



NORTH FORK LANDOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Sondreson Hall
October 13, 2019, 8pm

"True Adventures of our Early Pioneers" was presented by Author John Fraley. John shared stories of adventure from the Bob Marshall and Glacier Park.

Meeting was called to order at 8pm by President Bill Walker

Board Members Present

Bill Walker, President
Chris Heitz, Treasurer
Karina Pettey, Secretary
Larry Wilson, Past President
Irv Heitz, North Director
Lynn Ogle, North Director

Board Members Absent

Steve Kelly, Vice-President
Jim Rittenburg, South Director
Kevin Ulrichsen, South Director

Minutes of September 8, 2019 Meeting

Minutes approved as read.

Treasurer's Report (Attachment 1)

- Chris Heitz reported minimal transaction activity for the month of September. The fall newsletter is in the mail with the dues notice and NF Patrol form. The Treasurer was thanked for her report.

Committee Reports

Audit Committee Report – Bonny Ogle & Bonnie Hankey reported that a review of the Treasurer's records indicates all is in order. (Attachment 2?)

North Fork Patrol – Mark Heaphy – hunting season is underway. If you are giving someone permission to hunt on your property, put the permission in writing with an expiration date and sign and date it. If you see a hunting violation, try to get a photo and license plate # and call it in. Mark & Lynn also reviewed some of the specific requirements for the current hunting season.

Firewise Report – Allen Chrisman – Please report fire mitigation hours to Molly for our Firewise. We prepared a certificate of appreciation for Ed Burlingame & the Blankenship Fire Department. Also recommended we prepare a certificate of appreciation for Bill Swope's assistance with fire mitigation funding and present it at the summer InterLocal meeting.

- Lynn Ogle, if you are burning, please get a permit. We are not in the air quality zone for the Flathead Valley. If you start a fire, keep an eye on it. Forest Service is burning as applicable right now as well.

Sunshine Committee – Bonny Ogle – Sent out a number of birthday, sympathy and get well cards.

Welcome Committee – Bill Walker - A new chair is needed for the Welcome Committee. Committee members currently include Janet Leigh, Vernon & Karina Pettey, Jerry & Linda Wernick & Joyce O'Hara. Volunteers would be appreciated.

Supply Committee – Richard Hildner accepted appointment as Supply Committee Supervisor – Chris reported that bowls & dinner plates are needed before Thanksgiving and Bill reported that the Coffee is stale.

History Committee Report – Lois Walker provided information regarding her current work on the Toots Stevens' columns. The Homestead Structures Project and the Ford School House. (Attachment 3)

Old Business

Food Vendor Truck at Hall – Larry Wilson reported that we are ok with regards to insurance, however vendor cost and logistics make the idea a no go. The concept is tabled until Dennis Groebe returns.

Sondreson Hall Maintenance Update – Irv Heitz noted that a burn permit will be pulled prior to lighting the burn pile, the outhouse vent stack repair is planned for Spring 2020 and the kitchen sink drain is now functioning. Plans to reduce the rat population were discussed.

Spring Calendar update – Dawn Jacobsen is documenting the 2020 calendar. Send all items to her.

Potential Speakers for 2020 update – Larry is open for ideas, so far Lois Walker and Mike Conner, who was part of the original land use planning, have agreed to provide presentations.

New Business

Plaque for Peuras - Suzanne Danielle passed around a “plaque” to be signed by NFLA members in appreciation for the friendship and service of Alan & Rachel Peura as they prepare to leave the North Fork.

Glacier Gateway Project – Bill Walker reported that board members attended a presentation by USFS and Vital Ground Representatives at Rittenberg's home to learn about a proposal involving USFS acquisition of two parcels along the North Fork River between the Mercantile and Glacier Park entrance. Acquisition involves an application for funding from Land & Water Conservation Funds. People who own the properties are willing to sell to USFS and provide time necessary for the funding process to take place. Vital Ground would like official support of the NFLA and letters from as many individuals as possible prior to November 1, 2019. There is a summary on Facebook, Gravel.org and the trails website. Documentation is available here at the meeting for members to take and review. (See Attachment 4)

- Larry Wilson provided additional detail about the property and his perspective on their request for community involvement on such short notice, especially when the process for acquisition is at least 2 years in length.
- Chris Heitz said that the NFLA will not provide an official letter of support but encouraged individuals in our community to write letters of support.
- Richard Hildner asked, “Why is this organization opposed to writing a letter of support for a grant? This isn't a political request.”
- Irv Heitz & Larry Wilson discussed briefly the history of the reasons why the board is not willing to take an official position on requests of this nature. Larry did state that as an organization we could choose to suspend our policy of neutrality for a specific issue and vote on that issue as an organization. The caveats being time for community education and the opportunity for a larger cross section of the community to weigh in or vote on the issue.
- Richard Hildner – made a motion that the NFLA write a letter of support for the LWFC grant and it was seconded.
- A lively discussion ensued.
- Richard Hildner, called the question.
- Karina Pettey pointed out Richard Hildner's motion was not properly made as there must first be a motion made, seconded and voted by the NFLA membership to suspend its policy of neutrality on a specific issue PRIOR to any membership vote on an issue. Larry Wilson again clarified the NFLA Board action taken earlier in the summer and Karina verified it against the previous minutes.
- Additional discussion ensued regarding the impact of individual letters versus organizational letters.
- Richard Hildner withdrew his motion and reworded it to request that the NFLA vote to suspend their policy of neutrality regarding this specific issue. Motion was seconded and the question was called.
- Vote: In favor of motion to suspend NFLA policy – 5, Opposed – majority of those present.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05pm

Minutes prepared by Karina Pettey