



Board Meeting, February 9, 2011 @ 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, Jim Fero - Ada Township Planner, Phil Vogelsang – Ada Township Planning Commissioner.

Approval of Minutes – Approved the January minutes.

Treasurer's Report - Davidson reported that we have received a \$750 invoice from BHT&D for filing taxes, and a bill for the January Ledger meeting notice. We will be approving the payments in March. The March meeting will also have a review of deficit/default pledges, with applications to LCTV for defaults and LACF for project cost overages. Another potential grant application – Phase II development (update the Master Plan). Davidson suggested we split our requests and prioritize them – i.e. RtoT connections, Ada Trail connections, Alden Nash/Gee to Meijer. Austin noted that a preliminary engineering study for these projects would be in the \$5,000 to \$7,500 range.

New Business:

Ada Township representatives Fero and Vogelsang discussed their trail projects, stating that there are approximately 16 miles built to date. They are currently working on an update of the township Master Plan, and the trail system is a component. They were present to let the Lowell Community know that Ada is interested in any connections to our trails that can be made. Some ideas tossed out – Bailey/McCabe to the Rail Trail on Bailey; Down Vergennes to the HS; Grand River Dr. to Lowell Township Park. LARA members agreed that a connection to the Ada trail system would benefit both communities, and will include these suggestions in our next Master Plan update.

Old Business:

R2T connection through Lowell – Goff and Schrauben gave a report on the potential connects as discussed at the January meeting. A summary is attached to these minutes. Discussion points:

- The Moose property may be a good site for the south trailhead – it has city facilities and may be a nice fit for the Rotary pavilion project.
- A designated crossing at Washington may get the city a much desired traffic light at that intersection.
- The Richards Park area connects LL&P to St. Marys/Bushnell/MS
- Idea for north trailhead – use tennis courts location. It is highly visible and right in the area where the R2T connects to the LARA trail.
- It was the consensus to not use the rail beds to make connections within the city.

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)