

LARA Minutes

February 2, 2024

Special Meeting

Meeting called to order 9:00 am. The meeting was held at the office of Amanda Rogers, Realtor. 317 E. Main Street, Lowell MI 49331

Present: Perry Beachum, Janine Mork, Amanda Rogers, Mark Anderson, Thomas Gossiaux, Dave Austin (WW)

Absent: Janalee Grischke, Mark Weaver

The purpose of this meeting is to consider two items.

1. The Grand Rapids Gravel Easement
 2. EGLE Permit Status.
1. Dave Austin went over the Grand Rapids Gravel Easement proposal in detail. He is adding a mining completion date by the end of May to the agreement. This will allow our work to start as planned.

A motion was made by Mark Anderson to recommend the City of Lowell accept valuation of \$53,666 per acre resulting in total permanent easement offer of \$78,511 and Temporary Grading Permit offer of \$16,467. The motion was seconded by Amanda Rogers. Motion carried.

2. EGLE Permit Status

EGLE contacted us and said they are inclined to deny our permit unless we can reduce the impacted area from 0.7 acres to approximately 0.33 acres rather than allow us to mitigate the entire amount through the wetland bank.

This affects the area south of the Lee Creek pedestrian bridge. We have two options.

Modify the alignment. The current alignment is entirely on City property. To reduce the impacted area, the trail would have to be placed in one of two locations.

- a. East onto the Reagan property. Previous conversations with the Reagans indicated they were not interested in this. It would be disruptive to their hunting and agricultural uses. The offer to obtain a new easement would need to be comparable to what was offered to Walgreens/Dykema.
- b. North to Bowes Road. This route would eliminate the need for the bridge and any wetland impacts in this area. The existing 5' sidewalk would need to be widened to 10' and require easements from 11 property owners east of West

Street. This route was considered earlier but was opposed by two property owners

Extend the elevated boardwalk thru wetland area. This would require extending the planned elevated boardwalk south of the bridge from 100ft to approximately 500 ft. To meet MDOT criteria, it would need to be 14 feet wide and supported on piles to handle emergency vehicle loadings. This would increase our project costs by \$220,000.

Dave Austin will contact EGLE and let them know installing a larger boardwalk is cost prohibitive. We would prefer to modify the path. The Reagans are out of town. Upon their return, we will meet with them to discuss suggested changes.

LARA will meet again February 28, 2024 to discuss further.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am.