

North Fork Landowners Association

June Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2010

Call to Order

President Betsy Holycross called the regular meeting of the North Fork Landowners Association to order at 8:02 pm on June 5, 2010 at Sondreson Community Hall.

Roll Call

President Holycross conducted roll call. The following board members were present: Valerie Cox, Betsy Holycross, Margaret Heaphy, Lee Secrest, Richard Hildner, and Jan Caldwell.

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting and Treasurer's Report

Secretary/Treasurer Valerie Cox read the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved as read. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

NFLA Committees

Trails: John Frederick reported the trails committee is waiting for a work date to be set by the Forest Service.

Fire Mitigation: Lynn Ogle reminded members to attend the July 7 "Save Your Home" workshop. Cenex will provide propane safety information. There will also be a demonstration of carbon monoxide alarms and smoke alarms. The committee met this spring. Molly Shepherd has been attending ongoing classes. Alan Chrisman will attend a meeting as well.

Road Committee: Margaret Heaphy announced that the committee has been suspended and that the email has been disabled.

Weed Committee: Valerie Cox asked members to attend the Weed Wrangler volunteer training on June 18. She noted that the NFLA was awarded a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) grant in November 2009.

History Committee: Debo Powers and Morgan Hart are co-chairs. The committee met last fall and will meet on June 22 at Debo's home.

Website: President Holycross read a written report submitted by Webmaster Patti Hart. She reported that the last 3 years of minutes are on the Documents page. The spring newsletter can be printed from the website. The archives contain old stories. Please notify Patti of upcoming social events. She is working on emergency information, fire news, and posting bear sightings. Pictures are always welcome.

Non-NFLA Entities

North Fork Patrol: Lee Downes reported some changes in officers. Mark Heaphy is now president and Margaret Heaphy is the new

secretary/treasurer. In the last 6 months, 1800 miles were patrolled. Also, a \$500 reward was given to the Harris family.

Flathead Basin Coalition: President Holycross noted that we still need a replacement for Ed Heger. John Frederick advised that the coalition would become dormant for a while, having achieved current goals.

Fire: Lynn Ogle reported that he is still working on heli landing sites as well as price quotes for a fire hall. He is working with the county commission. Lynn noted that the fire hall would be log sided to go with the look of the community hall.

North Fork Land Use Advisory Committee (NFLUAC): John Frederick invited all member to attend a meeting at 7 pm on Friday, July 11 to discuss committee bylaws. With new bylaws, the NFLA can choose NFLUAC committee members. He reported that gravel pits would be discussed. Such extractive industries are currently a conditional use. Flathead County's main extractive industry issue is gravel. John also noted the Memorandum of Agreement between Montana's Governor Schweitzer and the British Columbia government. He announced that the July 11 meeting would end at 9pm.

Resource Advisory Committee (RAC): Larry Wilson reported that applications for grants will be accepted early this fall, but for slightly diminished dollars. He advised that if the weed committee wants to apply for a continuation of their grant, they would need to reapply to Denise Germann.

Old and Continuing Business

Newsletter: Jon Elliott apologized for the lateness of the spring newsletter. The goal is to publish one month earlier next spring. He asked that mistakes be called to his attention. The focus of the newsletter and calendar is on neighbors getting together for fun.

Social Calendar: Valerie Cox and Gerry Stearns called the members' attention to June activities. Flannery Coats, Polebridge Mercantile owner, announced a "We're Still Here" celebration and open house to take place on June 20 from 5:00 pm until ? at the Merc. Appetizers and coffee will be served.

Hall Cleanup: Margaret Heaphy reported that 17 volunteers showed up to clean the Hall. She thanked everyone for getting lots of work accomplished. She noted several maintenance needs: staining or painting the outhouse and generator shed as well as fixing the eaves. Let Margaret know of any maintenance needs. Jan Caldwell will check into the easel.

Food Drive: Bob Grimaldi reported that the Columbia Falls Food Bank is always short on baby food. He asked members to donate baby food at the July NFLA meeting. In August bring in canned goods and non-perishable items, as well as in September. Then in October when North Forkers clean out their pantries, Bob and crew will deliver our shipment to the Food Bank.

Flag Project: All parts have now arrived. A dedication ceremony will be scheduled.

New Business

Road Corridor Study: Betsy Holycross reported that the Montana Department of Transportation is funding a “Corridor Study” of State Road 486/Forest Highway 61 from mile marker 9.5 to the Camas Road intersection. The study will be completed by Fall 2010. The purpose is to help develop long range plans using a collaborative process between agencies and the public. The study will evaluate funding options, safety, air and water quality, Glacier National Park access, fisheries, and Wild and Scenic River impact for the purpose of determining possible options. A newsletter will be published in June. There is a link on the NFLA website which describes the study. The NFLA has been contacted and interviewed as a stakeholder. Margaret Heaphy and Betsy Holycross were the interviewees. President Holycross noted that the NFLA is neutral as an organization.

Social Committee: A social committee will be established at the August meeting. Members will begin planning 2011 events during the fall of 2010.

Elections: Four positions will be open this August: president, vice-president, Steve Berg’s north district position and Jan Caldwell’s south district position. Betsy will run for reelection as will Steve. Jan declined to run again. Margaret is undecided.

Interlocal Meeting: The July 7 Interlocal meeting will be held at 1 pm at the community hall. It will be hosted by the North Fork Road Coalition for Health and Safety. Members of the Glacier Institute staff will barbecue burgers beginning at noon. Everyone was asked to bring a side dish for the potluck.

Border Patrol: Richard Wackrow distributed a handout. He questioned the need for an increase in border patrol agents in the North Fork. Richard noted that the Flathead County Sheriff’s Department, Kalispell, Columbia Falls and Whitefish police departments are receiving funding from “Operation Stonegarden” to increase law enforcement presence near the Canada/US border. He added that officers can enter anyone’s property at any time within 25 miles of the border, and can enter any outbuilding, but cannot enter a residence. Lynn Ogle noted that deputies now use county patrol cars rather than doing ride-alongs with the Border Patrol. Lynn added that we would probably end up with 30 patrollers in our area. Larry Wilson advised that there are currently 25 agents. A motion was made and seconded to request a copy of the “Threat Analysis” from the Department of Homeland Security. Discussion followed. The motion carried with 21 for and 6 against. A motion was made and seconded to request a copy of the contract for Operation Stonegarden with Flathead County. Discussion followed. The motion failed with 7 for and 12 against. Larry Wilson reminded members that the Border Patrol will be present at the Interlocal meeting in July, and recommended that questions be presented in writing

to Agent Abeglin prior to the meeting. He also advised that Agent Abeglin would be willing to speak at one of our NFLA meetings.

House District 3 Election: Mr. Zack Perry who is running as the Democratic Party's candidate for representative to House District 3 introduced himself.

Northern Lights Saloon: John O'Hara announced that he, Joyce O'Hara, and the senior Reiwigs are in the process of purchasing the Northern Lights Saloon. He noted their intentions to eliminate the Aurora Fest and to honor "good neighbor" obligations to the community.

Member Request: Bob Grimaldi asked that the NFLA reconsider their decision to suspend the Road Committee. President Holycross noted the board wanted the NFLA to refrain from getting involved in the road corridor survey process, and that the Road Committee has been suspended, but not terminated.

Homestead Study: Alex Kroll, graduate archaeology student, introduced himself and announced that he will be studying homesteads on the "private side" of the North Fork of the Flathead River. He asked members to contact him regarding potential study sites.

Local Author: Jan Caldwell informed members that local author, Joe Novak, had made copies of his new book available for purchase.

Adjournment

President Holycross adjourned the meeting at 9:45 pm.

Submitted by Valerie Cox, Secretary.