

NFLA Business Meeting
Sondreson Hall / June 6, 2009

Minutes submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Pat Cole:

Molly Shepherd took a roll call of the board members: Jan Caldwell, Pat Cole, Ed Heger, Oliver Meister, Lynn Ogle and Frank Vitale were in attendance. Steve Berg was not present.

Molly read a summary of the minutes from the October meeting. The minutes were approved.

Pat Cole presented the financial report and budget summary.

Molly introduced the new owners of the Polebridge Merc. They indicated they are interested in getting the post office back at the Merc and asked for feedback from landowners. It was suggested that this information be added to the NFLA web site.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

North Fork Patrol/Law Enforcement: Lee Downes advised that the Patrol had a meeting and raised the mileage reimbursement to \$1/mile. He also recommended getting the license number of strange vehicles sighted.

Fire: Lynn Ogle advised that a permit is required now for burning. They are available online.

Trails: Frank Vitale advised there is nothing to report yet.

Fire Mitigation: Molly advised that all but \$20,000 of the grant money had been spent. 350 acres in the North Fork were treated with cost-share assistance, about one-third of the total acreage treated in Flathead, Lincoln and Sanders Counties combined. The current grant expires in early 2010, so any future work would need to be done this year.

The owners of the property adjoining Sondreson Hall agreed to allow thinning of a couple acres around the hall. The Firewise Community status was renewed again for the North Fork. A wildfire workshop will be held on July 8 at 10AM, prior to the Interlocal which will be held in the afternoon this year. The presentations at the workshop will address where we are six years after the Wedge Canyon fire, fuels reduction that has occurred and mapping to demonstrate it.

The North Fork Wildfire Mitigation Planning Report is being updated. The three thank-you awards to Mason Richwine, Bill Swope and Michael Justus will be presented at the Interlocal.

Land Use Planning: John Frederick advised that no business is pending before the Land Use Planning Committee. He plans to hold a meeting on July 11th at 7PM.

Website: Molly advised that a new section “About the NFLA” was added, along with a road page reporting on the road committee activities and other information.

Flathead Basin Commission: Ed Heger reported that he might become chairman of the Commission and that accordingly, we should appoint a new representative to the Flathead Coalition. The Coalition met last week in Fernie. Check the web site for information.

Weeds Workshop: Molly advised that Steve Robinson of the county weed department made a weed presentation at 7PM. The NFLA is still trying to establish a weed committee and is looking for volunteers.

Road Committee: Molly provided a history of the formation of the committee, whose goals include exploring dust abatement and maintenance options, providing information to the community, taking note of landowner concerns and working independently to pursue the interests of all North Fork landowners. They have established contact with the various agencies involved with the road. Betsy Holycross and Margaret Heaphy presented historical and current information based on the committee’s research and meetings over the past few months. A summary of their meetings is provided on the NFLA web site. They have set up an email address to receive feedback from landowners at northforkroad@live.com.

Other committee members include Ed Heger, Steve Weber and Steve Berg.

CONTINUED AND OLD BUSINESS

Flagpole: Molly asked for volunteers to reinstall the flagpole in front of the hall. Ray Brown and Steve Weber volunteered.

Hall Rental Policy: Molly advised that the board reviewed the policy in February, along with a proposed policy revision based on recommendations from Margaret Heaphy and Pat Cole. The board adopted the following rental policy: \$10 per two-hour rental, with a minimum of eight rentals; \$24 for a one-time rental up to two hours; \$50 for a one-time rental up to four hours; \$75 for a one-time rental over four hours. Rental fees for non-members remain at \$150 per day.

NEW BUSINESS

Bylaws Amendment: Molly advised that the board reviewed an inconsistency in the bylaws on the timing of the payment of dues and voting. They came up with a proposed bylaw amendment to clarify this item and will present it at the July business meeting.

Water Quality Issues: Ray Brown asked if his presentation could be deferred until the July meeting as part of Old Business.

North Fork History Project: Molly inquired if there was any interest in capturing recollections of North Fork old timers through oral histories. She asked for suggestions

on how to proceed with such a project if there was sufficient interest. Ray Hart advised that in the 1960's, Bob Funk recorded stories from all the living homesteaders on 7" tapes. They need to be transcribed and archived. Ray Brown advised that Joe Novak has been archiving Tom Reynolds' tapes. Lynn Ogle advised that Bonnie is working on Esther Day's history. Someone mentioned Cecily McNeil's cookbook with early North Forkers' recipes. Persons suggested persons to work on this project included Ray Hart, Larry Wilson and Jon Cole.

Glacier National Park Proposal: Molly advised that the NFLA received a notice from the Park seeking comments on their proposal to reduce or eliminate lake trout in Quartz Lake by gill-netting to capture and destroy them, and inserting tracking devices in females to monitor spawning areas.

July 4th Meeting: Molly advised that there was some discussion of changing the July 4th business meeting to a different date, but the meeting date was left intact.

Interlocal Meeting: The Interlocal is scheduled for July 8th at 1PM and will be hosted by the North Fork Preservation Association. John Frederick advised that the Glacier Institute will host the luncheon at Noon.

Fire Engine and Fire Hall: Lynn Ogle advised that there is a possibility of getting a Type 6 fire engine within the next year or two. He proposed applying for a grant now to receive money to construct a two-bay fire hall north of Sondreson Hall. After discussion, Lynn made a motion to apply for the grant. John Frederick seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

ALERT Landing Sites: Lynn advised that they are setting up helicopter landing sites every 3-4 miles in the North Fork for ALERT helicopter emergency landings. They are still looking for sites that provide 120 feet clearance. Signs will be posted as to the location of the sites once established.

Square Dance: Molly reminded everyone of the dance to be held at the hall at 8:00 PM on June 27th, with Debo Powers instructing.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.