

NFLA Business Meeting
Sondreson Hall / October 4, 2008

Minutes submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Pat Cole:

Molly Shepherd took a roll call of board members. All were present with the exception of Lynn Ogle.

Molly read the minutes of the September meeting and they were approved.

Pat Cole presented the financial report.

Molly addressed the tone of the meetings. She remarked that while participation is encouraged, the level of acrimony in recent meetings is driving people away. She commented that exchanging points of view is fine, but to keep it civil and to avoid personal attacks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

North Fork Patrol/Law Enforcement: Larry Wilson advised that bow-hunting season was open and regular hunting camps are getting set up. He advised that private property owners are not required by law to post their property, and it is the hunter's responsibility to determine where the private property is. However, it is wise to post your property if you don't want people trespassing. Larry said the border patrol is increasing their activity on the North Fork. Molly inquired how we find out where firewood cutting is permitted on both forest service and state land. Larry advised that there are few restricted areas now. The former fire areas that were restricted are now open. He said if you have specific questions, to inquire when you get your wood cutting permit.

Molly inquired about the status of Lee Downes' request to retire as chairman of the Patrol. Larry advised they will be meeting soon and will accept Lee's resignation if he insists. However, he has agreed to continue to patrol even if he doesn't remain as chairman.

Trails: John Frederick advised they were not able to do Thoma Trail maintenance as planned.

Fire Mitigation: Molly advised that the awards to Bill Swope, Mike Justus and Mason Richwine will be given next June, and possibly a workshop will be held at that time. We might also combine that with a show-me tour with the Forest Service and DNRC of the projects they have completed and expect to complete within the near future. Molly also advised that the decision on the Red Whale Project has been affirmed. They anticipate letting that project, as a stewardship contract, next spring. Work could begin next summer. The Trail Creek Project was completed last fall although some burning remains to be done.

Land Use Planning: John Frederick advised that he was elected chairman, and the committee does not plan to meet until next July.

Web Site: Molly advised that they are working on materials to be posted on a new Road Page, starting this month. She asked for the Coalition's permission to post the Road Dust Study and PowerPoint presentation. Jan Caldwell gave permission to use the information.

BC Mining: Ed Heger advised that there is a lot of activity going on in the Governor's office. The latest word is that there is some gold mine drilling activity, with 50 test holes drilled in the upper Flathead. The Cline Mine seems less likely now.

OLD BUSINESS:

Porch Project: Frank Vitale advised that the project is pretty much complete. Rob Fisher will finish off the gable. The flagpole and sign need to be put back up. There is an album on the table of photos Larry took throughout the porch building process.

Generator: Molly inquired if anyone was interested in purchasing the old generator for \$100. John Frederick said he would consider it.

Letters: Molly advised that letters were sent to Glacier National Park and the County Commissioners per the prior meeting motions.

Hall Rental Policy: Molly advised that some members felt we should review and perhaps revise the policy to allow for a reduced fee for short-term and regular uses of the hall. Margaret Heaphy offered to work with Pat Cole to come up with a fair price to cover expenses and allow for short-term and possibly regular uses of the hall. They expect to analyze the direct and indirect expenses involved in rentals, and present a proposed revision of the rental policy to the board for its consideration. If the board approves a revised policy, it will be presented in June.

Winter Interlocal: Molly reminded everyone that the winter Interlocal meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2009, and will most likely be held at the FWP offices in Kalispell, hosted by the DNRC.

NEW BUSINESS:

Road Committee: Molly advised that a question came up at the last meeting as to whether the NFLA had a road committee. The answer was no, although we had a road committee in the past. The board has discussed the issue and has agreed it's time to appoint a new one. Some of the reasons for establishing a new committee include the fact that a balanced and diverse committee might be able to accomplish something of value to the community. In addition, it might be able to encourage the development of some expertise within the association, help keep the community informed about issues associated with the road, work toward some kind of a consensus among the membership and potentially the community as a whole, and promote more stable and orderly meetings.

Molly said this is a work in progress but she currently anticipates appointing a five-person committee with diverse perspectives on the road. Molly listed some potential candidates for the committee and asked members to provide her with their suggestions.

The committee will explore dust abatement and maintenance options, make information available to the community and potentially recommend solutions for our consideration. The committee, rather than the board, will receive member concerns and requests about the road. The board will monitor the committee and perhaps have an ex officio member sitting on it. The committee will be independent of other North Fork organizations and function within the stated purposes of the NFLA, among them pursuing the interests of all landowners.

Heli-Skiing: Molly advised that helicopter-skiing proposals have been submitted to the DNRC for the Stillwater and Coal Creek Forests. The DNRC is seeking comments on the proposal by October 10. A discussion followed about the increasing number of low-flying helicopters circling properties.

Letter from Bob Grimaldi: Bob Grimaldi submitted a letter to the NFLA that he asked to read. Permission was granted. The letter cited comments in emails between NFLA board members, which Bob found defamatory and insulting. A copy of the e-mails was attached to his letter. Bob made several requests, among them that the board develop a proposed bylaw amendment establishing rules about the removal or a board member for cause. He also asked that his letter and attached e-mails be inserted into the minutes of the meeting and posted on the NFLA Web site.

Meeting adjourned.