



**Board Meeting, February 10, 2010 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Lowell Chamber Offices**

**Present:**

LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Mari Stone, Jim Pfaller, Perry Beachum, Andrew Schrauben and Betsy Davidson. Guests; Dave Austin, Dave Pasquale, Chuck Hayden

Motion to excuse Regan.

**Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

**LARA Treasurers Report**

The Treasurers Report was reviewed – Motion to authorize payables.

**Old Business:**

**Replacement for Edwards** – Members will bring suggestions to the March meeting. Schrauben will announce the vacancy at the City Council meeting which is televised.

**Lowell Community Expo, March 27<sup>th</sup>** - Stone will coordinate volunteer schedule. Friday night set up will be done as in the past. Jodie Vokes is coordinating the announcement and Bert Bleke will speak. Austin will create a construction schedule/timeline to display.

**MDOT Enhancement Grant** – Austin had spoken with both MDOT and MDNR regarding our desire to proceed with some advanced work. If ANW is constructed in '10, MDOT needs to remove it from the total % they will cover (20% in this instance). The DNR however, had no problem with this. It was decided that losing any of the MDOT funding is not worth it. We will let out bids in Fall of '10, and wait to construct ANW in Spring of '11 with the rest of the project.

**Motion** to approve a 2011 construction season by Beachum, seconded by Davidson. Motion carried.

Regarding grant payments – MDOT will take the lead and front funds during construction. They will invoice the City, who is acting as fiduciary for LARA. LARA will approve the invoices and pay our own share as the invoices are approved. MDNR will pay for their share in the same way, as we approve.

**Lowell Schools Easements** – Still working on formalizing with LAS.

**Alden Nash West Easement** – Lowell Township will review the draft easement for their approval prior to an agreement with Hansen.

**Planning and fundraising for Phase II** - This subject will continue to be on the agenda.

**New Business:**

WMTGC Workshop Series – Several members expressed an interest in attending the Liability and Maintenance workshop being offered.

## **Guest – Chuck Hayden, NCTA, West Michigan Chapter Trail Development**

Hayden spoke to the board regarding current and future trail projects in and around Lowell. He has been active with the local chapter for 8 years and took this position in 2009. Recently, the local chapter has been resurrecting trail plans and developing new ones for the Lowell area. The National Headquarters and the National Park Service has decided to hand off the Lowell area new trail development to the local chapter, and they have plans for almost 20 miles of new trail in Kent County over the next 3-5 years.

They have already constructed a ½ mile of new trail just north of Fallasburg Park and are currently working on the Boy Scout Cabin reroute, the Elmdale Trail Corridor, and eliminating 1 mile of road walk and adding 2 miles of trail in the Lowell State Game Area and Fallasburg Park. They are also considering possible new routes through Kent County to connect with the Rogue River section. Most of these plans will cross other trails and Vergennes Township. The LARA trail master plan actually offers them some opportunity in the future for a more suitable river crossing and they would like to work a little closer with the city, the townships and LARA.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 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)