

DRAFT

LARA Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2026

Board Members Present (P=Present, EA=Excused Absent, A=Absent)

P-Perry Beachum (Chair) City of Lowell Resident
P-Mark Anderson (Vice Chair), Lowell Twp. Board Representative
P-Amanda Rogers (Treasurer) Lowell Twp. Resident
P-Mark Weaver, (Secretary)Vergennes Twp Resident
EA-Sherry Richmond, Vergennes Township Board Representative
EA-Eric Bartkus, Lowell City Council Representative
P-Tom Gossaiux, At Large Member
EA-Jennette Stevenson, Alternate, Lowell Township
Unassigned, Alternate, City of Lowell

Guests:

Dave Austin, Williams and Works

Motions

- Approval of November 2025 Minutes. Motion by Mark A. Supported by Tom. Motion carried.
- Approval of January 14 2026 Agenda. Motion by Mark A. Supported by Tom. Motion carried.
- Motion to excuse tonight's absences. Motion by Mark A. Supported by Tom. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report

- Bill payments
 - Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce membership \$120
 - Landscaping and snow removal Zach Clean Cut Lawn Care \$2,200
 - Trail Magazine partnership \$500
 - Snow removal Lowell Township \$800
 - Williams and Works \$1,454.50
- Motion to approve payments by Mark A. Supported by Tom. Motion carried.
- Other: None.

Public Comment

- None

New Business

Old Business

- Status: By-Law Amendment. Mark W. Mark contacted multiple divisions of the Secretary of State (He also contacted DNR but no one answered). All had no idea to whom to send the

Amendment for filing. Our options include simply filing the Amendment in the LARA Google Drive or sending a certified letter to the Secretary of State requesting they file it pursuant to the Recreation Authority Act. Board recommends simply placing it on Google Drive.

- Status: Maintenance Planning. Tom. Will walk the trail in the spring to identify issues/needs. Perry noted to keep an eye on between Foreman and Tractor Supply and to coordinate trail work to support an economy of scale (i.e. do it all at once).
- Status: New Construction Mark A / Perry.
- Status: Alternate member from City of Lowell. Eric. Absent.

Williams and Works Trail Update.

MSU biological report is in-hand. Submitted to DNR. DNR will write letter to MDOT for concurrence. There are no environmental issues. MDOT environmental group will then release the environmental permit. Tentatively: project bid in April 2026; award at end of May; earliest start is June 1. But trees need to be down before these dates (no replacement of trees along trails is required); advertising has been initiated and contacts have been made to ensure competitive bids; the mandatory field tour is planned for Tues Jan 27, 9 am, at Stoney Lake; bid opening: Feb 10; goes to council on Feb 16. Trees need to be down by March 31 before Indiana Bats are active. Then the contractor has 60 days to remove the trees.

Adjourn

- Adjourned at 7:18 pm. Motion to adjourn by Mark A Supported by Tom. Motion carried.
- Next scheduled meeting is February 11, 2026.