



Board Meeting, December 14, 2011 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell Chamber Offices

Attendance - LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Andrew Schrauben, Linda Regan, Perry Beachum, Mari Stone, Betsy Davidson, Gary Goff. Guests; none.

Minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

One invoice for 50K is in process with the DNR. The process of reimbursement has been slow. There is 30K of DNR funds for amenities (trash cans, bollards, benches) that is still available until August of this year. Davidson is working with the Auditor, Steve Thompson, and the audit is moving along.

Grant requests for FRVT/GRVT Lowell Connection study – A proposal is being reviewed by the DNR, and it looks very promising. The Frey Foundation has committed to \$2300.00 of the total cost of \$9000.00, and the DNR is being asked to cover the rest.

Pavillion/Brick Installations – Discussed a proposed structure of 20'X28' square. There was a lengthy discussion regarding storage options/needs. Without having a maintenance plan nailed down yet, there were questions about what may need to be stored, such as vehicles and other equipment. There were several reasons cited to not tie storage to the pavilion – there could be storage solutions already in existence within the community; other groups may be interested in collaborative use; services could be contracted out.

Rotary plans to contribute 13K this year toward the pavilion project.

Connections to FMRVRT in Lowell – There are ongoing meetings with land owners in the Newell/St. Mary's/Bushnell area. Beachum and Schrauben spoke about the proposed bio-digestion plant on Chatham in the former Newell plant. Part of the project includes upgrades to the area, and there is a potential to incorporate a trail to go alongside the property.

Other Business – Beachum has developed a sample brochure based on ideas from previous meetings for a Friends of the LARA Trail group. Board members were asked to bring suggestions for members to the January meeting.

It was noted that the issue with the easement to the Cooper Woodland Preserve has not been cleared up yet. Stone will contact Wege Foundation representatives and get the conversation moving.

Because of member schedules this winter, it was decided to move the regular meeting dates for January, February, March and April to the 3rd Thursday. We will resume the second Wednesday in May.

A goal was set for early 2012 to have a timeline/priority project list, which would include the FMRVRT connection in 2014, and a plan for our Phase II and beyond. Schrauben volunteered to compile a list to review in January.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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 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)
Fred Meijer River Valley Trails – (FMRVT)