



**Board Meeting, June 9, 2010 @ 6:00 pm  
Lowell Chamber Offices**

**Present:**

LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Mari Stone, Andrew Schrauben Gary Goff and Betsy Davidson. Guests; Dave Austin, Mark Fritzema

**Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of May 12 meeting were approved.

**LARA Treasurers Report - none**

**Old Business:**

**MDNR Grant** –Austin explained the answers to the questions we had in May regarding the agreement. There remains only one unanswered, and it pertains to the list of contractors. Austin is comfortable with the answers he got. When we get to the contract signing we will make sure the sub-contractors are legitimate. Davidson motioned to sign the agreement, Beachum seconded, and the **motion carried**.

**Lowell Schools Easements** – Still working with Greg Pratt – should be finalized soon.

**Alden Nash West Easement** – Halbeisen and Austin met with Hansen - landscaping will be included in the MDOT contract with grading easements in the initial estimate. We can take this out if we need to finance landscaping differently.

**Grading Easements along Alden Nash** - Once we receive official approval from MDOT for the route changes we will approach the property owners.

**Adopt a Road Status** – Schrauben will be following up with the FFA.

**September “Kick-off Celebration”** – Discussion regarding name of event, activities, PR strategies.

**Lowell to Greenville Rail Trail Connection** – Austin has been attending the meetings. That group is still counting on LARA/the Lowell Community for the needed connection through the city. It was noted that the city is prioritizing their parks and recreation needs, and the upper bridge property is prime for a trail head. Most of the needs within the city involve signage and striping streets and sidewalks. Bikes would use the street system, and pedestrians the sidewalks, to get from Foremen Road to the east side of town.

**New Business:**

**Trail Booth at Riverwalk** - Davidson will coordinate booth set up and volunteers; Beachum will lay “the rug.”

**Insurance discussion** – Current coverage is through Burnham and Flowers, and it expires at the end of the month. We have not received a new proposal from them. Pinnacle Insurance is also

able to provide this kind of coverage and has submitted a bid. It is about \$150 less than was paid last year, and covers the same needs. Davidson is also working with a local agent to see what he can offer. It was decided that the local agent should get the business if he can offer it, and if not, we will go with Pinnacle.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

The foregoing constitutes my understanding of matters discussed and conclusions reached. Please review and share your additions or corrections at the next Board Meeting.

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)