



**Board Meeting, Nov 14, 2012 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall**

Attendance - LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Andrew Schrauben, Mari Stone, Gary Goff, Perry Beachum, Betsy Davidson, Linda Regan. Guests; Mark Fritsma, GM Ross.

Minutes - October minutes were approved with a correction to the date.

Treasurer's Report – Approved payments for Williams & Works for Phase 2 study and Phase 1-A preliminary design.

Discussion/Agenda Items:

Cahoon driveway – this drive to Cahoon's secondary garage on Alden Nash has washed out along the south edge. Stone motioned to appropriate \$200 to fill/repair the drive, Beachum seconded, and the motion carried.

Snow Plowing at Metric Manufacturing – discussion was held regarding several bids. Motion to authorize Davidson to negotiate for a seasonal rate not to exceed \$300 by Schrauben, seconded by Stone – motion carried.

Community Signage and Wayfinding Committee – Goff and Austin will represent LARA on this community based project. Austin reported that grant funding has been successfully extended to late spring for our Phase 1 signs. It was noted that there is a strong desire to retain the "LARA logo" signature for Lowell Area Trailway signs, and this will be conveyed to the Signage and Wayfinding committee.

Cherry Creek Pond trail – Goff, Davidson and several LAS representatives met on the site. Bridges are needing repair/replacement, and this will need some further thought. The goal is to get school personnel/students to take ownership of the pond area, and to encourage the use of the trail so that it receives regular maintenance.

Pavillion Site Plan – Rotary will be addressing funding for the pavilion at their November 28th Board meeting. They have approximately 13K to appropriate from their last auction project, and have expressed a desire to support the pavillion project, which will cost up to 18K total. Motion by Stone, seconded by Goff, to apply for matching grants upon funding and site approvals from Rotary and Lowell Area Schools. LAS will also need a maintenance plan/agreement and liability information in writing.

Amenities package – Benches are being stored at the DPW garage, and need to be moved as soon as possible. We will install as many of them now as we can, and move the rest to Lowell Township Park storage building.

Trail Use Rules and Rules of Etiquette – Discussion was held and will continue at the December meeting with a revised draft.

Austin was not able to attend the meeting, but submitted a summary of activities:

- **MDNR Grant Extension Request** – On behalf of LARA, we have requested that project deadline be extended from December 31st to April 15, 2013. The primary purpose of this extension is to allow for some coordination with the community wide way-finding sign efforts (a grant was just issued, see attached). While the community wide efforts will go beyond April 15th, this additional time allows us to participate in the general planning discussions so that hopefully there is some continuity in the look and styles. We will need to meet with the regional group as soon as possible to stay on schedule. Betsy and Al have information from Jeff McCusker (Nat. Park Service/North Country trails) on the details of their schedule.

This additional time will also give us some breathing room on the bench and bollard installations. Please note that the extension has been verbally approved at MDNR, but the paperwork has not yet been sent to LARA for signatures.

- **Wayfinding Signs** – Attached is a recent version of the map (with the proposed inset discussed earlier). Please continue to submit your input, but we will hold off changing the map until we get into the regional discussions. I did have a nice meeting with Gregg Pratt and Steve Turnbull after our last LARA meeting and they are on board with our proposed “School Connection” signs on the light poles. We will proceed with finalizing the art on those for everyone’s approval and we are looking for a good source for the brackets.
- **Benches** – The benches at the decks can be installed at anytime. We need someone with a truck and a couple cordless drills. I’ll be happy to help. I am now suggesting the remainder of the benches and bollards be installed in the spring along with the signs so all the concrete work for the sign foundations, etc can be done at once.
- **Cahoon Driveway** – Blair Cahoon ran into me in town and asked that I look at his north drive opening on Aiden Nash. He is concerned about the transition from the paved driveway and the gravel shoulder, which now has about a 3 inch lip. Ideally, he would like the opening to be paved a bit wider as he believes it was narrowed some from the original. Given the time of year, I suggested that a first strip might be to add some gravel, crushed concrete/asphalt to get rid of the lip and see how this works over the winter. Then re-evaluate in the Spring. I’ll call a couple local contractors today to get a price, but I’m thinking about \$200 at most. Please let me know your thoughts.
- **MDNR Sign** – The MDNR sign has arrived. I’ll deliver it to Betsy or Al for storage until we need to put it up (before April 15th).
- **Phase II** – Our “winter” project !!! I’ll plan to present an update and outline for proceeding at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. The foregoing constitutes my understanding of matters discussed and conclusions reached. Please review and share your additions or corrections at the next Board Meeting.

Mari Stone

Respectfully submitted,
Mari Stone
LARA Secretary

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 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)
Flat River/Grand River Valley Trails – (FRVT/GRVT)
Fred Meijer River Valley Trails – (FMRVT)
Greenville to Owosso – (GO)

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