

**North Fork Landowners Association  
July 2010 Meeting Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Betsy Holycross called the meeting to order at 8:07 pm on July 3, 2010 at Sondreson Community Hall.

**ROLL CALL**

The following board members were present: Betsy Holycross, Valerie Cox, Molly Shepherd, Lee Secrest, Richard Hildner, and Jan Caldwell.

**MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT**

The minutes and Treasurer's reports were approved as corrected.

**NFLA COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Trails**

John Frederick reported that the Thomson-Seton trail will be cleared on July 25 to include the loop to Ninko cabin.

**Fire Mitigation**

Molly Shepherd and Lynn Ogle announced an open house would take place on July 7 in the morning. Demonstrations on fire trailers as well as a US Forest Service presentation on Fire Safety in the Home will take place. A demonstration by Cenex was as yet unconfirmed. Michael Dardis, Glacier View Fire Management Officer will show a video on the fires of 1910. The open house is a required "Firewise Project Day." The NFLA has been granted status as a Firewise Community for the fifth consecutive year, and would like to join Firesafe Montana. It would cost \$50 for membership and will allow the Fire Mitigation committee to receive a \$200 educational grant. Over the winter, a new document was produced as part of a countywide fire protection plan which includes fire history and fire maps. The committee will apply for another \$100,000 fuel mitigation grant to involve landowners who have not

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yet participated, and will join with several other communities. Committee members, as part of their research and education, will join the National Science Foundation to learn of urban interface fire issues.

The objective is to do fire modeling. A motion was made for the treasurer to pay the \$50 membership dues to join Firesafe Montana. Discussion followed. The motion was withdrawn until after the Interlocal meeting took place in order to gather more information.

**WEED COMMITTEE**

Valerie Cox reported that there are now ten, trained Weed Wrangler volunteers as a result of the June training session provided by the US Forest Service and Glacier National Park as part of our RAC grant. Volunteers had already contributed 70 hours of work. Valerie announced the July 26 first annual Weed Roundup. A motion was made and seconded to name the roundup the Robin Cox Memorial Weed Roundup. The motion passed.

**HISTORY COMMITTEE**

Debo Powers reported that the committee met in October and again on June 22. A file has been started on homesteads and history. Information has been obtained for the file from researcher Alex Kroll. Debo asked for additional information that members might have. The committee will also do an oral history that supplements earlier ones that have been archived, and will be in the process of learning to do oral history interviews. The committee is looking for a partner library or archive to store their information. Debo explained that the committee will develop a human study release form. The committee plans to apply for a RAC grant this Fall, and would like to raise additional funds via an auction or do a North Fork History dinner using the old North Fork cookbook. Debo informed the members that \$1000 will be needed to digitize musical recordings now kept at the Hall.

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**NON-NFLA ENTITIES**

**NORTH FORK PATROL**

Lee Downes reported that the Patrol paid a \$500 reward for the report of a break in that occurred two years ago at the border. He added that if you see a crime, write down the license plate number and record the time of the sighting.

**FIRE CHIEF**

Lynn Ogle reminded members that no fireworks may be discharged on Forest Service land or on private property after July first.

**NORTH FORK LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

John Frederick reported that bylaws and a text amendment were approved at the June meeting. The amendment limits gravel pits to 5 acres and 20,000 tons per year. He noted that the committee recommended the Northern Lights Café receive a conditional use permit for a tavern.

**FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION**

Ed Heger suggested the NFLA write a letter of thanks for the Memorandum of Understanding to the British Columbia Premier, Governor Schweitzer, Chevron and Conoco-Phillips, and Max Bacchus for the withdrawal of oil and gas lease rights to be published in the Daily Interlake, Hungry Horse News, and the Missoulian. John Frederick noted that there will be a shortfall of \$17 million for the Kline Mine and Mass. Resources, and that British Columbia will pay an economic price for this. A motion was made and seconded to write the letter. Discussion followed. An amended motion added thanks to John Tester and Denny Rehberg. The motion was seconded and passed as modified by a margin of 18 for and 3 against.

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**OLD AND CONTINUING BUSINESS**

**Flag Committee**

Ray Brown noted that the flag had been raised prior to the meeting. He added that the “officer of the day” should raise the flag and lower it before sundown. The intent is to raise the flag at all NFLA functions. Lee Downes noted that a flag had been donated years ago by the Ramon family. Ray Brown, Joe Novak, Greg Puckett, and Steve Weber were thanked for their contributions to the project. Ray informed the members that he would raise the flag on the Fourth of July.

**Food Drive**

Bob Grimaldi noted that there were not many food donations brought to this meeting. He added that cash donations would be welcomed in lieu of food donations. He informed members that either he or Jan Caldwell will collect food donations after each NFLA meeting and deliver them to the food bank.

**Road Corridor Study**

Betsy Holycross reported that Parsons-Brinkerhoff is conducting a study of options for the section of road south of the Camas Road intersection. There is a link to the study on the NFLA website. Copies of their newsletter are available for members. The next newsletter related to the study will appear at the end of August. Betsy announced that the next road study meeting will take place on July 27 at 6:30 pm at the Discovery Center in Columbia Falls. She mentioned that the North Fork Road Committee for Health and Safety published an ad that contained signatures from NFLA past presidents and current board members. It was noted that the NFIA survey counted 62% of residents who indicated they were in favor of paving the road south of the Camas intersection. A later, 2006 survey, was thought to indicate 55% in favor of paving. Margaret Heaphy and Betsy Holycross will check old survey

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results to verify accuracy. Betsy reminded members that she and Margaret Heaphy had shared the survey results with Parson-Brinkerhoff.

**Social Committee**

Valerie Cox reviewed the social events that had taken place in June and highlighted upcoming July events. She also asked for suggestions for events that members might like to have take place during the 2011 season. Valerie also urged interested members to volunteer to serve on the social committee to set the 2011 calendar.

**Border Patrol**

As directed by a motion passed at the June meeting, President Betsy Holycross sent a letter to the office of Homeland Security regarding a request for information on the current threat analysis. Agent Abegglen will attend the upcoming Interlocal meeting as well as the September 3 NFLA meeting. President Holycross requested that members submit questions for Agent Abegglen to her prior to the September meeting. She reminded members that incendiary issues need to be kept on an even keel, and that the NFLA will keep members informed. A small committee that could act as a liaison with the Border Patrol was suggested. Betsy asked that we first participate at our September meeting. A member requested that the NFLA draft a letter in support of the Border Patrol. Bob Grimaldi asked that a letter he submitted prior to the meeting regarding the Border Patrol be read. Members discussed their wish for more information from the Border Patrol itself. It was noted that the Interlocal meeting should provide information concerning all agency's activities in the North Fork. A motion was made and seconded requesting that the matter of the Border Patrol be tabled until the October meeting. Discussion followed. Additionally, President Holycross read Bob Grimaldi's letter. The motion passed with 21 for and 5 against.

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**Elections**

President Holycross noted several changes in the election slate. Margaret Heaphy has decided to run for reelection as vice president. Debo Powers will run for south director, and Steve Berg will run for reelection as a north director. Lynn Ogle suggested that an election committee be appointed. President Holycross declined as there were so many incumbents running.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Interlocal Meeting**

Ray Brown announced that there would be a barbecue and potluck at noon. Lynn Ogle added that the purpose of the interlocal meeting is to get information from participating agencies, and that it is important to ask questions.

**Hall Maintenance**

Bonny Ogle reported that the outhouse and generator shed need attention. At the August meeting, volunteers will be asked to come forward to form a Hall Maintenance Committee. Tom Edwards noted that the sink is rusty and needs sprucing up. Our mice problem needs to be dealt with as well.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Holycross adjourned the meeting at 9:46 pm.

Submitted by Valerie Cox, NFLA Secretary