

NFLA JULY 2012 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Written and submitted by Betsy Holycross

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by NFLA President Debo Powers at 8:02 pm, July 7, 2012. There were 27 people in attendance including the Board
2. **Roll call of Officers:** All Board members were present: Debo Powers, Betsy Holycross, Karen McDonough, Tom Edwards, Lee Secrest, Flannery Coates, Alan McNeil and Bonny Ogle.
3. **Approval of June 2012 Business Meeting Minutes:** Betsy Holycross read the minutes. Minutes were approved following motion to approve and second.
4. **Welcome new members:** Debo welcomed new members and introduced the BOD members
5. **June 2012 Treasurer's Report:** Bonny read treasurer's report.
 - a. June total income, \$740
 - b. June total expense, \$891.80
 - c. Net Operating Income, \$ -151.80
 - d. Total cash assets, \$13,410.49
6. **Board Report:** Debo reported on BOD activities and decisions including the outhouse project and the informational sign. Decisions the BOD had taken included:
 - a. Approving a solar light for the generator shed
 - b. Deciding against renting the Hall tables out separately
 - c. Having Karen investigate the cost of a new chair rack.

Debo also reported that the BOD had approved two bylaw proposals which would be presented at the end of the meeting

7. NFLA Committee Reports

- a. Fire Mitigation (Molly). Molly reported that the committee had received its 3rd fuels mitigation grant. Four projects are underway. There is still time left to apply for the cost-share program and there are still grant monies available. July 11 is the annual Firewise Day. Theme is Stewardship, Forest Health and Hazardous Fuels Reduction. It begins at 9:30 at the Hall. It will include a speaker from the DNRC and may include a field trip to Allen Chrisman's property.
- b. Trails (John Frederick). John described 3 hikes occurring in July, the birding walk with expert Dan Casey on July 14; the Trail Creek Indian Trail walk with Duke Hoiland on July 18; and the Thompson-Seton hike on July 25. He further said he would no longer give the trail report; Debo will. Debo asked that folks send her an email if they have any information on trail conditions.
- c. Weeds (John Frederick): John announced the Third Annual Robin Cox Weed Roundup to take place on July 24. Tris Hoffman will attend. Steve Robinson of the Flathead County Weed Department will speak about how the new weed law will impact landowners. Schedule for the Roundup was provided:
10:00 Meet at the Community Hall on July 24th.
10:00 - 11:30 Weed pull around the Hall and in the vicinity

11:30 - 12:15 Free Burger Cookout (burgers, buns donated by the NFPA and much appreciated) Bring a side dish or dessert if you would like.

12:15 - 1:00 "How the New Weed Law Impacts Landowners" followed by a Q and A session

1:00 - 2:00 Weed ID Session with Dawn LaFleur and Tris Hoffman
(Please bring your weeds for ID in a securely closed plastic bag.)

History (Morgan). Morgan reported that recording equipment had been purchased with funds from last year's auction and interviews had begun. Interviews which have been completed include: Cecily McNeil, Larry Wilson, Ray Hart, Ivan Windsheimer, Mac McNeill, Lee and Marietta Downs, John Fredrick, George McFarlan. Interviews are posted on the NFLA website along with short stories. Also, the historical square dance music was recorded. Additional interviews are planned for 2012. Morgan also announced plan to hold a silent auction before the August meeting. A wine dinner, prepared and hosted by Harts, will be auctioned. Anyone else interested in donating services to be auctioned should contact Debo Powers at debopowers@gmail.com or Morgan Hart through the NFN site (www.nfnews.net)

- d. Social (Gerri). Described the many events occurring through the remainder of July (see NFLA calendar). Also noted that Bocci Balls are available at the saloon and can be played behind the Merc. Tom Edwards added that there was a very successful impromptu square dance at the hall July 4th.
- e. Hall (Lee). Lee reported that "propping" the northline fence had been completed and that Gary had sawed down the brush. Reported that privy permits had been applied for and construction will not begin until permits are obtained; perhaps in the next couple weeks. Construction anticipated to be completed in September. There is a donation "can" on the kitchen counter. Also, proceeds from silent auctions will go toward privy (in addition to expenditures authorized by membership).

8. Other Entities

- a. North Fork Patrol. Larry asked members to keep an eye out for strange vehicles. Reported that the county has said that the dust deputy will be up the road again. Indicated that the road is in such good shape that people are definitely speeding up. Alan McNeil reported that his place had been broken in to over the winter and a pump was stolen.
- b. Fire Chief. Lynn described fires across US have burned 300,000 acres. Advised folks to check their pumps and fill their tanks. There is dry lightning in the forecast. Also advised that the county had switched radios and Fire chief could hear county and Forest Service but could not be heard. Said fire chief would come check to see if a property is "firewise" and to see if trucks can get down road. If not, property will be marked "not passable." Call dispatch or 911 if you see a fire. Molly added that "vegetation management" along driveways is eligible for fuels mitigation grant money.

9. Old and Continuing Business

- a. Website (Patti). Patti advised folks to go to the NFLA website for forms, schedules, etc. Also let NFN know if there is any news to be posted.

- b. Signage (Molly) Molly researched ability to have an information bulletin board or “community reader board.” Indicated that J Grieve with County Planning had described two options
 - i. Onsite sign which is consistent with NF zoning regs can only refer to events occurring on Hall property
 - ii. County zoning provides for an exception for “public institutions” Sign would have to be 40 feet from middle of NFR and limited to 32sf.

Discussion followed in which members expressed concern that opting for the county exception would substantially undermine the validity of the NF zoning which had taken years to be accepted by County; in other words, so doing would set a bad precedent. The option of putting informational sign on porch of Hall would be OK. Larry Wilson moved to “authorize the Board to determine what would make sense to put on a NF-zoning compliant sign. “ Lynn seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

- c. Mile markers. Alan McNeil reported that Karen had contacted Dave Prunty regarding posing mile markers. Dave said to go for it and to put them up high, preferably on trees. Karen told Dave they were going to start at mile 13 using the County’s mile marker 12 to measure from. Markers will go from mile 13 to the border. Karen, Alan and Lynn are heading up this project and are investigating materials that can be used on the markers to make them reflective.

10. New Business

- a. Whitefish Range. Randy Kendall introduced Andrew Hegermeyer to discuss a National Parks Conservation Association initiation. He explained that the USFS had adopted a planning rule to allow Forests to update their Forest plans. The Rule encourages collaboration among other groups so as to avoid litigation down the road. The NPCA is trying to foster a partnership among other stakeholders to discuss what they can bring to the White Fish Forest planning process. This initiative is just getting started.
- b. By-laws. Two proposed bylaw changes were read.

Proposal #1: Article IV—Officers/Elections

Everything in the section describing the Secretary-Treasurer will remain the same except:

- All references to the “Secretary-Treasurer” will be changed to “Treasurer”
- Delete from the Treasurer’s duties: “take and keep the minutes of association meetings” and “write letters, as directed by the president or the board of directors.”

Justification for the Change: Due to the difficulty of finding someone who will take responsibility for all of the duties assigned to the Secretary-Treasurer, the board would like to limit the role to Treasurer and delegate the secretarial duties to another board member or members.

There were no questions.

Proposal #2: Article V—Dues

Delete: “Each member shall be in good standing and eligible to vote for one year after receipt of payment of dues.”

Replace with: “Each member shall be in good standing and eligible to vote if s/he has paid his/her dues for the fiscal year (September 1-August 31).”

Justification for the Change: This bylaw change will greatly reduce the bookkeeping tasks related to membership if all memberships cover the same period of time.

Discussion: There was discussion about those who had paid their dues in August of 2011 and whether or not they would be in good standing to vote in the August 2012 election. It was agreed that in paying for fiscal year September 1 – August 31, they would also be able to vote in the August meeting

- c. Elections: Debo discussed NFLA elections coming up in August. She announced that she would run again as president and that Karen would run for VP again. For the North Directors, Tom Edwards’ term is up and he will not run again. For South Director, Alan McNeil’s term is up and he will run again.
- d. Supplies. Tom Edwards reported that the box of forks had disappeared from the kitchen
- e. Interlocal. Debo solicited questions for the July 11 interlocal.
- f. NFPA. John F. announced NFPA meeting schedule on July 28, beginning with a potluck at 5pm and the meeting at 7pm