



**Board Meeting, January 12, 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, Anna Marie Bauer of MDNR Forest/Recreation Management, Mark Fritsma, George Raimer, Al Rumbaugh.

Approval of Minutes – Approved the December minutes.

Treasurer's Report - Davidson reported that she has registered us for an Expo booth – actually 3 – that will be shared again with other trail groups. The date is March 26th. She also had met with Halbeisen and Austin to hash out the final cost estimate of Phase I. She will now finalize what we still need to apply for from LCTV and LACF.

Old Business:

- Clearing for Wege Easement – large tree cutting will take place yet this winter.
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- 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:

- Lowell Rotary Club – Pavilion – The rotary is interested in working on a project to construct a structure at a trail head area. We will need to determine where this should be.
- MDNR Grant opportunities – Bauer commented on our commitment to making the necessary connections in Lowell to join the Greenville and Ionia legs of the rail trail.

Rails to Trails Connection Committee - Brainstorming session for Phase II -

Bauer offered her perspective from the MDNR - There is limited funding for trail projects, and it is used mostly for matching funds and seed money. They do want to help out as much as possible wherever they can.

Discussion began regarding various possible routes. Some of the ideas and comments:

- there should be two trailheads – need parking spots for them. Downtown is problematic for that.
- Need rest room facilities
- Kayak users could use same facilities if one of the trailheads is on the river
- In looking at the map, it was noted that there are three logical segments to work with; 1.) Eastern segment, Division to Front to Main St., 2.) Downtown/River, 3.) North segment, which would be Downtown to Foreman, and could use properties along the existing RR or along the River adjacent to Riverside Dr.

- It was suggested that we spend some additional time deciding what it is we want for amenities. Rest rooms will cost in the area of 100K, a pavilion around 50K, and then there are items such as picnic tables, waste receptacles, and pet waste stations to consider.

The committee will continue this discussion in future LARA Board meetings.

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)