

Lowell Area Trail Authority  
Board Meeting  
February 9, 2022

Present at Meeting: Perry Beachum, Amanda Rogers, Cliff Yankovich, Janine Mork, Betsy Davidson (via phone).

Also Present: Dave Austin, Thomas Gossiaux, Mark Fritsma

Absent: Laura Garrison, Mark Anderson

The meeting was called to order at 6:41pm by Perry Beachum.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented by Yankovich, second by Rogers.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** August 11, 2021, October 13, 2021, and December 8, 2021 meeting minutes were all approved separately by a motion by Yankovich, second by Rogers. All motions carried.

**Treasurer Report:** Betsy reported that the audit was completed. Betsy discussed an ad the Chamber was doing in the Michigan Trails magazine. We can share page with Trail information at a cost of \$400. The bills needing approval to pay are Williams and Works, Zach's Lawncare, Chamber of Commerce and the auditor. There was a motion by Yankovich, second by Rogers to pay the bills as presented.

**Public Comment** – None

**New Business:**

There is suggestion to move meeting time from 6:00pm to 6:30pm. Yankovich motioned to move meeting time to 6:30pm, Rogers seconded. Motion carried.

**Expo:** There is not much interest in LARA having their own booth at the Lowell Expo this year. Ask Mark Anderson if LARA can tag along in the Lowell Township booth. If not, Amanda Rogers offered to add information to her booth. It would be nice to have a larger map printed out for Expo. Dave Austin will clean up the map and add language about Phase 1.

**Tri Folds:** Should more be ordered for Expo? They need to be updated. Review and let Betsy know of any changes that should be made.

**New Website:** The LARA website needs to be updated. The City of Lowell agreed to have it as a link from their website. Betsy is willing to design site, etc... gratis. Beachum disagreed with that price. She should be paid something, even if it is a reduced rate. Betsy estimated \$2000 - \$3000 for the website plus annual maintenance costs. Perry Beachum requested quote in writing for next meeting.

Website Hosting: \$276. It is hosted in Cloud; changes can be made as needed.

A representative from Audit firm will come to March meeting to review the Audit results.

**Old Business:**

**Trail Maintenance Funding:** Need \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year for maintenance. Break trail into 1/10-mile sections totaling 80 sections. Sponsor a section for \$300 a year brings in \$24,000 if all sponsorships are sold. \$400 a year equals \$32,000. Can put up signs (like election signs) that indicate who sponsor is for that section. Perry will investigate signage.

**Rail Trail Connection Progress and Updates - Dave Austin**

Presentation is being made to Lowell City Council on February 7 meeting. In conjunction with the DNR, the project has been divided into 2 phases now. The first phase runs from the Township Park to the Fairgrounds and Bowes Road. Construction to commence in 2023. Phase 2 is bridge over Grand River and east connecting to Montcalm Avenue. To begin asap after Phase 1 completion.

Begin design process now. We have authorization to get on Grand Rapids Gravel property to pin down location of trail. Reagan gave permission to survey trail location before easement approval. The Trail needs to connect back to Bowes Road. It currently goes nowhere once it gets to the bridge. We cannot have a trail that leads to nowhere. It will be a new section. See map.

Phase 1 schedule was explained by Dave. Begin design tasks January – July 2022. Obtain MDOT approvals July – September 2022. This includes a grade inspection meeting with MDOT. October – December 2022, MDOT bids. (Usually held the first Friday of Month in November or December.)

January – July 2023 - Construction of trail.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00. Motion by Yankovich, second by Rogers. Motion carried.

Next meeting scheduled for March 9, 2022.