

LARA MINUTES

March 12, 2025

6:30 PM

Vergennes 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
A-Tom Gossaiux, At Large Member
P-Jennette Stevenson, Alternate, Lowell Township
P-Janalee Grischke, Alternate, Vergennes Township
Unassigned, Alternate, City of Lowell

Guests

Dave Austin W&W

Motions

- Approval of March 2025 Agenda. Mark A moves to approve. Eric supports. Motion carried.
- Motion to excuse tonight's absences. Eric moves to approve. Mark A supports. Motion carried.
- Approval of February 2025 Minutes. Eric moves to approve. Mark A supports. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report

- Bill payments
 - City of Lowell/Williams & Works \$1129.25. Mark A moves to approve. Mark W supports. Motion carried.
 - Annual email essentials plan to KHC Tech \$72. Mark A moves to approve Mark W supports. Motion carried.
 - Amanda has a potential new auditor. She will provide details at the next meeting.
- Other:
 - None

Public Comment

- None

Old Business

- Status: Standing Committee Leads/POC's for such things as Events, IT/Web, Planning, etc. Mark W. Mark W asked all to review, edit, scan and email to Mark W. We will refine over the next couple of meetings.
- Status: Updates. April 26 Clean Up Day. Janalee. Eric noted clean up signs via Hooper bid at \$12 each. Purchasing twenty was suggested. Signs to be posted on the Trail and at Township Park, Vergennes, Bailey. Other locations TBD. Sign verbiage suggestions offered. Eric will

provide drafts for review. Mark A moves to approve buying the signs. Eric supports. Motion carried. Amanda will see about an article by Lowell First Look. Next meeting will focus on the details of the event.

- Status: Long-term Maintenance Strategy: Spreadsheets and Insp & Maint Plan. / Tom. Tabled.
- Status: Kent Co Oct 25 future trails planning meeting. Mark A. Mark has been working with Kent Co Parks for a while. MDOT may be able to fund the Bridge in Phase 2. But we need to get organized and get ahead of the ball. Dave notes MDOT wants to talk about phase 2. A widening of the Hudson St bridge rather than a separate bridge is a possibility. Perry suggested including space for fishing, etc. Mark A and Dave A are the leads.
- Status: Bench turnaround on Alden Nash. Eastbrook's request re landscaping and fence. Perry/Mark A. No private work is recommended within the ROW. If private entities have a proposal, they can present it to the Board. Landscaping beyond the ROW is not in LARA's purview.
- Status: Vergennes Twp Rec Plan. Mark/Sherry. Mark A says City and Lowell Twp are behind the LARA trail. Vergennes Two needs to be inspired. DNR grant portfolio requires an active recreation plan (Vergennes needs to restart from scratch). It's a great program for smaller projects (less than \$1M). Vergennes Township's last plan was in 2007.
- Status: Phase 2. Mark A

New Business

- Strategic Master Planning. Review? Update? Develop? Mark W. Tabled until Phase 1 construction begins.
- All appropriate hardcopy have been scanned and entered into Google Drive. FYI. Mark W
- Should LARA update its Recreation Plan? (as Vergennes is doing?) Mark W Per Dave A- No.

Williams and Works Trail Update.

DNR grant was finally approved with the city's resolution. The Lee Creek Bridge near Stoney Lake. Now the clock is ticking on the grant. EGLE permit approved March 1. Now we need to send them the wetland mitigation check for the permit \$213,400. Then MDOT will schedule the bid-letting (May). Majority completed in 2025...into the spring of 2026 to total completion. Outstanding tasks- move fire hydrant on Bowes.

Perry moved to approve payment to the city for the EGLE wetland mitigation fund for Phase 1 for , 213,400. Mark A supports. Motion carried.

Adjourn

- Adjourned at 7:51 pm via motion by Mark A. Eric supports. Motion carried.
- Next scheduled meeting is April 9, 2025.