



**Board Meeting, January 13, 2010 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell Township Hall**

Present:

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

Motion to excuse Regan.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of December 14th meeting were approved.

LARA Treasurers Report

The Treasurers Report was reviewed – Motion to authorize payables. Davidson noted that the new CD rate is just over 1%, as compared to the former rate of .01%

Old Business:

Replacement for Edwards – An ad will be placed, and an at-large community member will be sought.

MDOT Enhancement Grant – Austin provided a time line (attached) that showed the steps needed to take in the construction process, and explained how these steps will affect fund availability and construction seasons. It was decided that pushing for a 2010 construction season would not be feasible, although some individual projects could be accomplished. These include the Alden Nash West construction, the Foreman and Gee Dr. pedestrian bridge/boardwalk, and potentially clearing the Wege portion to use as an unpaved path. These projects could be done with a “force account” using current LARA funds, and much volunteer labor. Austin will communicate the likely construction season of 2011 to MDOT for their approval.

Lowell Schools Easements – Still working on formalizing with LAS.

Alden Nash West Easement – Vergennes made their final approval of this phase of the development contingent on successfully concluding this easement. Lowell Township will review our latest draft of the easement, which notes that landscaping may not be within 15 feet of the centerline of the sanitary sewer easement. They can then decide what they need to cover with Hansen regarding the sewer easement use.

New Business:

Meeting schedule for 2010 – Date will remain on second Wednesday of every month. Davidson suggested meeting at the Chamber instead of rotating sites, and will check to verify that it is available.

Discussion was held regarding planning and fundraising for Phase II. We will keep this subject on the agenda.

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

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)