



**Board Meeting, September 10, 2014 @ 6:00 pm  
Lowell City Hall**

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

**Minutes** – June meeting minutes were approved. There were no meetings in July and August.

**Treasurer's Report** – There was a general discussion of the budget. BHT&D will be starting on the audit over the next month. Davidson gave Treasurer's report –Bills to be paid: \$1,205 to insurance, \$2,000 for Custom Sandblasting, \$266.00 for the PO box, \$164.18 for Constant Contact, \$10 Lowell Chamber, \$175 for brush/mowing at Cherry Creek, and \$1 to the LEF for the Cooper Woodland Preserve easement. Motion to approve payables by Beachum, second by Hall, motion carried.

**Public Comment** –Erosion is occurring again at the Cahoon Driveway. A wider radius of asphalt will be used to do the repair this time. Regarding fallen trees on the trail/sewer easement in Alden Nash West - a phone call of explanation was made conveying that LARA is responsible for trail maintenance and property owners are responsible for their trees. There is warping occurring on the large boardwalk along Alden Nash. It appears to be frost heave, which should not be happening. This will be discussed with the contractor.

**Trailhead Signs for Major Donors** – Signs are complete, and benches are in place.

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

The meeting moved to the council chambers so that Dave Austin could present a summary of the draft report of the Rail Trail Connection Study. Discussion was then held regarding goals. LARA goals are to provide more paved trails within our community, and to create new pedestrian crossings for as many of the 4 problem crossings (Main, Hudson, Flat, Grand) as possible, while the goals of MDOT and MDEQ are safety, building "little roads", and preserving natural features. We need to hone in on what we want to convey to these entities, and identify one or more options.

Austin will take the board comments and rework the options.

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)