

NFLA Board Meeting
Columbia Falls / February 24, 2008

Minutes submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Pat Cole:

Board Members in Attendance: Jon and Pat Cole, Ed Heger, Oliver Meister, Lynn Ogle, Molly Shepherd, Gerry Stearns, Frank Vitale (plus Mitch Burgard for neighborhood plan discussion)

Land Use Planning: Jon Cole led a review of the proposed revisions to the neighborhood, with comments from the committee members noted. Jon will submit the latest proposed revisions to Drew Hagemeier at the Planning & Zoning Office for their review and input. The plan will then be resubmitted to the County Planning Board for a vote at a future meeting on whether to approve the plan and forward it to the county commissioners. Molly suggested that a thank you note be sent to Jeff Harris and Drew when this process is completed.

Reading of minutes: Pat reviewed the minutes of the last board meeting in May, 2007.

BUDGET:

Pat reviewed the 2008 proposed budget line items. An amount for hall improvements will need to be determined based upon the porch repair estimate.

FLATHEAD COALITION:

Ed advised that the Flathead Coalition is broadening their focus beyond the Canadian Flathead to other areas, such as the Elk Drainage. With our annual dues coming up, he wanted to know if we still want to maintain our membership in the Coalition. It was agreed that a letter will be sent in with the Association dues emphasizing our desire that the Coalition continue their focus on Flathead issues.

HALL PORCH:

Molly addressed the topic of a new front porch for the hall pursuant to a motion at the October business meeting that the board explore what would be involved in putting in a new porch, deck and roof and report back to the members with a cost estimate. It was agreed that extending the existing roofline or installing a peaked roof over the porch would prove too complicated and costly. Frank suggested installing a composite, weather-resistant deck. The timbers under the deck are rotting and would need to be replaced. Non-slip material would need to be used on the steps and deck and Frank advised that the composite should be high quality, and probably could be textured to prevent slipping. Concrete piers would need 3-4 days to set up. The idea of making it a community project was discussed and believed to be possible if all the materials were

purchased in advance.

Gerry added that the stairs should have a lighter piece of wood in the front to make them easier to see and prevent tripping. Safety treads were suggested for the stairs. A railing on the stairs and around the deck, and built-in seating were also suggested. Gerry volunteered to obtain price estimate from various local vendors for the materials required, and requested that she be provided a materials list by May 1st. Molly asked if Frank, Oliver and Lynn could come up with the materials list and submit it to Gerry by May 1. Community work day(s) are to be discussed and scheduled at the June meeting.

SUMMER SCHEDULE:

May:

Oliver and Pat suggested that the hall clean-up date, typically the Saturday after the first June business meeting, be held in May so that the hall is cleaned prior to the first function of the summer. May 24th was originally chosen as the new date, however, this was later changed to May 17th, at 10:00 AM to allow the hall to be cleaned prior to the May 21st RC&D Mediation meeting discussed below. (An announcement of the new hall clean-up date can be provided in the Spring Newsletter.)

June:

Molly advised that Jimmy DeHerrera mentioned holding a Fire Use Workshop in the North Fork in late spring or early summer. This would involve helping landowners to better understand the concept of allowing fires to burn naturally. Molly suggested combining the Fire Mitigation Committee's planned field trips to the Trail and Red/Whale Projects along with the Forest Service Workshop on the afternoon of June 7, prior to the first business meeting of the year. Molly will contact Jimmy DeHerrera with this suggestion.

July:

Lynn will arrange for Ed Burlingame of the Montana Fire School to present a "Firewise Workshop" of the do's & don't s of home fire prevention at 6PM on Saturday, July 5. The business meeting at 8PM will follow this. It was agreed there would be no potluck dinner that evening.

The Inter Local will be held on July 9, four days after the July 5th business meeting, and will be hosted by the NFLA. Pat is to contact the Glacier Institute about hosting the potluck dinner. Pat will also contact Tim Their for his updated mailing list and will send out a "save the date" mailing to agencies advising them of the Inter Local date. Lynn suggested that we add Mike Meehan, the new sheriff, to the mailing list. Dave Pruntz, Public Works Director, Guy Foy, Administrative Director and Jeb Fisher will also be invited.

Molly advised that Ray Brown discussed at the winter Inter Local the possibility of adding the Road Coalition group as a signatory to the Inter Local Agreement. This was deferred until the summer meeting. Lynn suggested making it an agenda item and having one vote per signatory at the summer Inter Local.

Lynn will advise if and when he will be holding a “Standards For Survival” class this summer. He would require 5 hours for the class.

August:

Molly advised that voting on any bylaw amendments submitted at the July meeting will take place at the August meeting.

RENTAL POLICY:

Pat advised that she received a request to borrow or rent the hall tables this summer for a wedding. A discussion on the furniture rental policy followed, with a determination by the board that no hall furniture will be rented in the future.

The Board agreed that the hall rental fee be raised from \$50 for members and \$100 for non-members to \$75 for members and \$150 for non-members, with a security deposit in the same amount as the rental fee. Both the rental fee and the security deposit are to be provided in advance of the rental. Pat will prepare a hall rental agreement, which can be provided to potential renters, with all the terms and conditions stated.

DUST STUDY:

Molly advised that the dust study results should be available the end of March and a press conference will be held, with representatives from the University of Montana available. Bob Grimaldi sent a copy of the E.P.A’s Dust Maintenance Manual and Molly provided the website for the manual for online viewing. She advised that the RC&D will serve as mediator at a joint meeting of the Road Coalition, various agencies and North Fork groups to discuss the results of the dust study. Molly wanted feedback from the board members as to the Association’s role in this. It was agreed that Molly should represent the NFLA at the mediation table and that its role is to provide information to all of the landowners, preferably via a mailing.

It was suggested that Molly contact Sue Sutherland at the RC&D to offer the use of Sondreson Hall with no fee for the May 21st meeting.

MISSION STATEMENT COMMITTEE:

Molly advised that she has appointed the following committee members to work on a mission statement, recommendations on how work is divided between the Board and the membership, and a policy for dealing with taking positions on issues: Margaret Heaphy, Richard Hildner, Steve Berg, Ed Heger and Molly.

SPRING NEWSLETTER:

It was agreed that the goal for the mailing of the spring newsletter is May 1.

Meeting Adjourned.