

LARA MINUTES

August 13, 2025

6:30 PM

Lowell Charter Township Hall

Board Members Present (P=Present; A=Absent; E=Excused Absence)

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
P-Sherry Richmond, Vergennes Township Board Representative
P-Eric Bartkus, Lowell City Council Representative
P-Tom Gossaiux, At Large Member

P-Jennette Stevenson, Alternate, Lowell Township
Unassigned, Alternate, Vergennes Township
Unassigned, Alternate, City of Lowell

Guests

Motions

- Motion to excuse tonight's absences. No absences.
- Approval of June 2025 Minutes. Tom moves to approve. Mark A supports. Motion carried.
- Approval of August 2025 Agenda. Tom moves to approve. Mark A supports. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report

- Bill payments
 - Pink Arrow Banner \$100
 - Pat's Premier Lawn Care \$375
 - City of Lowell/ Williams and Works \$1007.86
 - KHC Technology Domain renewal \$50
 - Amanda Rogers PO Box renewal \$302 (Amanda had to personally pay for this. The renewal notice had a short turn around time)

Tom moves to approve payments. Eric supports. Motion carried.

- Other:
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Public Comment

- None

Old Business

- Status: Vergennes Twp Rec Plan. Mark/Sherry. Grant submitted to the state to support the costs.
- Status: Board Alternate, City of Lowell. No action yet.
- Status: Inspection and Maintenance Plan. No update. Tom recommends a Fall maintenance inspection with maintenance occurring in CY 2026. Eric will prepare a design for a sign asking the public to note maintenance needs and will present the design at the next meeting.
- Discuss: Ebikes. Janalee noted via email to Mark W that Albert's office wants more detailed information before commenting. Board discussion. Concluded to table further ebike discussion until issues regarding ebikes arise.
- Discuss: LARA by-laws. By-laws call for board two-year term limits. Given our small size, having such an extensive rollover of membership is counterproductive. Amanda says we can eliminate 'Section C Term of Office' via amending the by-laws. Amanda will get with Sue for the procedures/specifics as to how to do it.
- Discuss: Partnering for Maintenance and repair for more competitive/lower bidding. Perry proposes we stay independent. Tom noted that once Phase two sections are built by LARA, those sections will become maintained by the Fred Meyer Trail.
- Status: Mowing Scott Litchfield. Tabled.
- Status: Maintenance and Repair committee. Mike Hardy submitted a bid but it did not contain components for cutting/patching. Board will consult with Dave Austin who may have identified the cut/patch locations. Board will then get with Mike Hardy to incorporate into the bid as a "not to exceed". Tom moves to take noted action. Mark A supports. Motion carried.
- Discuss: New Construction committee to include new signage.
- Discuss: Consistency and signage. Work with John Morrison of West MI Trails for guidance to ensure consistency to some degree between the trails.

New Business

- Discuss: The future of Grants. Perry noted that LLP's recent \$700K federal grant was rescinded. He noted concern that this could potentially impact other LARA grants. Mark W concurs.

Williams and Works Trail Update.

Dave was not in attendance. We assume the eagle nest issue continues. We need Dave to prepare the easements and present them to the landowners. Top priority for September meeting (phase 2 down Grand River)

Adjourn

- Adjourned at 7:45 pm via motion by Mark A. Tom supports. Motion carried.
- Next scheduled meeting is September 10, 2025, 6:30 pm, Vergennes Township Hall.