

LARA Minutes

January 8, 2025

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
LATE-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
P-Janalee Grischke, Alternate, Vergennes Township
Unassigned, Alternate, City of Lowell

Guests

Tim Wittenbach, Vergennes Twp Supervisor

Motions

- Approval of October 2024 Minutes: Mark A moves to approve. Eric supports. Motion carried.
- Approval of January 2025 Agenda: Additions noted at Eric's request.
- Motion to excuse tonight's absences. Mark A moves to approve. Tom supports. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report

- Bill payments: Mark A moves to approve Tom supports. Motion carried.
 - December's W&W invoice: \$487.75
 - W&W invoice: \$393.25
 - Chamber of Commerce dues: \$110.00
- Other: None

Public Comment

- None

New Business

- Preparation for Spring Cleanup? April 26, 2025, 9am to 2pm. Lunch provided. Perry to arrange. Make this an annual event, final Saturday of April.
- Does our website consultant perform annual website reviews? Mark W to connect Eric to Jordan to address his noted corrections. (Note: Post-meeting, Mark contacted Jordan Hickel. Our fee paid last February covers our domain and any edits to the webpage. Another fee may be due February 2025. Mark has requested Eric to submit his edit notes

to Mark W to consolidate with Mark's edits. Mark will serve as POC with Jordan if supported by the Board.

- Maintenance and Repair Planning. Tom is to organize by segment and customize spreadsheets for our use and will present at the next meeting.

Old Business

- Pavilion cleanup status. Janalee / Garden Club. Janalee will follow up with Garden Club before the April 26 event.
- Contract update with W&W status. Amanda. Once we get approval to bid the project, WW will make a proposal and then we will be in a position to make updates for our budget.
- RR ROW along Grand River status. Mark A. Moving along slowly.
- Long-term Maintenance Strategy status. Tom provided sample spreadsheets and a copy of the draft 2025 Maintenance plan. It is now uploaded on Google Drive for review by all.
- Kent Co future trails planning (Oct 25) status. Mark A. Sections outside of Lowell look like they may be done in the next year or so. Easements are being worked on.
- Vergennes Twp update to Park and Rec Plan. It is on the Planning Commission's December Agenda. Stay tuned. Mark A notes it is being worked on. Rec plan will be in place by next summer, hopefully. Trail around youth sports complex should have an easement to the township.
- Bench turnaround on Alden Nash status. Perry will turn it around shortly.

Williams and Works Trail Update.

November Trail project update:

- Easements - The Regan easement was finalized and signed and they received their payment.
- Lowell Township Permit - We are working with the City attorney on a Governmental Real Estate Permit that formally grants permission to connect to and to use the existing trail at the Township's North Grand River Park. This is a new document allowed by MDOT in lieu of a formal easement. We have submitted draft language to the attorney for review and I alerted the Township Supervisor that it would be submitted to them for review soon.
- EGLE Permit - We had to make some changes to the hydraulic analysis required for the EGLE permit, and hope to have that back to them this week.
- Once we have the above in place, we will submit to MDOT for final approval and scheduling of bidding.

January WW update:

- Easements – All three of the required easements are in hand (Walgreens, GR Gravel, Regan).
- Governmental Real Estate Permit - The new trail will connect to the existing Township trail west of the GR Gravel property line. In lieu of an easement, MDOT allows for what they call a Governmental Real Estate Permit. This document allows one governmental unit (the City) *“to obtain rights to construct for a non-motorized path from a Governmental/ Public Entity (Township) on property not designated as ROW” and does not require a Good Faith offer.* It also calls for the Township to take over that portion of the new trail on Township property (about 30 ft.) and to be responsible for the

maintenance of that portion. We drafted a permit and it has been reviewed and amended by the City attorney. We have asked both the City and the Township to consider approval of this document at their January 20th meetings. Once we have the Governmental Real Estate Permit in hand, we will assemble the full Right of Way package and submit to MDOT.

- EGLE Permit – Additional hydraulic analysis work was completed and submitted to EGLE. Since over 1 year had passed since the original application, EGLE required that a new application be submitted, which was completed shortly before Christmas. EGLE has also asked for a modification to the hydraulic model which is scheduled to be submitted next week.
- Bid Schedule – MDOT will determine the advertising and bid schedule once the above items have been submitted. Currently, we are hoping for bids to be taken in April.

Adjourn

- Adjourned at 7:35 pm via motion by Mark A and supported by Tom. Motion carried.
- Next scheduled meeting is February 12, 2025 at 6:30 pm