

LARA Board Meeting, September 13, 2017 @ 6:00 pm
Lowell City Hall

Attendance- Perry Beachum, Betsy Davidson, Gary Goff, Greg Canfield, Mark Anderson, Heather Hoffman **Guests:** Dave Austin, Rich Conrad, Ron Gunderson, Don Renell

Minutes-Aug. minutes supported by Anderson, 2nd by Davidson

Treasurer's Report-Payments to Williams and Works for \$2488.90 for Phase 1A, \$220.00 to Zach's Lawn Care, \$100.00 for LAS Pink Arrow Banner, and \$204.00 to Addorio Enterprise for Constant Contact. Motion supported by Anderson, 2nd by Canfield. There was also a motion to purchase a page in the 2018 Michigan Trails magazine for \$500.00-supported by Goff, 2nd by Anderson. Davidson will write a letter of support for Flat River Watershed. Hoffman and Davidson presented a draft of a new Lowell Area Trailway pamphlet.

Public Comments: **Rich Conrad**, a trail supporter, is interested in events that could happen on the trail, such as the Quiver Run or the Turkey Trot. He is also interested in forming a running club. **Ron Gunderson** provided update on the River Valley Rail Trail: a new trailhead in Fowler, some finishing touches on the Belding trail, and upcoming trail events. Things are still on track for MDOT funding for trail completion in 2018.

Phase 1A-Gee Drive to M-21: 2 property owners still need to sign easements. Funding issues were discussed-LARA is well short of the needed funding for Phase 1A. Anderson is seeking additional funding from Meijer, Farm Bureau, and Litehouse, but they are all unknown at this time.

LARA to decide: **1.** How much of the trail to complete yet this season? **2.** Will a company that accepts the bid be willing to separate the project? LARA would like to retain this company for a later completion of the project.

Possible completion this year: Retaining wall (\$90,000), Tree removal (\$17,000), Drainage structure (\$2500), Smaller drainage structure (\$6,000), Some Williams and Works costs (\$??), and fencing for Michigan Wire (\$9800). The last 2 items here are not part of the construction bid.

Motion to award Ryan Excavating up to \$150,000 for Phase 1A retaining wall, tree removal, and as much drainage work as possible by Nov. 15, with the intent for Ryan Excavating to complete the project in the spring/summer of 2018. Motion supported by Canfield, 2nd by Anderson.

Phase 2: Rail trail connection: Dave Austin is working on grant applications.

Adjourn: 7:55 p.m.

Gary Goff, LARA Secretary