



Board Meeting, October 9, 2013 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall

Attendance - LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Mari Stone, Andrew Schrauben, Gary Goff, Betsy Davidson, and Perry Beachum. Dave Austin, Jerry Hale and Mark Fritsema were also present.

Minutes – August and Sept minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report – Davidson gave Treasurer's report – She noted that 1st Bank will become Mercantile Bank in January of 2014. Beachum motioned to approve payments/reimbursements to: Don Kermeen for \$50, Perry Beachum for \$106.57, State of Michigan for \$180, and Richard Anderson Builders for \$8,000; Stone seconded, and the motion carried. Many thanks to Beachum for building and installing the bike rack at WWC.

Public Comment – Jerry Hale addressed the board about properties that Lowell Township owns on the North and South side of the Grand River, and asked for input regarding joining the properties with a bridge. Austin has been asked by Lowell Township to inquire with the DEQ about feasibility and permits. He noted that LARA will have to have answers about both river crossings, so it made sense to informally inquire with DEQ. It's a great opportunity to get more info for our Phase 2 study. Ideally, both will eventually be built. Current thinking is the Flat crossing is primary choice considering flood plain issues. Potential funding sources were also discussed.

Discussion/Agenda Items:

Maintenance Agreements – Stone motioned to utilize Beachum for mowing, Hardings for trail repair and Scholten for the Metric facility snow removal, which came in at \$350 for the season. Davidson seconded, and the motion carried.

Phase 1 – Several small details have been addressed.

Phase 1-A and Phase 2 / Connections to FMRVRT – 1.5 million is being allocated to the Lowell connection. The funding agencies want to see local funding support as well. The MDOT does not consider sidewalks as connections – bikes need streets. Austin noted that the island connection that Lowell Township is studying would serve a regional goal for connections to the Ada/Cascade area trails.

Mark Fritsema updated the board on the Saranac/Ionia section – Decking is being constructed on the 4 bridges, and the asphalt on both sides of Ionia and both sides of Saranac are getting a second coat. The completion date of November 15 will be easily met.

Pavilion Project – Going has been slow – cement should be complete by end of the week. The foundation is in and inspected. A spring ribbon-cutting event will be held.

DDA Streetscape Planning Sessions - A consultant has been retained.

National Trails Day - September 28th, NCT held an event – 15 people attended, and they re-routed some of the trail.

Stone will be reviewing the LARA Agreement for potential amendments.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 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