



North Fork Landowners' Association

Business Meeting Minutes

Sondreson Community Hall

June 6, 2015 8:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order/Roll Call of Officers

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 by President Karen McDonough. Board Members Karen McDonough, Donna Harrison, Bonny Ogle, Allen Chrisman, Paul Marotz, Carol Groebe, and Debo Powers were present. Alan McNeil was absent. There were 32 members present. Karen welcomed everyone and reported that three North Forkers had died since the last meeting in October-- Ed McNeil, Tom Edwards, and Beth Weber.

II. Minutes from September Business Meeting

Debo read the minutes from the October business meeting and they were approved unanimously.

III. Treasurer's Report

Bonny gave the Treasurer's Report and reported that NFLA currently has a balance of \$15,813.96. This is a total of all three accounts: operating, improvement, and reward program. Copies of the financial report are in the notebook in the Hall.

IV. Board Report

Karen reported that the NFLA board had met on June 4. She thanked each board member individually for their contributions during the winter months.

V. Board Committee Reports

a. Hall Maintenance

Paul reported that he changed the oil and filter on the propane generator. The following hall projects will be completed soon: fix the threshold on the front entrance, attach the handrail on the back porch, sand and stain the handrail on the front porch, and finish oiling the interior walls.

b. Cookbook

Donna reported that cookbooks are on sale at Home Ranch Bottoms, Polebridge Merc, and the Montana House in Apgar. There are 104 left to sell and they will probably be sold out after the 4th of July Parade.

c. Hall Cleanup Day

Donna reported that 18 people had attended and the jobs were completed easily. Lunch was served to all participants.

VI. NFLA Standing Committees

a. Fire Mitigation Committee

Molly reported that the annual Firewise Day will be held on July 15 from 9:30 to 12:00. There will be a good program, including a video of wildfires in Washington and Oregon in 2014, information on evacuation and triage during a fire, the wildfire forecast from the Forest Service, DNRC will be present to answer questions, and Bill Swope will talk about the status of fire mitigation grants. Trail Creek is the priority for the fire mitigation grants. A letter has been mailed to Trail Creek property owners explaining the importance of this project to provide access for fire fighters and an escape route for residents. Duke Hoiland added that he and Naomi signed the first contract for the Trail Creek project. Our firewise membership, which we have had for ten years, has been renewed. We received a "glass flame" to commemorate our commitment to having a firewise community. Molly also reported that a planning magazine is featuring three firewise communities and we are one. The article will be published in August. Allen Chrisman added that the hot, dry weather is creating the conditions for an active fire season. Fire forecast information is being posted regularly on the NFLA website and NF News.

b. North Fork History Project

Debo reported that she has had contact with Joe Lang who will be donating a digital recording of Tom Reynolds telling stories about the North Fork. This will be posted on the NFLA website history page. Debo also reported that the short story about Thelma Edwards backpacking in Glacier Park in 1929 was published in the magazine for the Glacier Mountaineering Society. This story is also on the history page of the NFLA website. Debo added that there are now transcripts of all of the history recordings on the website thanks to a donation by Chris Graft and Monica Phillips to pay for the transcriptions. The committee has plans to interview Bob Gramaldi and Joe Lang before the July meeting.

c. Weeds Committee

It was reported that the noxious weed postcards were mailed to all North Fork landowners. Someone asked if the Weed Committee could help find someone willing to be hired for weed spraying. Dennis Grobe recommended Triple A in Colombia Falls. To help landowners, spraying machines can be rented from Flathead County and John Frederick has backpack sprayers for loan. Some members complained about weeds on Forest Service land. Debo replied that Tris Hoffman and her team from the Forest Service have been very responsive about spraying weeds when they are reported. Debo offered to report weed locations to Tris if folks will email her at debopowers@gmail.com. Bonny read a list of spraying resources from an email from Tris.

d. Social Committee

Carol reported on upcoming events on the NFLA calendar.

e. Trails Committee

Debo reported that the Trails Committee is looking for a shelf to be located in the Hall which will house the books on flora and fauna of the Northern Rockies that landowners can borrow. A section of books by local authors will also be part of this lending library. Debo asked that all local authors donate a copy of their book(s). Don Sullivan handed over a copy of "Discovering Eden" and became the first local author to donate a book.

Debo also reported that the Trails Committee will be hosting a series of short hikes for those who do not want to hike the longer trails. The first hike will be to Cyclone Lookout in mid-June. She asked that those who are interested to email her (or put a note in her mailbox) to get notification of dates and times.

VII. Other Reports

a. Fire Chief

Lynn Ogle reported that there was not much snow this winter and not much rain this spring which is setting us up for an active fire season. He said that though people think that a recent rain lowered the fire danger, all you have to do is dig down into the duff to see how dry it is. He added that a burn permit is required until the end of June after which there should be no burning. He cautioned folks to put out fires completely and have good tools and water available. Household trash, such as chairs, couches, and plastics, should never be burned. He asked that landowners watch for wildfires.

b. North Fork Patrol

Lynn reported that the North Fork Patrol is now an official 501(c)(4). He added that 150 landowners have joined this year.

c. NFLA Website

Patti was not present, but others mentioned how informative the NFLA website is and how many great pictures are there.

d. Lending Library

Carol Grobe reported that the Lending Library in Polebridge is going well.

VIII. Old Business:

a. 2014 Tree Farmer Family of the Year Award

It was reported that the Hoilands received this award in October and are now competing for the western regional and the national awards. A review team will be at the Hoilands on Tuesday at 9:00am for a presentation on the Hoiland's Forest Plan. Anyone who is interested is invited.

b. Food Drive

Randy Kenyon reported that our food drive in October brought in \$109.50 as well as boxes of food for the Colombia Falls Food Bank.

c. Winter Interlocal Meeting

Allen Chrisman reported that the Winter Interlocal went well.

IX. New Business:

a. Ice Cream Maker

Karen reported that the Heaphys donated an ice cream maker to the Hall.

b. Pass-along Plate

Karen reported that Tom Edwards had donated a Pass-along plate to the NFLA in hopes that members would follow the tradition of passing the plate to someone else with homemade goodies on it. That person would make something else and pass the plate of goodies to another person.

c. August NFLA Elections

Karen reported that the board is looking for people willing to run for President, Vice President, North Director, and South Director. Allen Chrisman plans to run for re-election as North Director.

d. Interlocal July 15

The North Fork Trail Association is hosting the meeting. Questions that landowners would like to have answered by various agencies should be sent to Bill Walker.

e. Pre-Meeting Programs

Karen thanked Debo for the North Fork slideshow prior to the meeting. In July, there will be a baked goods auction prior to the meeting. She asked that folks bring baked goods to auction and money to buy.

f. Happy Birthday

Karen wished Carl Pitman "happy birthday" although he wouldn't disclose his age.

g. Bob Gramaldi in Hospice

It was reported that Bob is in Hospice. Cards can be sent to 429 Trapline Trail in Colombia Falls.

h. Next Board meeting is June 25 @5 p.m., next Business meeting is July 11 @ 8 p.m..

X. Adjourn 9:11

Minutes submitted by Debo Powers