

# **North Fork Landowners Association August 2010 Meeting Minutes**

## **Call to Order**

President Betsy Holycross called the meeting to order at 8:06 pm on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **Roll Call**

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

## **Minutes**

The minutes were approved as corrected.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report was approved as read.

## **North Fork Landowners Association (NFLA)**

### **Committees**

#### **Trails**

John Frederick reported that the Thomson-Seton trail had been cleared to the top from the back side. The clearing to Ninko has yet to be done.

#### **Fire Mitigation**

Molly Shepherd thanked committee members for help with Firewise Day. The committee will go forward with a grant application joining other communities in Northwest Montana. Grant money will be available next summer. Notification of successful application will take place late this Fall or in early Winter. Molly will gather more information on Firesafe Montana.

#### **Weeds**

Valerie Cox reported that the first annual Weed Roundup day was well attended. She thanked both Weed Wranglers and committee members for their excellent work, and noted that new members are welcome to join either the Wranglers or the committee. She added that NFLA volunteers donated 110 hours of work and 403

miles of travel during the month of July. The weed committee will apply for a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) grant again this Fall with an October 12 deadline for application.

### **History**

Debo Powers reported that the committee had gotten off to a slow start, but have completed one oral history interview this summer. The committee's focus during the 2011 season will be both fundraising and doing interviews. One volunteer will organize an auction and another will organize a history dinner with storytelling.

### **Social Committee**

The Kinsolvings announced that author John Fraley would attend the August book club meeting and urged members to attend. Valerie Cox reported that the July dance had been well attended. Donna Harrison, Carol Groebe, and Gerry Stearns volunteered for the 2011 Social and Calendar Committee, with Gerry serving as chairperson.

### **NFLA Website**

Patti Hart informed members that new information is frequently posted, and encouraged everyone to check the website regularly.

## **Non-NFLA Entities**

### **North Fork Patrol**

Lee Downes reported that July had been quiet, but urged members to watch their neighbor's places. Larry Wilson added that river corridor use is up dramatically, and that someone had left a large, active campfire. Karen McDonough got a license plate number and put out the fire, as well as putting notes on everyone's windshield. He informed members that fireworks and gunfire had been observed along the river near Kintla Ranch. Larry informed the people involved about safety along the river, and asked NFLA members to help educate the public regarding safety in a friendly way.

### **Fire Chief**

Chief Lynn Ogle advised that we're still in fire season, and that Glacier National Park currently listed fire danger as high. He pointed out that open burning is closed until the end of September. Also, no fireworks

are permitted after July 1<sup>st</sup>. He asked members to continue to watch for careless campfires and lightning starts. Members should contact Lee Downes, Lynn Ogle, Larry Wilson, Pat Walsh, John Frederick, or anyone else who has a radio should they spot a fire. Larry warned that recent lightning may still be smoldering. Lynn reported our smoke is from 150 fires burning in British Columbia and a huge fire in Russia.

### **North Fork Land Use Advisory Committee (NFLUAC)**

John Frederick reported that the committee had finished a definition of temporary structures that would be in keeping with the original intent of zoning. He added that due to a protest, the Northern Lights Saloon's liquor license will not be granted this season.

### **Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)**

Larry Wilson announced the deadline for RAC grant applications is October 12. The committee will begin to consider awards at the end of October. Final decisions should be made by Thanksgiving. Of the \$300,000 available, half must be awarded for roads or trails that affect the county and US Forest Service. The county will apply for gravel to be used north of Polebridge, but may not use bentonite in order to afford more gravel. The bentonite applied south of Polebridge worked well as it was applied during wet weather. Magnesium chloride has also worked well. The USFS will also apply for money but may not need as much due to the stimulus money that they have received. Stimulus dollars allowed a horse unloading facility and hiker's bridge to be installed at Antley Creek. Larry added that RAC money will be gone in 4 years.

## **Old & Continuing Business**

### **Letter of Thanks**

As requested at the July meeting, President Holycross sent letters of thanks regarding the Memorandum of Understanding.

### **Food Drive**

Bob Grimaldi reported that the July food drive resulted in a donation of \$100 and 70 pounds of food, most of which was baby food. He asked everyone to remember to bring food donations to the next meetings,

and to remember our food drive when cleaning out cupboards at the end of the summer season.

### **Road Corridor Study**

Betsy Holycross announced that the Parsons-Brinkerhoff report came out on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, and was posted on the NFLA website. She downloaded and printed some specifics for members to read. Betsy reported that the open house road meeting on July 27 included poster sessions, informal discussions, and an opportunity to meet the Parsons-Brinkerhoff staff. She informed members that the public comment period is open until August 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Border Patrol**

President Holycross reported that she had invited Colonel David Abegglen to speak at the September NFLA meeting. She requested that members forward questions to her or to Colonel Abegglen prior to the September meeting.

### **Community Hall**

Valerie Cox noted that help is needed to wash and wax the Hall floor and to paint the outhouse. John Frederick added that the blackboard needs to be put back on an easel. Lynn Ogle advised that the floor was waxed 2 years ago, and that unless the floor is sanded and a gym floor finish put on, the finish won't last. Betsy asked for volunteers to come forward. Those volunteering were Dennis and Carol Groebe, Morgan Hart, Tom Holycross, and Steve & Beth Weber.

### **New Business**

#### **Non-NFLA Report Request**

Ray Brown wondered if a non-NFLA entity report could take place at the NFLA meetings. President Holycross noted that non-NFLA reports focused on public services such as police, fire, and quasi-government entities such as RAC and the NFLUAC rather than North Fork membership groups whose reports are available at the Interlocal meeting. However, she encouraged non-NFLA groups to make special announcements at NFLA meetings. Ray pointed out that the Road Coalition is made up of landowners only. Betsy responded that announcements can be made under New Business. Bonny Ogle asked if the NFLA is still a member of the Chamber of Commerce. John

Frederick responded that the NFLA is no longer a member. Larry Wilson suggested that if we wish to make a change regarding who may give reports that a motion should be made.

### **North Fork Road Safety Issue**

Ed Heger requested that President Holycross write a letter to Mr. Iverson recommending a guardrail on the new Trail Creek bridge. No motion was made.

### **Elections**

President Holycross thanked Jan Caldwell for his two years of service as a South Director, as well as thanking continuing board members for their work. She then turned the time over to Larry Wilson and John Frederick for the purpose of running the election. Larry asked for formal nominations for incumbents who were willing to run as well as open nominations. For the position of president, Betsy Holycross was elected by acclamation. For the position of vice-president, Margaret Heaphy was elected by acclamation. Both Steve Berg and Tom Edwards were nominated for the North Director position. Tom Edwards was elected by a vote of 32 to 27. Both Debo Powers and Ray Brown were nominated for the South Director position. Debo Powers was elected by a vote of 32 to 26.

### **Adjournment**

President Holycross adjourned the meeting at 9:45 pm.

Submitted by Valerie Cox, Secretary/Treasurer