



**Board Meeting, May 14, 2014 @ 6:00 pm  
Lowell City Hall**

**Attendance** - LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Mark Anderson, Mari Stone, Jim Hall, Gary Goff, Betsy Davidson.

**Minutes** – February meeting minutes were approved, with amendments.

**Treasurer's Report** – Davidson gave Treasurer's report –Bills to be paid: \$1285.78 to Terra Verde for picnic table; \$629.54 to Williams & Works for Phase II study work. Motion to approve payables by Stone, second by Anderson, motion carried.

**Public Comment** –None, however, a Friends of the Lowell Area Trailway meeting was held prior to the LARA meeting at 5. Deb Pavek and Barry Getzen have agreed to take the lead in a Friends group. There were 7 or 8 local residents who attended, and signed up to participate in various activities. Davidson would like to implement a Constant Contact account for LARA, and will include the contact info and share with Getzen and Pavek. Motion by Stone, seconded by Halbeisen, to purchase the Constant Contact package. Motion carried. A Facebook Page will also be created to be used for communication in the community. Barry and Deb will follow up with the Board regarding next steps.

**Phase 1-A and Phase 2 / Connections to FMRVRT**

Regarding the Gee Dr. to M-21 extension – some areas will need fill and others closer to Michigan Wire will need boardwalk. KCRC has no problem with the plans. 2 or 3 easements will be needed, and retaining walls at several locations with residences that are lower than the roadway. If MDOT funding is used, they will require the crossing to be at M-21, however it will be difficult to restrict users from crossing at the Meijer driveway. If built on west side of Alden nash, the crossing would have to be at Gee which is dangerous as it is mid-hill. Meijer is being asked for funding assistance, and to consider better pedestrian access on their own property.

Review of draft report by W&W – This will take place at the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting in the city Hall meeting chambers. A review and report will also be made to the Lowell Community Alliance (representatives of the city and townships, plus the Chamber and LAS) which will take place at their June meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

There is no news about the Bio-digester project but they are aware of our desire of an easement.

Pavilion project/donor acknowledgement – This is on track for summer completion.

**Other Business** –

Maintenance – Mowing and brush kill will take place in late May. Betsy had informally met with Greg Pratt regarding a group purchase of maintenance equipment. A stakeholder meeting will be set up to further explore this idea.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 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](http://www.lowellareatrailway.org)