed the Press Release regarding the Grants. Fundraising will continue, with another 50K secured from WMTGC.

Dan Edwards has submitted his resignation, with regrets. He has taken a position in North Carolina. Discussion regarding a replacement resulted in a motion to allow Betsy

Davidson to move from the At-Large position to Vergennes Citizen Rep. This will free up the At-Large position and allow the Board to fill it from any of the three communities. It was noted that the high quality of the MDNR grant application was due to the hard work and dedication of Edwards. Members expressed appreciation to Dan, and agreed to honor his service in trail markers and a thank you gift.

In other matters, it was decided to keep official documents and files at Vergennes Township until such time as another site is established.

It was also noted that planning and fundraising for Phase II should begin ASAP.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 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.

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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)