

**North Fork Landowners Association Business Meeting  
June 4, 2011 Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

Betsy called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM      27 people present

**2. Roll Call of officers:** Betsy Holycross, Molly Shepherd, Tom Edwards, Richard Hildner and Bonny Ogle present. Debo Powers, Margaret Heaphy and Lee Secrest not present.

**3. October meeting minutes:** read by Bonny Ogle. Motion by Morgan Hart, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Edwards to approve minutes as read. Motion passed.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** read by Bonny Ogle. NFLA's total cash assets are \$12,846.56. Report attached. Payment of \$150.00 from Poaching Fund for a member was noted. Betsy clarified that the poaching reward was awarded to Greg Puckett along with matching amount from North Fork Patrol.

Larry Wilson explained that the matching fund was typical of how things have been done in the past, but not mandatory. NFLA can pay up to \$250 and NF Patrol can pay up to \$250 but no more than \$500 total for the reward. Betsy thanked Greg on behalf of NFLA for reporting the elk poacher who was arrested and convicted. She also emphasized that the poaching reward is there for a purpose and encouraged people to be on the lookout.

**5. NFLA Committee Reports:**

**a. Fire Mitigation (Molly Shepherd)**

Molly announced Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> workshop featuring entomologist Ken Gibson and Glacier View District fire officer James Barnett at the hall at 9:30 AM. Bring a brown bag lunch. There will be a field trip in the afternoon.

The committee is exploring the possibility of another fuels mitigation grant, Bill Swope and Allen Chrisman met with Angela Mallon of the DNRC to show her work that had been done on the North Fork under previous grants. Molly also met with her in Missoula.

The executive director of FireSafe Montana attended the committee's meeting in April. FireSafe is a Montana non-profit that helps to educate member communities about mitigating the risks of wildfire. FireSafe offered to waive membership dues for a year so the North Fork community can get to know the organization. The NFLA board accepted the offer.

Larry Roberts of LTL Forestry purchased the Forest Service's Red Dwarf sale along Red Meadow Drive and will begin work in July. The main Red Whale Project has been split into several parts. The Forest Service plans to award the first part in the Spring and the second part in July.

The State has completed cutting on the North Fork x 2 Project but some piling and burning remains to be done. Larry Wilson commented that they are planning some of that clean up soon.

According to Brian Manning, the DNRC is completing an EIS for a project on the Coal Creek Forest. Road reconstruction on the Coal Creek Road slump will take place in September 2011.

**b. Trails (John Frederick)**

John Frederick announced the upcoming hikes & bird walks as they are listed on the activity schedule.

**c. Social (Betsy read report)**

As on the newsletter schedule and on the NFLA Website, the Social Committee has been very busy. Betsy gave information on upcoming events.

Thanks given to many; committee members Gerry Stearns, Donna Harrison and Carole Grebe; to Linda Pittman, Danny Dill and Val Cox for planning hiking/biking activities; to Patti Hart for the design of the calendar in chronological order; and to Matt Marvel for donating time and materials for poster holders at Polebridge intersection and at the south end of the hall parking lot.

**d. History (Morgan Hart gave report)**

Morgan mentioned that Ruth Sondreson passed away. She played a very big part in NF history. The #1 project of the History Committee is to record oral history of early North Forkers. Debo is in charge of this and has list.

Larry asked if anyone had any photographs of Lloyd and Ruth Sondreson. It would be nice to have them on the wall at the hall by their sign, as they were instrumental in the hall being built.

Other project is to digitize the old square dance records. The NF History Committee Auction will be held on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July at 8:00 PM. The NFLA BOD agreed to have the auction. Any proceeds above the History Committee goals will go to the NFLA general funds. It was noted there will be an auction meeting at the Hart's on June 28th at 3:00 PM for anyone who wants to help. Contact Morgan or Debo Powers about auction items or donations.

**e. Weed (John Frederick gave report)**

John read the weed report. In some cases they surpassed their goals. Volunteer Weed Wranglers used GPS coordinates to identify and locate weeds along private land/Forest Service Interface. Nearly 90% of weed infestations along that Interface were mapped.

They didn't receive their grant but have three events planned. These were announced and are on the NFLA schedule. Thanks given to all Weed Wranglers and landowners involved in this effort.

Signs: NFLA BOD has set aside \$300 to put up educational signs which will help visitors and residents ID weeds. NFPA has donated \$300 toward the weed effort as well.

Tip: Tris Hoffman has cost-saving strategy ideas available for those who wish to mitigate their weeds by spraying.

## **6. Other Entities (quasi governmental)**

### **a. NF Patrol - Summary of May 26, 2011 NF Patrol Meeting. (Bonny read Mark Heaphy's report)**

Mileage rate reduced to \$ .60/mile. Updated patrol list coming. Recent newsletter added quite a few new folks. Contact Lynn Ogle about radios.

Mark is now the new Patrol chairman, replacing longtime chairman, Lee Downes. Mark and Margaret have started to patrol all of Lee's areas. They will talk with Lee about what he will still be patrolling.

Patrol voted to award Greg Puckett \$150 for involvement in a poaching incident last year. NFLA Poaching fund will match this amount for a total reward of \$300.00.

Lynn explained that a lot of people want radios and they can purchase these but they should be for emergency use and folks need to know the protocol for talking on the radio.

If anyone has any Patrol issues contact Mark or Margaret, Duke Hoiland, Larry Wilson, Lynn Ogle, Elmer Benson or Lee Downes.

### **b. Fire chief (Lynn Ogle)**

Lynn explained fire and flood problems. A burning permit is required in order to burn which can be obtained online at no cost. Fire suppressant equipment needs to be on hand. If anyone wants to build a tank and buy a pump, let Lynn know. He will give you information and ideas.

### **c. North Fork Land Use Advisory Committee NFLUAC (John Frederick)**

John advised the annual meeting of NFLUAC will be July 2<sup>nd</sup> at the hall at 7:00 PM.

### **d. RAC funding (Larry Wilson)**

Larry said this will probably be the last year for RAC funds. He is not sure why the weed committee didn't get funded. All other weed requests were approved. Maybe NF was rejected because of involvement in pulling weeds in GNP, "which cannot be the recipient of RAC moneys."

RAC money is being spent by backcountry horsemen on trail work. A significant amount of RAC money plus Stewardship money is being allocated for over 200 acres of pre-commercial thinning in Red Whale. Morgan asked about dust abatement. Larry said there is a RAC grant to do dust abatement from Camas to Polebridge, mag chloride on Blankenship road and mag chloride and gravel for eight miles north of Vance Hill.

## **7. Old Business:**

**a. Food Drive** was a big success. \$402 was gathered last fall. We could do this again this year.

**b. Hall Cleanup & Maintenance:**

Lee Secrest asked Larry Wilson to say a few words on how the hall came to be. Larry gave some history on how the Hall was built, emphasizing the community's reliance on donated time and materials.

Larry commended the BOD for their decision to change hall rental policy, emphasizing again the importance of the hall for the community.

Patti reported further on hall cleanup. Thanks to everyone who came for cleanup. Neighbors who were there for cleanup were Caldwell's, McDonough's, Novak/Reardon, Heaphy's, Lee Secrest, Ted Ramon, Peter Freund, and Hildner's. Tom Edwards did a lot of odds and ends earlier in the week.

There are two big maintenance items;

- The outhouse is sinking.
- Re-doing the hall floors. The floors need to be sanded and refinished and have needed this done for several years.

A report from the maintenance committee is attached. It includes a list of immediate repairs for health and safety. Some of the smaller things have been done.

Betsy thanked the maintenance committee for their work.

**c. Website: Patti Craig Hart**

Patti gave updated information on the website and mentioned the Alert Landing Site Map. Everyone should make themselves familiar as to their locations. The Calendar does change so check for updates. Patti also commended Betsy for getting the newsletter out and in a timely manner. John Elliott said he could no longer do the newsletter so Betsy asked if there are any volunteers to do it next year.

Lynn talked about the excellent work that Patti has been doing on the website.

**8. New Business**

**a. Elections:**

Betsy is termed out, so the President's position will be open. VP position will also be open. Lee will run again as Director from the north. Richard, a south Director, hasn't decided yet. Betsy said that Debo is the only one who has notified her that she'll be running for President. If elected, there will be a special election for her present position as south Director. Betsy thanked Bonny for stepping up when Val had health issues but said that Bonny can't continue past the end of this fiscal year. The Secretary/Treasurer position that is appointed by the President will be open. Lynn felt this would be the perfect time to split the position in two. Betsy said we may split the position but thought we should wait to see if there's a hero out there who is willing to be both Secretary and Treasurer. Having two positions could create an additional BOD position.

**b. Hall Policy:** BOD voted unanimously as follows: "Consistent with our designation as a 501(c) (4), Sondreson Hall may be used free of charge for all events that are open to the entire community as long as there is a sponsor who is a member of NFLA. The

hall may also be used for private events, meetings for other organizations, including governmental agencies, for a rental fee..." In addition, hall rental rates for small groups of other NF organizations, such as NFPA Board or the Compact or NF Road Coalition will meet for a reduced rate of \$5.00/hour. "The NFLA is tax-exempt under 501(c) (4), which means that it must be operated primarily to further the common good and general welfare of the community as a whole. It cannot be operated for the benefit of private interests."

Betsy reported that the BOD believes that this policy is consistent with our organization as a 501(c) (4) and that a more inclusive policy helps build the community by providing more opportunities for folks to get together. The new hall policy changes the basis for using the hall free-of-charge from an organizational one (the NFLA) to a member-driven one. In other words, use of the hall for functions that are sponsored by a member of the NFLA will be free of charge, rather than only functions sponsored by the NFLA itself, provided that the function is open to the entire community and is legal. Betsy explained that the BOD expects that making hall use easier may result in increased donations from NFLA members which would offset any revenue loss. Revenue from donations is already triple the rental revenue. The BOD decided that even though there are still some details to work through, such as making sure our insurance coverage is adequate, they wanted to get the word out as soon as possible. All requests for hall use will go through Debo Powers. She will elevate anything questionable to the board.

Betsy thanked Debo & Margaret for working long and hard on developing this policy to find a way to maximize the benefits which owning the hall affords to all of us.

**c. Interlocal Meeting: (Betsy)**

NFLA is hosting the summer Interlocal Meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Potluck at noon and meeting starts at 1:00PM. Betsy asked if anyone had topics they wanted addressed.

Annemarie Harrod had given Betsy a written request wanting to invite a speaker from U of M's Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy. The regional initiative called the Crown of the Continent (COC) Roundtable involves 18 million acres and includes the Canadian Flathead and the headwaters which are so vital to us on this side of the border.

Lengthy discussion followed, with some in favor of inviting them and others against. It was also suggested that an NFLA business meeting might be a better venue. It was agreed that Betsy would find out which was their preferred venue and invite them to the Interlocal if that was their preference but explain there is a ten minute speaking limit.

**d. Potential Bylaws change (Betsy)**

Next month is proposed Bylaws month. There has been talk of changing the meeting from the first Saturday of the month to the Second Saturday of the month. This would relieve the holiday pressure on the first of each month, i.e., 4th of July, Labor Day.

After considerable discussion, Betsy felt that not many members were interested in changing the Saturday date so there would not be a proposal for a bylaw change on this subject.

“Any proposed bylaws must be introduced at the July business meeting.”

**9. Other Business:**

- Patti gave information on the Crown of the Continent Meeting,
- John mentioned July 30<sup>th</sup> NFPA annual meeting with Speaker/Author Charlie Russell as on the NFLA schedule.
- Patti mentioned that everyone needs to be especially careful their garbage and other bear attractants, the Bears are especially active this time of year.
- Tom reminded everyone about Game Night on June 11, 2011, at 8:00PM.

There were several motions, seconded to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned! 9:50 PM