

North Fork Landowners Association September 2010 Minutes

Call to Order

President Betsy Holycross called the meeting to order at 9:20 pm on September 4, 2010.

Roll Call

Board members present were Betsy Holycross, Margaret Heaphy, Molly Shepherd, Valerie Cox, Tom Edwards, and Richard Hildner. Betsy thanked Steve Berg for his years of service and welcomed Tom Edwards to the board.

Minutes

The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was approved as read. A member requested copies be made available at NFLA meetings.

NFLA Committees

Trails

John Frederick read a description of the Thoma Trail work, and summarized difficulties in reopening the lookout due last year's theft of the fire finder. He encouraged members to visit the lookout.

Fire Mitigation

Molly Shepherd reported some clearing by the state involving Moose Creek Road and Mud Lake. These are School Trust lands and provide dollars to the state of Montana for schools. The USFS will let the Red Whale Project in October, which will go on for 3 years and involve 1040 acres. Molly noted increased insect damage and tree disease. She asked members if there

might be interest in a DNRC field trip next summer. Molly will inquire.

History Committee

Morgan Hart reported there will be a fundraising auction on July 23, 2011. Richard Hildner will be the auctioneer. Lynn Ogle advised folks not to bring junk.

Weeds

Valerie Cox reported that landowners and Weed Wrangler volunteers are continuing to report weed infestations and “starts”. She noted that contractors had been hired to supplement USFS spray work, and that the use of contractors provides jobs to locals. She announced that the application for the upcoming RAC grant is due October 12.

Social Committee

Carol Groebe reported that the book club will choose 4 books for next summer, and that the next book club meeting is schedule for September 21 at 7:30 pm at the Hall. Karen McDonough and Tom Edwards will continue game nights, holding one on a weeknight next summer. There may be 4 dances next summer, one to be held in September. Ted Ramon volunteered to host a couple of square dances using the old records on nights when the band wasn't playing. The boating schedule may include an outing on the Middle Fork from the West Glacier Golf Course. She thanked Lynn Ogle for hosting this year's Community Float. Carol asked that members contact her if interested in resuming the hiking schedule next year.

Roads

The Road Committee is still suspended for this season, as the Parsons-Brinkerhoff study has been in progress.

Website

Patti Hart announced the website has a new committee page. She added that she will post information on the public hearing dealing with the change in zoning. Betsy will place copies of the minutes and committee profiles at the Hall and the Mercantile for those who do not have internet access. Lynn Ogle asked for a round of applause for Patti's work.

Non NFLA Entities

North Fork Patrol

Larry Wilson noted that we are beginning their active season. He announced that the Patrol is cooperating with the Border Patrol and has responded to 3 reports of small aircraft landings. He asked that members note the date, time of day, license plate number, and description of driver in case of reporting an incident. He cautioned against confronting anyone. Lynn Ogle added that we should be aware that bow season started today.

Fire

Lynn Ogle reminded members that there is no open burning until October first. He called members' attention to ALERT landing area signs along the North Fork Road at:

The Border Station

Kintla Ranch Road

Ford Work Station

Sondreson Community Hall

Moose Creek Road/North Fork Road junction

Mark and Margaret Heaphy place

Polebridge Mercantile

Moran Meadows

(Home Ranch Store hasn't responded)

North Fork Land Use Advisory Committee (NFLUAC)

John Frederick noted 3 primary accomplishments this year: 1. Bylaws have been signed off as of August 26 and copies have been distributed to committee members, 2. Zoning signs regarding the text amendment about extractive industries are in place and the commissioners will get a copy of the text amendment in support of the definition of extractive industries on October 19, 3. The text amendment regarding setbacks has been completed.

Old and Continuing Business

Community Hall

Betsy Holycross introduced the idea of a Hall Committee. The board will discuss this at their October meeting. In the meantime, Dennis Groebe will prepare a list of needs. He will meet with Duke Hoiland, Lynn Ogle, and Tom Holycross regarding regular maintenance and repair needs prior to the October board meeting to develop a longrange plan. Betsy thanked Margaret Heaphy for painting the outhouse.

Food Drive

Bob Grimaldi announced that he hoped September and October's donations would exceed last year's. Carol Groebe suggested that gift cards from Smith's grocery store could be donated.

Newsletter

A message from editor Jon Elliott asked if a newsletter was still desirable or if it had become obsolete. Discussion followed. A motion was made and seconded to publish and send only a Spring newsletter and to do away with the Fall newsletter. Discussion followed. The motion carried.

Adjournment

President Betsy Holycross adjourned the meeting at 10:10 pm.

Submitted by Valerie Cox, secretary