

**NFLA Business Meeting**  
**Sondreson Hall / September 6, 2008**

*Minutes submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Pat Cole:*

Molly Shepherd took a roll call of the board members. All were present except Ed Heger.

Molly read the minutes from the August meeting. The minutes were approved.

Pat Cole presented the financial report summary for the fiscal year-end.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Land Use Planning: Jon Cole advised that the Land Use Advisory Committee met prior to this meeting and elected John Frederick as the new chairman of the committee, along with Steve Berg serving as vice-chairman. John advised that the next committee meeting would be held before the July NFLA business meeting.

North Fork Patrol and Law Enforcement: Lee Downes advised that hunting season has started. It would be a good time to start observing license plates parked along the road. Lee also advised that he would like to be replaced as chairman of the North Fork Patrol. He has served on the North Fork Patrol since the late 1950's or early 1960's and is ready to retire.

Fire: Lynn advised that there are no fires in the North Fork and they will start to put the fire equipment away for winter storage. We will then depend on the Blankenship and Columbia Falls fire departments. He also advised that they are still looking for volunteers to join the Trail Creek and Polebridge fire brigades. After September 30, open burning will be allowed with burn permits issued through the DNRC either by calling or through their website. Richard Wackrow added that there is a link to the DNRC website on the NFLA website. Larry added that regulations require calling to check on air quality before burning.

Fire Mitigation: Molly advised that awards of thanks will be presented to Bill Swope, Mason Richwine and Mike Justus at the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Molly also advised that FireWise gave a scholarship to attend a seminar in Tampa, which Molly will attend. There is a possibility of a "show me" tour sometime in the spring of projected or completed fuels mitigation projects with the DNRC and the Forest Service. Parties expressing interest in participating in the tour include Larry Wilson, Annemarie Harrod, Gerry Stearns and Lynn Ogle. Molly praised Forest Service efforts in performing fuels mitigation work that complements work done by private landowners. Jon Elliot commented that the Forest Service had refused to reduce fuels on Forest land adjoining his property because a biologist said that the land is a wildlife corridor.

Trails: John Frederick advised that they put preservatives on the Hornet Lookout logs and will work on Thoma Trail next Sunday. John also advised he discussed with Larry Wilson the possibility of the Preservation and Landowners' Associations jointly cleaning out some of the brush around Kishenehn Cabin next year.

Web site: Richard advised that the NFLA web site is averaging 3,233 requests and 988 pages sent per month.

CONTINUED AND OLD BUSINESS:

Hall Porch Project: Frank Vitale advised that tomorrow is the last work day for adding the benches and railings with Rob Fisher. An award was presented to Frank for overseeing the project, along with letters of thanks presented to Lee Secrest and Lynn Ogle. Letters will also be given to Rob Alm, Rob Fisher, Gerry Stearns and Oliver Meister for their contributions.

Molly also presented certificates of appreciation to former board members Jon Cole and Gerry Stearns for their contributions over the years.

Website Materials: Molly advised that the NFLA board members held a brief meeting tonight and discussed proposed dust abatement materials to be added to the NFLA web site, to include the Dust Study commissioned by the North Fork Road Coalition for Health and Safety and related Powerpoint presentation; Chapter 7 of the EPA Manual; Montana Department of Transportation Roadway System Performance Policy Paper; and possibly road histories prepared for the May 2008 county road meeting. Molly advised that the board is open to other suggestions on educational materials that would serve to inform and educate about dust abatement options.

NEW BUSINESS:

Letter from NFRCHS: Molly advised she received a copy of a letter sent from Bob Grimaldi on behalf of the North Fork Road Coalition for Health & Safety to the Superintendent of Glacier National Park. Molly read the letter to the members. Molly also advised that Bob requested that the NFLA board consider supporting the letter sent to the park regarding the repair and maintenance of the inside North Fork Road. Molly stated that the Board considered the request and felt it was something the membership should review. Ray Brown made a motion that we vote to go ahead and forward a letter to express the same as was discussed. Discussion followed which included the following: 1) The Park announced funds were approved to repair the slump south of the Howe Lakes Trailhead which is where the road is currently closed, 2) The Department of Homeland Security is talking to the Park about getting resources to help fix the impassable areas of the road. Bob advised that he did receive a reply from the Park to his letter in which they referred to their general management plan, although they did say that they were going to continue efforts to make the road more passable. Bob also advised that the Border Patrol is interested in getting the road fixed because they want to use it in the event any of the bridges from Canyon Creek to Polebridge become impassable.

Larry emphasized the value of that road as an escape route similar to Red Meadow or Trail Creek, in the event of a wildfire. Jan Caldwell suggested in light of the Park's current efforts, that we send a letter of appreciation to the Park for their efforts to get the

road open and emphasize its importance to the community. Lynn agreed that the NFLA, as a community organization can write its own letter of support to the Park Service on their efforts to keep the inside North Fork Road open. Pat suggested amending Ray's initial motion for clarity to make it clear that the letter will state we support the park's efforts in keeping the inside road open. The motion was seconded. Molly re-stated the motion that the NFLA write a letter to Superintendent Cartwright noting that funding apparently has been found to repair the final segment of the inside North Fork Road and we encourage the park's efforts toward fixing the road in such a way that it is useable by visitors to the Park. More comments were made that the letter should also include the additional benefits as an egress route in the event of fire, with copies sent to Senators Max Baucus and Jon Tester Molly called for a vote on the motion to send a letter to the Park expressing our appreciation for their efforts to repair the inside North Fork Road and encouraging that they continue in this process, as well as mentioning the importance to North Fork landowners of keeping the road open as another means of ingress and egress in the event of emergencies. The motion was voted on and approved 23 to 2.

Letter from Alan McNeil: Molly advised that a letter was received from Alan on behalf of the North Fork Compact requesting reconsideration of the \$75 hall rental fee, or a reduced fee, to be charged to the compact for its annual meeting. Molly read the letter aloud and advised that the board reviewed the request and recommended that the fee be left at \$75 for members, with consistent application for all for non-NFLA-sponsored events. A motion was made by Ray Brown to reject the request of the Compact. The motion was voted on and approved 20 to 5. It was agreed that we would respond to Alan's letter indicating that the membership will continue to apply the current rental policy for non-NFLA-sponsored events.

Generator: Molly advised that we received an offer from an anonymous donor to buy a new generator for the hall. Lynn agreed to do the logistical work and advised that he could purchase a new 8,000-watt Kohler, propane generator with an electric start and self-charger, from Missoula for around \$3,600. He advised that if no one had a problem with that, we would arrange to pick it up.

Dues: Molly advised we need to clarify when association dues need to be paid in order to vote as the bylaws are not clear on the subject. The board discussed it briefly and will put together a recommended proposal to submit next summer during the bylan amendment process.

Letter to Commissioners: Dennis Groebe inquired whether the NFLA has formally taken a position with the county commissioners, in writing, to say that the majority of the landowners want something done with the road. Molly advised that the results of the survey were provided to the commissioners. Dennis made a motion that the board send a letter to the county commissioners asking them to take a proactive position with regard to the maintenance and dust abatement of the North Fork Road, citing the results of the 2006 survey. The motion was voted on and approved 12 to 9.

Road Clean-up: Ray suggested that we resume the practice of years ago to coordinate a

road litter clean-up project in conjunction with the hall clean-up day to remove cans and bottles.

Other New Business: Bob Grimaldi advised that the road issue is never going to go away and that it will be here at every meeting. He inquired whether Molly heard anything about the round table meeting with the RC&D that was suppose to occur this fall. Molly advised that she had heard nothing new on it. Bob also inquired whether there were any plans for the NFLA to form a committee to study the road dust and road maintenance issues. Molly advised that we do not have one, but we could discuss the formation of one. Bob advised he had a list of concerns and inquired if Molly would prefer he email them instead of presenting them now. Molly responded that it would be helpful if he provided advance notice of specific matters that he wants to raise at meetings, but that he is free to bring them up at the meeting as well.

Lee Downes suggested we should be looking at ways to control the traffic. He state that the government will have to limit the number of people floating the river and the Park will have to limit the number of people that are coming through Camus Creek.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.