

NFLA Business Meeting

August 6, 2011

1. The meeting was called to order by Betsy Holycross at 8:10pm.
2. The roll call of officers indicated that all were present: Betsy Holycross, Margaret Heaphy, Bonny Ogle, Molly Shepard, Tom Edwards, Lee Secrest, Richard Hildner, and Debo Powers. In addition, there were 52 members present.
3. Debo read the minutes from the July business meeting. There were two corrections to the minutes. Molly said that Alan Crisman had helped Bill Swope and her write the fire mitigation grant and that he deserved credit in the minutes. It was also requested that the minutes reflect that new signage for announcing events would be investigated further.
 - Molly made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected.
 - John Fredrick seconded the motion
 - The corrected minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Bonny gave the Treasurer's Report. She reported that there was \$4416.58 in income in July and \$1533.13 in expenses bringing the total assets to \$15814.13. The NFLA auction made \$3607.50.
5. Committee Reports

Fire Mitigation (Molly Shepard):

The new fire mitigation grant was approved and forwarded, but since these are federal dollars, they are not sure that the funds will be available. She reported that we are in a good position to get the grant if there is money. Fire Safe Montana gave the NFLA free membership this year. They have offered to lead a workshop for the community, but it is too late to schedule it this summer. Molly plans to schedule a workshop for next summer on defending your space from wildfire. Fire Safe Montana sent brochures and Molly said she would distribute them to anyone who was interested following the meeting.

Weeds (Val Cox)

Two events have been held so far this summer. Weed Wanglers worked in Sondreson Meadow during July and it is in better shape than it has been in a long time. The July River Corridor Weed Round-up was not well attended due to bad weather. The next river corridor day is August 19. Weed Wranglers will meet in Polebridge. Val recognized the following hard working weed volunteers: John Fredrick, Annamarie Harrod, Gerry Sterns, Debo Powers, Paul Mueller, and Linda Pittman. John announced that the committee's backpack weed sprayer is missing and asked that whoever borrowed it from the Hall to please return it.

History (Morgan Hart)

Richard received cheers of appreciation for being an "auction beast". He was thanked by the History Committee for the superb job that he did as the auctioneer at the NFLA auction in July to raise money for the North Fork History Project. The auction raised over \$3600. The History Committee will be presenting a budget to the board for approval before it begins spending the funds.

Social (The report was left in the door of the Hall and read by Betsy.)

The social calendar for July was very busy and August will be almost as busy. The August social schedule was reviewed with special attention for the Backwoods Book Club meeting to discuss "The First Ranger." Although event signs have improved attendance at events, fewer things will be scheduled for June next year since these were not as well attended. Carol Grobe has volunteered to be the committee chair for next year. Gerry Sterns will be the co-chair. Linda Pitman and Linda Nelson have agreed to serve on the committee. The committee needs more members to share the work load. Those interested should contact Gerry.

Trails (John Fredrick)

John reported that although there is still snow in high country, many trails are now open, such as Numa Lookout. Brown Pass and Nasacoin are still in snow. Debo and Patti announced that the trails to Thoma and Hefty are in good shape.

Hall Maintenance (Lee Secrest)

Lee reported that a lot of the smaller projects on the maintenance list have been accomplished. Re-finishing the Hall floor is the biggest job and will have to wait until next year. He will have more information on the pit toilet project at the September meeting. He further reported that there has been a private donation of exterior log oil and there will be a work party next Saturday at 10:00 to oil the outside of the Hall. Lee said that there are six propane lamp mantles that need replacing and Tom Edwards volunteered to donate the mantles and replace them.

6. Other Entities

North Fork Patrol (Mark Heaphy)

Mark reminded landowners that if they want their property patrolled over the winter, to make sure that their dues are up-to-date. Larry announced that it was just discovered that a break-in occurred last winter at property near the border. Tools were stolen. Lynn reported that the criminal that was mentioned at the July meeting was captured near Spokane.

Fire Chief (Lynn Ogle)

Lynn reported that there are a number of fires around the state and that we should all keep our eyes out for smoke. He reiterated that no brush piles can be burned until October and that when burning piles, certain things cannot be burned, such as household items like mattresses, couches, tires, etc. Lynn reported that the Flathead County Commission had voted unanimously not to fund a fire department in the North Fork. "We are now on our own," he said. The Trail Creek Irregulars are technically not covered by county liability, but if we have a fire and they send county trucks up, then we are covered. Structures have to rely on the Blankenship Volunteer Fire Department which is two hours from the Hall. Because they are volunteers, sometimes they don't respond during the day because they are at work. Duke Hoiland and Lynn have tank trucks and others offered theirs in an emergency: John Fredrick, Tom

Holycross, and Ted Ramon. We do have some response capability but it is slow. In order to protect property, you need to clear your driveways. According to Lynn, you need at least a 12-foot wide driveway without brush. Lynn said that if the weather continues like it is, we will have a one-month fire season. If it gets wet again, we're OK. He also reported that the Alert Landing Site signs are up.

NFLUAC (John Fredrick)

John reported that the NFLUAC will only meet when there is an agenda item. This corresponds to the new county policy to only meet as needed and not on a monthly basis. Unless something comes up, the next meeting will be in July prior to the NFLA meeting.

7. Old & Continuing Business

Website (Patti Hart)

Patti reported that a summary of the Interlocal has been posted on the NFLA website and contains lots of good information. She added that meeting minutes and a new weeds brochure have been posted also.

Interlocal (Patti Hart)

The Summer Interlocal meeting was well attended. About 50 landowners were present. The NFLA was the host this year and Debo led the meeting. Participants received lots of information and a summary is posted on the NFLA website.

Signage

Molly & Lee are working on a design and will have a report at the September meeting. Ted volunteered to make signs for cost.

Bear Resistant Garbage Cans

Patti announced that if people are interested in bear resistant garbage cans, the manufactures are willing come to the Hall and make a presentation. Anyone interested should contact Patti.

8. Farewell Remarks

Betsy made some final comments since this was her last meeting as NFLA President. She thanked three committees for their outstanding work: History Committee, Weed Committee, and Social Committee. She thanked Patti for her work on the website and the newsletter. She praised the board and recognized three who are leaving the board: Molly (for her time as President and Past President), Margaret (for her time as Vice President and being a real partner for Betsy), Bonnie (who stepped up and took over the duties as Treasurer). She gave them each a token of appreciation. She also thanked her husband for supporting her.

Morgan Hart addressed Betsy to thank her for her time as President and presented her a flat tire kit.

9. Elections

Betsy gave the floor to Larry Wilson to run the elections for new officers for the coming year.

President: Debo Powers was the only candidate nominated.

- Larry made a motion to elect Debo unanimously.
- The motion was seconded by Naomi Hoiland.
- The motion passed unanimously.

Vice President: Karen McDonough and Alan McNeil were nominated.

- A secret ballot vote was taken and Karen Mc Donough was elected Vice President.

North Director: Lee Secrest was the only candidate nominated.

- Larry made a motion to elect Lee unanimously.
- The motion was seconded by Alan Crisman.
- The motion passed unanimously.

South Director (one-year term): Alan McNeil and Flannery Coates were nominated to fill out the remainder of Debo Powers' term since she was elected President.

- A secret ballot vote was taken and Alan McNeil was elected South Director.

South Director (two-year term): Flannery Coates and Richard Hildner were nominated.

- A secret ballot vote was taken and Flannery Coates was elected South Director.

10. Adjournment

Larry Wilson handed the gavel to the new president who adjourned the meeting at 9:45pm.

Minutes submitted by Acting Secretary Debo Powers