



**Board Meeting, March 11, 2015 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall**

Attendance - LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Mari Stone, Betsy Davidson, Gary Goff, Jim Hall. Also present: Dave Austin

Minutes – February meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report –Davidson gave Treasurer's report – Invoices paid included \$80 for Chamber dues. She also reported that the Auditor confirmed that based on the number of residents served, the state requires an annual audit. BHT&D bid \$1945 for the 15/16 FY. Motion by Hall, seconded by Davidson, to utilize BHT&D. Motion carried.

Public Comment –Goff reported that the FMRT held an annual meeting that he attended. The Saranac to Lowell MDOT grant is in process, but matching funds are lacking at the present time. The 125 mile system is working on consistent rules for use. The Montcalm to Jackson St. purchase is in jeopardy because of new company management. He also told the Board that he gave a summary of LARA's progress with the designated route through Lowell.

Phase 2 / Connections to FMRVRT - Dave Austin told the Board that the final report was sent to the DNR. It was noted that when a meeting is held with them, the City of Lowell would like to be present since they will be acting as the Act 51 fiduciary.

Phase 1-A – Lowell Township plans to develop a park on township property on the river behind Walgreens at the corner of M-21 and Bowes Rd. It is hoped to eventually be joined to the existing park on the south side of the Grand by a pedestrian bridge. Connecting the new park area with a trail extension from Gee Dr. down Alden Nash to Bowes Rd. is still a LARA goal.

Development of former Wege Land along Alden Nash, Phase I – Austin summarized the needed trail crossings, and noted that there were no access points from the development to the Cooper Woodland and future Little League fields to the south. Stone will address at the proposed development's Public Hearing.

Expo Plans – Austin will create maps showing all 4 routes studied in the Phase 2 connection for display in the booth on March 28.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 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)
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)

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