



**Board Meeting, January 14, 2015 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall**

Attendance - LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Perry Beachum, Mari Stone, Betsy Davidson, Mark Anderson, Gary Goff, Jim Hall. Also present: Mark Fritsma

Minutes – December meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report –Davidson gave Treasurer's report –There were no invoices to be paid.

Public Comment – Fritsma noted that the DNR ran a press release regarding the opening of the CIS trail. Beachum noted that the Foreman/AN corner crossing has a lot of snow piled up on the trail. Anderson will check into getting it removed. Clean Cut will be contacted about getting the AN trail section cleared. Goff reported that the FMRT will begin the application process this quarter for 2016 funding of rural area connections.

2015 LARA Meeting Schedule – Stone motioned to approve the meeting schedule as presented, Anderson seconded, and the **motion carried**. Meetings will continue every second Wednesday at 6pm in the meeting room on the second floor of City Hall.

BHT&D Audit Report and Recommendations – Davidson reported that overall it was a good audit. Recommendations included adopting an annual budget (done), Adopting an investment policy, an establishing a capitalization policy for fixed assets. Davidson is crafting these using Vergennes, Lowell and Lowell City policies as a base. It was noted that we will get two bids for the audit next year.

It was agreed that another policy we should adopt is a Bid Policy. Items discussed included minimum amount needed to go to bid in order to serve our needs, noting that low bidder not automatically awarded, and using a disclaimer on bid invites like Lowell Township does.

Phase 1-A and Phase 2 / Connections to FMRVRT - Dave Austin could not attend, but the final version of the Preferred Route was ready for approval. As soon as the draft report has been cleaned up, it will be sent to the DNR.

Expo Plans will be discussed at the February meeting. Davidson is submitting the application.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Mari Stone

Respectfully submitted,
Mari Stone
LARA Secretary

Commonly used acronyms;

Fred Meijer River Valley Rail Trails – (FMRVRT)
Kent County Road Commission (KCRC)
Lowell Area Schools (LAS)
Lowell Education Foundation (LEF)
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)

Greenville to Owosso – (GO)
Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA)
Lowell Area Community Fund (LACF)
Lowell Light & Power (LLP)
Lowell Cable TV Fund (LCTV)

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)
North Country Trail Association (NCTA)
West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition (WMTGC)
Wittenbach – Wege Center (WWC)

Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance (MTGA)
Safe Routes to School (SR2S)
Trail Resources Enrichment and Development
(TREAD)

For more information refer to the website www.lowellareatrailway.org