

## **NFLA August 3, 2013 Business Meeting Minutes**

1. Called to Order at 8:08 pm. 52 people were in attendance in addition to the Board.
2. **Roll Call of officers:**
  - a. All Board members were present: Debo Powers, Karen McDonough, Lee Secrest, Bonny Ogle, Betsy Holycross, Larry Kinsolving, Alan McNeil and Flannery Coates
3. **July meeting minutes were read, corrected and approved with the correction.**
4. **July 2013 Treasurer's Report (Bonny)**
  - a. Total Income: \$ 1597.89
  - b. Total Expense: \$ 957.65
  - c. Total Cash Assets: \$11,453.16
5. **Board Report (Debo)**

Debo described three issues discussed at the BOD meeting:

  - a. The BOD clarified the budget process in preparation for the new BOD
  - b. The insurance issue was discussed and BOD agrees further action is needed to determine best approach to provide protection for activities such as river trips
  - c. The difference between 501c3 and 501c4 were discussed briefly and are being further investigated to determine if 501c4 is best for the NFLA
6. **Report on Whitefish Range Partnership**

Michael Jamison discussed what is happening on the Whitefish Range Partnership (WRP) to provide input to the US Forest Service as Flathead National Forest begins developing its new Management Plan. The WRP has been meeting for almost a year and its membership includes a wide variety of forest users (loggers, mountain bikers, snow mobilers, hikers, etc.) and will make recommendations to the USFS. He urged others to do so as well.
7. **NFLA Committee Reports**
  - a. **Fire Mitigation Committee.** Molly reported that the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Firewise Day on July 10 was very well attended, with over 50 people at the workshop. Molly announced that it looked like they would get yet another grant, this one for \$91K, to continue the fire mitigation measures that have been so successful. The government/ landowner split is 75%: 25%. Molly also thanked the fire mitigation committee members, most of whom have now served on the committee for the full ten years.
  - b. **Weeds Committee.** Val described the 4th Annual Robin Cox Memorial Weed Roundup held on July 31. 32 people attended and the focus was on restoration of natural habitat. A landowner sign up sheet and free booklets on weeds were made available at the back table. Val thanked the weed committee and asked Larry Wilson to address the status of

this year's RAC grants. Larry said that it looked like the weed proposals would be funded at 50% and the focus would remain on the interface between USFS and private land.

- c. History Committee. Debo reported that an additional interview has been completed: Bud and April Evans were interviewed by Tom Edwards and Debo. An appointment has been made to interview Esther Chrisman later in the month.
- d. Social Committee. Larry reported that they are already thinking about next year's social calendar and requested that folks let them know what they liked and didn't like about this year's functions so they can take that into consideration for next year. Debo reminded folks of the upcoming Garden Tour and reviewed gardens to be visited
- e. Trails. Debo announced that Bill Walker had led a group to finish clearing brush on the trail to Thompson-Seton.
- f. Hall Maintenance Committee. Lee said that the outhouse project was now complete and we were "good to go for a while."

## **8. Other Entities**

- a. North Fork Patrol. Mark reported that the Patrol is collecting dues and donations for the upcoming winter season. 102 landowners currently participate.
- b. Fire Chief. Lynn reported no fires in the North Fork so far. He urged folks to get their water tanks filled and reminded us that we are liable if we have an open fire that gets away from us. John Frederick asked for a welder to help fix the Polebridge fire truck.

## **9. Old and continuing business**

- a. Website: Patti urged folks to send her suggestions. She said that she was going to make recommendations to the BOD for updating the webpage. Patti was recognized and applauded for doing such a good job with the website including maintaining it while travelling.
- b. Auction Report: The Auction to raise money for the floor project was well attended, with over 100 people participating. Richard Hildner was the auctioneer and the goal of \$5000 was reached when donations at the end were made, for a total of \$5068.
- c. Ruth Kinsolving presented a picture of Nancy Hubble on the front porch of the Thayer Cabin. Nancy recently sold her place to new owners, Chuck and Jenny Ludden, who took the picture on her last day at her cabin. This framed picture is a gift from them to the Hall.
- d. Food Drive. Debo reminded members that the NFLA gives to the Columbia Falls Food Bank each year and that they can start bringing donations now and leaving them at the back of the hall. The October business meeting is when most donations are collected but boxes are available at the back of the hall for members who won't be here for the October meeting and want to bring items sooner. Cash, checks and non-perishable foods are acceptable.

## 10. New Business

- a. Debo's term as President ended with this meeting and Debo thanked all Board members as well as Patti Hart for their contributions
- b. By-law vote. At the July meeting, Larry Wilson submitted the following proposed by-law change:

*Be it resolved that the name "North Fork Landowners Association" be changed to: "North Fork Improvement Association."*

Larry explained why he made the motion, indicating that it had been the "North Fork Improvement Association" for 55 years prior to its being changed in 2005. He reviewed the reasons why he thought people should vote for the revision. Considerable, sometimes emotional discussion followed centering on issues such as history, tradition, inclusion, and the meaning of the word "improvement." A suggestion was made that we take a year to resolve this issue rather than trying to do it in one night. There was a motion to table which was seconded. Discussion followed concerning what "tabling the motion" would actually entail and it was decided that "postponement" until next August would be better. The motion to table was withdrawn. Then there was a motion to postpone which was seconded and discussion followed. This resulted in the motion to postpone being withdrawn. Finally, Larry Wilson made a motion to withdraw the proposed bylaw amendment and request that the BOD take up the question and come to the membership next year with recommendations. On a voice vote, the motion to withdraw the proposed bylaw amendment passed overwhelmingly.

## 11. Elections:

Larry Wilson ran the election. Karen McDonough ran for president unopposed and was elected on a voice vote. There were two nominations for VP, Donna Harrison and Lynn Ogle. Ballots were counted and Donna won. Alan Chrisman ran unopposed for North Director and was elected on a voice vote. Flannery Coates ran unopposed for re-election as South Director and was elected by acclamation.

## 12. Meeting was adjourned at 10:25

Minutes submitted by Betsy Holycross