



Board Meeting, September 14, 2011 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell Chamber Offices

Attendance - LARA Board Members; Al Halbeisen, Andrew Schrauben, Linda Regan, Perry Beachum, Mari Stone, Betsy Davidson, Gary Goff. Guests; Dave Austin, Larry Mikulski, Carolyn Kane, Jodie Seese

Minutes of the August meeting were approved. Guests were welcomed. Jodie Seese shared the invites being sent for the October 8th ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony. Members signed and reviewed list of invitees.

Carolyn Kane outlined the Greenville to Owosso (GO) Rail Trail funding plans. A LARA rep for the planning and design process is needed. Kane noted that all units of government associated with the trail are being asked to participate financially in a match amount. It was noted that the Lowell connector portion will be built with these funds, but that LARA will be responsible for maintenance, as we will own the trail. 2014 was chosen as the time frame to build the Lowell connector because of the way grants will be staged. LARA will need to plan, choose and obtain easements, engineer, etc. Essentially, it will become Phase II of the Lowell Area trailway.

Larry Mikulski was there to represent St. Mary's Church. They are being asked to participate with an easement, and are willing to work with us on that.

Jeff McKusker, National Park Service and Manager of the North Country Scenic Trail, was there to update the Board on NCST activities. Chuck Hayden runs the volunteer group that maintains the Lowell portion of the trail. He spoke about a new proposed route that would make use of more public lands through Vergennes, Ada, and Cannon townships. Hayden commented that this will be good for new businesses such as professional trail spotters. NCST was looking for assistance with fiduciary issues. LARA doesn't have the ability to do this because we don't qualify on our own for Act 51 money.

Treasurer's Report

- Dave and Betsy reviewed all grants and donations for assurance that we are financially on track for Phase I invoice payments. We are!
- Mari, Betsy, and Linda are meeting to make recommendation on audit firm, and to review the authority agreement for potential amendments.

Construction Report - for the first time in a long time, there was not much to report.

Other Business – Betsy and Mari will be attending a community advisory group that plans to meet monthly, and will be announcing that we will be forming a friends group and will be asking for support from other organizations.

Ribbon Cutting Event – duties were assigned

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 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 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)
Flat River/Grand River Valley Trails – (FRVT/GRVT)