



Board Meeting, December 8, 2010 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell Chamber Offices

Present:

LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Andrew Schrauben, Linda Regan, Gary Goff, Mari Stone Perry Beachum and Betsy Davidson. Guests; Dave Austin, adjacent property owner Tim Paterson, Mark Fritzema, Al Rumbaugh.

Approval of Minutes – Approved the October minutes – no quorum present in Nov.

Treasurer's Report - Davidson gave a report on the status of pledges. She and Austin will be reviewing the proposed construction budget to see where we stand. We will also be looking at the LCTV fund for additional money to cover pledges we know we will not be getting, and also for easement expenses.

Old Business:

- Easements- Tim Paterson was in attendance. He lives at the corner of AN and Foreman. He told the Board he has not made a decision, but was there to listen and learn. Austin explained the crossing issues, and noted that he is working through the issues with the KCRC.
- School Easements – The school board will take up formal approval at their 12/13 meeting. They have already approved language and will grant final approval that night.
- DNR agreement – Once we have all of the easements obtained we can finalize this. A March bidding date is still anticipated.
- Greenville to Ionia Fred Meijer Heartland Trail – Al Rumbaugh gave a report. They have installed signage and the stored cars have been removed from the tracks. Some of the sections will be improved next summer – some will be paved and some hard packed gravel. Discussed options to connect through town. There is a potential to use the West bank of the Flat as a stabilization project is planned for 2011-12. It was noted that creativity will be needed to get this connection accomplished, and it was suggested that an event be planned in 2011 to tap into the excitement that will be generated by the construction.
- R2T connection through Lowell – Gary Goff volunteered to serve as a sub-committee Chair to head this project. Andrew Schrauben will assist. Perry Beachum motioned to take this subject will up as a workshop session after the January 2011 meeting. Stone seconded, and the motion carried. Goff will chair this portion of the meeting.

New Business:

- Halbeisen, Austin and volunteer Barry Getzen are planning to reconfirm the alignment of the Wege Easement, and will then post a volunteer day to start a trail clearing.
- Stone noted that Board Representatives should be reconfirmed at each jurisdiction's meetings, and that the 2011 meeting schedule will be noticed in the Ledger by January.

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)