

NFLA Business Meeting
Sondreson Hall / July 4, 2009

Minutes submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Pat Cole:

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

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

Pat Cole read the financial report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

North Fork Patrol: Lee Downes informed members that remote-sensor cameras are available at various stores and can be used for security and capturing wildlife photos.

Fire: Lynn Ogle advised that no open burning is allowed except for campfires. If your fire spreads to your neighbor's property, you are liable for the cost. Plans for a new fire hall are in limbo, as they have to talk to the county commissioners and work with the fire district.

Trails: John Frederick advised there is nothing new to report. Frank Vitale asked if Molly could inquire of the Forest Service at the Interlocal which trails they will be clearing.

Fire Mitigation: Molly advised that a Wildfire Workshop will be held July 8 from 10:00 a.m. until Noon, preceding the Interlocal. There will be reports from the various agencies, including Forest Service, State Lands and the RC&D.

Molly also advised that per Jimmy DeHerrera, the Red/Whale Project will not be implemented until a consultation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service about critical lynx habitat has been complete. They are hopeful that they will be able to proceed this summer with the commercial and non-commercial thinning on the east side of the North Fork Road across from Red Meadow Drive, funded by RAC. The rest of the project would be slated for implementation next year. The threat of a lawsuit still exists, however.

Larry advised that \$96,000 has been funded to the county road department by RAC, and could go as high as \$125,000. The county will be laying crushed gravel from the Demers Ridge Gravel Pit on a portion of the North Fork Road from Camas Road north to Polebridge to reduce dust. Smaller RAC-funded projects include Tuchuck Campground. According to Larry, RAC has provided \$350,000 total funding to the county. He encouraged individual groups to apply for RAC funding.

Land Use Planning: John Frederick advised that the Land Use Planning Committee will meet on July 11 at 7:00 before the Pie & Ice Cream Social to fulfill its requirement of meeting once per year.

Flathead Basin Commission: John Frederick advised that Will Hammerquist went to the United Nations to lobby UNESCO to list Glacier as a “World Heritage Site in Danger.” A United Nations delegation will travel to Glacier National Park and the North Fork to see for itself the threats that mining and coal bed methane development could have on the Park.

Road Committee: Betsy Holycross summarized their activities and asked for any questions or comments. Ray Brown inquired about a group out of Vancouver and their possible interest in doing something with regard to the road. Betsy advised that the Western Federal Lands Highway Division has jurisdiction over forest highways and related environmental issues, including jeopardy opinions. Their preferred practice is to do feasibility studies to determine interest before money is actually spent. Betsy is not sure what the process would involve but it probably would need to be initiated by the county.

Jon Elliott asked whether the Park Superintendent stated he was not concerned about road dust into Glacier. Betsy advised that it has to do with the size of the particulates and less than 10 microns is not a serious issue for the Park. Steve Weber asked for clarification on that from the Park Superintendent. Bob Grimaldi added that she should ask him about the dust that settles on glaciers causing a faster rate of melt.

Flagpole Committee: Ray Brown advised that he contacted Senator Baucus’ office to obtain a flag that flew over the U.S. capital for a cost of \$28. The flag will be raised at the October meeting.

CONTINUING AND OLD BUSINESS

Interlocal: Molly announced that the Interlocal meeting is next Wednesday. Awards will be given to the three RC&D honorees at that time for their cost-share assistance work with North Fork Landowners.

Water Quality & Septic: Ray provided some handouts on water quality and septic issues and advised that Wendy Jacobs, with the county, agreed to do a powerpoint show on flood cleanup and septic systems.

North Fork History Project: Molly asked for contact information for anyone interested in participating in the North Fork history research project.

Terry Richard inquired about the Alert helicopter landing sites and volunteered his property across from Moose Creek Road.

NEW BUSINESS

Web Site and Newsletter Editor: Molly advised that Richard Wackrow is resigning his positions as newsletter editor and Web master, in which he has served since 1998 and 2007, respectively. Both services provide comprehensive resources which we want to keep going. We are looking for a replacement with writing, editing and technology skills, who can maintain a neutral content, in a balanced manner, and work with the NFLA president and secretary. Molly asked that suggestions for replacements be passed along to her and Pat Cole.

Communications Committee: Molly advised that the possibility of a cell tower was suggested by Steve Weber. Steve pointed out that in case of emergencies, it would enhance the quality of life and safety issues with minimum impact. He wanted to know if there was interest in the community and what the cost and logistics might be.

Larry Wilson added that the Search & Rescue could respond much faster to cell phone calls. He also pointed out that the usage would not just be among residents, but visitors to the Park and Forest Service land as well. He felt the Border Patrol would also be in favor of it. Committee members appointed to pursue the options are Steve Weber, Jon Elliott and Ray Brown.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment: Molly advised that bylaw amendments need to be submitted at this meeting in order to be voted on at the August meeting. The following eight bylaw amendments were read aloud, discussed and submitted in writing to the secretary.

Molly read a proposed bylaw amendment submitted by the Board to reconcile and simplify bylaw provisions with regard to the timing of payment of dues and eligibility to vote.

Bob Grimaldi submitted three proposed bylaw amendments pertaining to 1) Code of Conduct, 2) Voting Procedure and 3) Response Time to Correspondence sent to NFLA BOD/Committees (**copies attached**).

Greg Puckett submitted four proposed bylaw amendments pertaining to 1) Officer and committee membership eligibility, 2) NFLA Transparency (**copies attached**), 3) NFLA Website Content and 4) NFLA Website (**copies attached**).

Nominating Committee: Molly advised that to ensure that there are willing and able candidates to run for each open position on the board, she will be appointing a three-person nominating committee to identify potential candidates. As always, all nominations will come from the floor on election night.

Other Business: Lynn Ogle advised that Teepee Creek Bridge is under construction and should be replaced with a new concrete bridge. Lynn also announced that he will not run again for a board position.

Karen McDonough made an announcement that the Sullivan's will be holding a church service at the hall at 10:30 AM on Sundays, July through August.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT

The Board of Directors proposes a housekeeping amendment to reconcile and simplify bylaw provisions with regard to the timing of payment of dues and eligibility to vote.

Article II, section 1 of the bylaws currently reads: "In order for a member to be in good standing and eligible to vote, dues must have been paid in advance for the year in which such member desires to vote." However, the pertinent portion of Article V currently reads: "Each member, in order to be in good standing and to be eligible to vote in the annual election in August, shall pay annual dues which shall be due on July 1. Active members who were eligible to vote in the previous year's election may pay dues as late as 8:00 p.m. on election night and still be eligible to vote that evening."

The Board proposes the following amendments of Article II, section 1 and Article V:

1. Delete the sentence in Article II, section 1 [Membership] that currently reads: "In order for a member to be in good standing and eligible to vote, dues must have been paid in advance for the year in which such member desires to vote."
2. Revise the first sentence in Article V [Dues] to read as follows: "Each member shall be in good standing and eligible to vote for one year after receipt of payment of dues."
3. Delete the second sentence in Article V [Dues] that currently reads: "Active members who were eligible to vote in the previous year's election may pay dues as late as 8:00 p.m. on election night and still be eligible to vote that evening."

Recommend the following by-law be considered by the NFLA:

SUBMITTED BY:
ROBERT GRIMALDO
7-4-09

Code of Conduct

That the NFLA amend the by-laws to include a code of conduct applicable to all members who serve on the NFLA BOD or on committees appointed by the NFLA, or any member who serves on any committee as an appointed representative of the NFLA. Recommend the code have provisions for censure and other punitive actions up to and including removal against persons found to be in violation of the code of conduct after an investigation into the alleged violation. Any member of the NFLA may file code of conduct violation charges and submit evidence. A majority vote of the NFLA BOD will be sufficient to determine if a violation of the code was committed. The person being charged with a code violation under consideration is not eligible to vote regarding his or her alleged violation.

Recommend the following by-law be considered by the NFLA:

Voting Procedure

That the NFLA establish improved procedures for screening persons eligible to vote at annual elections and at other meetings where voting on important issues take place. Recommend persons voting at annual elections receive certified ballot(s) for use in the election voting process.

Recommend the following by law be considered by the NFLA:

Response Time to Correspondence sent to NFLA BOD/Committees

That the NFLA BOD and any standing committee be required to acknowledge receipt of or respond to any written communication or e-mail submitted by an NFLA member within 15 days of receipt of the communication. An acknowledgement of receipt will be followed with a response within 30 days of the acknowledgement of receipt. If additional time is required to provide a response to a member's inquiry, the member will be so advised in writing stating when a response can be expected.

Recommend the following by-law be considered by the NFLA:

SUBMITTED BY:
GREG PUCKETT
7-4-09

Officer and committee membership eligibility

~~That~~ the NFLA BOD not permit any member to serve as an officer, committee member, or NFLA representative who owns property that is in violation of North Fork zoning or in violation of any deed restrictions, covenants or conservation easements. Any NFLA board member owning property in violation must remedy such violation within 30 days of notification or shall be then immediately removed from office or position.

Recommend the following by-law be considered by the NFLA:

SUBMITTED BY
GREG PUCKETT
7-4-09

NFLA Transparency

~~That~~ the NFLA BOD maintain a documented hard copy of all communications received regarding all NFLA business and communication matters, communications with all persons, internal or external, and organizations external to the NFLA, including e-mails. This documentation shall be maintained on electronic media such as common CD/DVD formats and updated monthly, and must be maintained using a common software format such as PDF or Microsoft Word to facilitate ease of access and review for all members. Any member shall have a right to request and receive a CD/DVD format of all electronic documentation maintained by the NFLA for a reasonable fee. Such requests must be fulfilled within ten days of receipt of the member's request.

Recommend the following by-law be considered by the NFLA:

SUBMITTED BY
GREG PUCKETT
7-4-09

NFLA Website Content

~~That~~ ^{robk} the NFLA BOD maintain the NFLA Website and its content in such a manner as to be aligned with overall NFLA general membership values, supportive of NFLA by-laws and not permit content depicting any unlawful activity unless such content is referenced as such.

Recommend the following by-law be considered by the NFLA:

SUBMITTED BY:
GREG PUCKETT
7-4-09

NFLA Website

~~That~~ ^{csball} the NFLA maintain documentation accessible to the NFLA President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and all persons responsible for maintaining and supporting any NFLA website and all NFLA e-mail accounts. Further, the NFLA shall state ownership claim and shall maintain full control of all NFLA website content. All such content, passwords, internet registration information shall be maintained in such a manner to be fully accessible to the NFLA President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer. The NFLA BOD shall require and maintain on file signed and executed releases for all persons with access to NFLA confidential information. Such releases shall be created and maintained with acknowledgement by the authorized party regarding the confidential information and the non-disclosure of the same, and acknowledgement of the NFLA's website and its content.