

NFLA Business Meeting
Sondreson Hall / August 1, 2009

Minutes submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Valerie Cox:

Board Members in Attendance: Molly Shepherd, Oliver Meister, Jan Caldwell, Steve Berg, Lynn Ogle, and Pat Cole. Not in attendance were Ed Heger and Frank Vitale. Copies of eight proposed bylaw amendments were handed out. Molly read the minutes from the July meeting and the minutes were approved. Pat presented the financial report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Law Enforcement and Fire:

Larry Wilson advised that vandalism occurred to county and forest service signs along the road. Also a large flatbed truck backed into several mailboxes Sunday night and some of the boxes had shots fired into them. Larry asked that he be informed of any vandalism and he will contact the Sheriff.

Lynn advised that we could still have fire danger despite the recent rain. No open fires are allowed, except for campfires, and no brush fires until the end of September.

Trails:

John Frederick stated there was nothing to report.

Fire Mitigation:

Molly reported that the Fire Mitigation Committee sponsored a Wildfire Workshop before the Interlocal, which also serves as our annual Firewise community event that is necessary to maintain our Firewise membership. The Forest Service, DNRC, RC&D and the committee collaborated and prepared maps that show all of the work that's been done since the Wedge Canyon fire in 2003. The maps will be kept in the hall. Awards were also given to Bill Swope, Mason Richwine and Mike Justus for their help in performing the wildfire hazard property assessments and administering the grants received. With the assistance of the Forest Service and Glacier National Park, we are working on a revision of the wildfire planning report prepared in 2004, which is currently attached the county's wildfire protection plan.

Flathead Basin Commission:

In Ed Heger's absence, Will Hammerquist reported that a film crew was in last week with an international league of wildlife photographers taking photos of the BC Flathead to be displayed in the US Capital. Also, a film is being produced about the mining issue to promote public awareness.

Road Committee:

Betsy reported that she and Margaret had given a report on the Road Committee's findings last night at the Road Coalition function and she thanked them for the invitation them to speak.

Margaret gave an update on the RAC project that involves putting a lift of gravel from Camas as far north as the money will allow. She met with Dave Prunty of the County Road Department and he advised they would try it with and without clay, depending on what the budget will allow. He said that clay should help with the dust issue. They also plan on installing traffic counters in August at Big Fork, and also hopefully south and north of Camas Road and a couple of miles north of Polebridge.

Cell Service Communication Committee:

Steve Weber was not available to give a report, but a member of the audience asked to be heard on the subject. She pointed out that Martin City is dealing with this issue and if you ask for and receive a cell phone tower, you have to comply with Federal regulations and will have a huge red flashing light that goes for miles. John Elliott reported that the committee has an inquiry in with Verizon, but has not heard anything back yet. They also have information on the mechanics of getting a tower and discovered that a lot of companies put up cell phone towers on their own and then lease it. The committee will continue to pursue the options available.

CONTINUING AND OLD BUSINESS

Winter Interlocal:

Molly reported that the summer Interlocal meeting was held July 8th, and that meeting in the afternoon rather than the evening worked well, and will probably be repeated in the future. The winter Interlocal is scheduled for February 10 and will be hosted by the Border Patrol.

History Project:

Molly advised that if the new board thinks that the project is worthwhile, she would try in late August to get people together with an interest in participating and to decide how to proceed. Anyone who has an interest in participating in a potential North Fork history project should let Molly know.

RC&D Request:

Molly advised that we received a request from the RC&D (the entity that administered the fuels mitigation grants) to pay \$100 in dues. She let them know about our no-contribution policy and they responded that individual membership dues of \$25 are also welcome.

Polebridge Post Office:

Molly invited the new owners of the Polebridge Merc, Stuart and Flannery, to speak about their petition to re-open the Polebridge post office. Flannery stated that a petition is being circulated to determine if there is enough interest in re-establishing a post office in Polebridge. Annemarie Harrod advised that there might be a potential problem if the post office were re-opened, as she had heard a rumor that the postal service could require residents to pick up their mail from the post office rather than deliver to individuals in an effort to cut costs.

Web Site and Newsletter:

Molly advised that Richard Wackrow resigned his position as Web master and newsletter editor effective July 31. Patti Hart agreed to take over the Web site responsibilities and Jon Elliott has agreed to handle the newsletter in collaboration with Patti.

Bylaw Amendments:

Molly introduced and read the first bylaw amendment, which allows for members to be eligible to vote as soon as their dues are paid. A motion was made and seconded to approve the bylaw amendment. The amendment was voted on and approved with one vote against it.

Molly introduced and read the second bylaw amendment, which pertains to a code of conduct for the NFLA board and committee members. A motion was made and seconded to approve the bylaw amendment and discussion followed. The amendment was voted on and failed to achieve a two-thirds majority with 9 votes in favor.

Molly introduced and read the third bylaw amendment, which pertains to voting procedures. A motion was made and seconded to approve the bylaw amendment and discussion followed. The amendment was voted on and failed to achieve a two-thirds majority with 9 votes in favor.

Molly introduced and read the fourth bylaw amendment, which pertains to a response time to correspondence sent to NFLA board or committee members. A motion was made and seconded to approve the bylaw amendment and discussion followed. The amendment was voted on and failed to achieve a two-thirds majority with 23 votes in favor.

Molly introduced and read the fifth bylaw amendment, which pertains to Web site maintenance. A motion was made and seconded to approve the bylaw amendment and discussion followed. The amendment was voted on and failed to achieve a two-thirds majority with 13 votes in favor.

Molly introduced and read the sixth bylaw amendment, which pertains to Web site content. A motion was made and seconded to approve the bylaw amendment and discussion followed. The amendment was voted on and failed to achieve a two-thirds majority with 6 votes in favor.

Molly introduced and read the seventh bylaw amendment, which pertains to NFLA transparency. A motion was made and seconded to approve the bylaw amendment and discussion followed. The amendment was voted on and failed to achieve a two-thirds majority with 25 votes in favor.

Molly introduced and read the eighth bylaw amendment, which pertains to eligibility to serve as an NFLA officer, committee member or representative. A motion was made and

seconded to approve the bylaw amendment and discussion followed. The amendment was voted on and failed to achieve a two-thirds majority with 18 votes in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Weed Sign:

Molly advised that the NFLA was invited to co-sponsor a community weed sign in Polebridge using stimulus funding. Other proposed sponsors would include the Forest Service, National Forest Conservation Association and the North Fork Preservation Association. A strong majority of the board supported this proposal as long as it doesn't cost us anything and we have input as to its contents and appearance before it goes up. A motion was made to be one of the sponsors of a weed sign on the approach to Polebridge. The motion was seconded and approved by a majority.

Porch Deck Oiling:

Molly asked for volunteers to oil the deck on the new porch and Tom Edwards and Teckla Putnam volunteered.

Forest Service Announcement:

Molly reported that the Forest Service has called for comments on a pending motorized use proposal affecting the wild and scenic river portion of the North Fork. The environmental assessment for the project includes action alternatives and a no action alternative. The assessment is available online or by calling the forest service. Comments are due August 3.

Thank You's:

Molly thanked Richard Wackrow for his years of service as newsletter editor since 1998 and Web master since 2007. She also thanked departing board members Ed Heger, Oliver Meister, Frank Vitale, Lynn Ogle and Pat Cole for their service on the board. Pat Cole thanked Molly for her contribution to the NFLA as vice president, president and chairman of the Fire Mitigation Committee.

President's Closing Remarks:

Molly gave farewell remarks warning about the danger of factionalism and urging the NFLA to continue to serve the interests of its members in a fair and balanced manner.

10 Years of Accomplishments:

Gerry Stearns advised that she asked Pat Cole to put together a list of accomplishments of the NFLA over the past ten years and that she would post the list up front.

Elections were held with the following new board members elected:

President: Betsy Holycross

Vice President: Margaret Heaphy

North Director: Lee Secrest

South Director: Richard Hildner

Betsy Holycross appointed Val Cox as secretary/treasurer.