



**Board Meeting, May 13, 2009 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall**

Present:

LARA Board Members, Al Halbeisen, Mari Stone, Jim Pfaller, Dan Edwards, and Betsy Davidson.

Guests; Dave Austin, Williams & Works; Dave Pasquale, Lowell City Manager

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of April meeting approved.

LARA Treasurers Report

The Treasurers Report was reviewed and approved. Stone motioned to have the Capitol Campaign provide a 6 month update, Pfaller seconded, and the motion carried.

Old Business

Wege Easement - Stone and Halbeisen reported that the Wege Easement is signed and recorded. It was noted that a cleared trail path can be created at any time, and we may wish to get volunteers involved for the excitement factor. Pfaller reminded the group that the brush hog housed by the city was paid for with LACF funds and was intended to be used by other community entities for their projects.

MDOT/MDNR grant updates – Austin said the MDOT grant was submitted electronically, and that we should hear back in mid June.

Gratz Easement – The draft letter was reviewed. It was noted that a neutral party to make the offer would be most effective. Members thought Keith Hopkins would be a good candidate. Austin suggested that a package of items needed for the offer would include the legal easement document, a check, photos, and a script for the presenter(s). Local attorney Pete Gustafson worked on the Wege easement, and he will be contacted to see if he would be willing to help put this package together.

Lowell Schools Easements – Austin explained that easements are needed only where we will be placing physical improvements, and that they need to be obtained before any funding from MDOT/MDNR can be received. We will need an easement for any paving we do on the path between the HS “senior lot” and Vergennes. We will also be needing 4-5 designated parking spaces at the WWC, football parking lot, and CC on the west side in front. At this time, a letter of intent/understanding will suffice for these items. A site visit has been set up for the school sites with Superintendent Pratt and district facilities personnel.

Alden Nash West Easement – The landscaping plan is almost ready, the engineering is done, and at that point we can do the easement language (using the Wege document as a template) and discuss any terms with developer Steve Hansen. Lowell Township will also need to give permission for the sewer easement use.

Campaign Cabinet Report – Betsy distributed a flyer for the Tyler Creek golf outing to be held June 5th. The campaign leadership is operating several projects even though the cabinet is not meeting on a regular basis.

New Business – None

Standing Committee Reports – Covered in prior discussion

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 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 scheduled on **Wednesday June 10, 2009 at 6 pm, Vergennes Township Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,
Mari Stone
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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)