



Board Meeting, Oct 10, 2012 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall

Attendance - LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Andrew Schrauben, Mari Stone, Gary Goff, Perry Beachum, Betsy Davidson. Guests; Dave Austin

Minutes - June and August minutes were approved – There was no quorum in September.

Treasurer's Report – Approved payments for Larkins, Ledger, and United Sign for trail cleanup day expenses. A check for \$209 will also go out for the required DNR sign, and \$26 to the city for fasteners for benches. Davidson and Austin had worked on grant accounting, and all issues have been straightened out. Township invoices for annual maintenance are being mailed this month.

Old Business:

September cleanup day – 40 volunteers came out to work on two projects – Cherry Creek pond trail and clearing brush from the RR bed from Foreman to Vergennes. There was plenty of enthusiasm and it was deemed a success.

Phase 1, Amenities package

Benches will go on the boardwalks this fall, other rest area benches and bollards need a cement base and will be installed in spring. Austin reviewed drafts of the mile marker, parking, and map signs. He also described an idea for getting through the HS property using bright green dot signs attached to light poles on the school property. Discussed the City of Lowell project to standardize way finding signs, and we agreed that we want to coordinate our signage with a standard plan. Permission has been requested to delay our DNR grant deadline to accommodate this. Boardwalk weight limit was discussed for maintenance vehicles. While they can handle a truck/plow, the best option is really a blower.

Key Rotary members will be invited to a future meeting to review the site plan for the pavilion.

Phase 1-A, extension to M-21 along Alden Nash request for funding for design from Look Fund was not discussed.

Phase 2, Connections to Ionia-Greenville Rail Trails.

It was noted that work is due to start in Ionia for the FMRVT in 2013. The group is also looking at purchasing the RR from Montcalm to Division, giving the Lowell connection a clear pathway from the Ionia county line. Goff confirmed that major maintenance for the Phase II connection will be covered by the FMRVT endowment fund, but friends groups will be expected to do routine maintenance.

Austin intends to create a Google link to the maps and potential routes. Using a QR code on signage was also suggested

Trail Use Rules and Rules of Etiquette – Samples will again be discussed at the November meeting.

New Business :

Halbeisen and Davidson discussed snow plowing limits with City and LAS in September. The City already plows Gee Dr., and the school does the portion in front of Cherry Creek. The issue between Metric Manufacturing and the city ordinance involves definition of sidewalk versus trail. The easement there was donated with the expectation that MM would not be responsible for trail maintenance. A request has been made for the school to do it, but there has been no answer to date. Also discussed with City of Lowell and LAS was the future potential for shared equipment.

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

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 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)