



## **NORTH FORK LANDOWNER'S ASSOCIATION**

### **MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

Sondreson Hall  
June 13, 2021, 8:00 pm

Tris Hoffman, USFS, and Dawn Lefleur, Glacier National Park, provided an interesting presentation regarding common North Fork noxious weeds and how to control them.

**Meeting was called to order at 8:10 pm by President Bill Walker**

#### **Board Members Present**

Bill Walker, President  
Steve Kelly, Vice-President  
Chris Heitz, Treasurer  
Karina Pettey, Secretary  
Larry Wilson, Past President  
Kenna Halsey, North Director  
Irv Heitz, North Director  
Jim Rittenburg, South Director

#### **Board Members Absent**

Kevin Ulrichsen, South Director

#### **Opening Remarks**

President Bill Walker welcomed attendees to the first meeting scheduled for 2021.

#### **Minutes of the October 11, 2020 meeting**

One correction to the minutes was noted by Karina Pettey, Secretary. The corrected minutes were approved by acclamation.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Chris Heitz**

For the month ended May 31, 2021, the NFLA had 357 paid members. There was \$170 in dues/donations income and expenses of \$2,625.96. NFLA fund balance on May 31, 2021, was \$32,460.83. Our insurance coverage on Sondreson Hall has increased to \$225,000. This may need to increase given the rapid rise in construction costs. Chris also highlighted various expenses expected over the next few months. The Treasurer was thanked for her report.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### North Fork Patrol – Mark Heaphy

The NF Patrol has checked 115 properties and covered 950 miles. They also respond to emergency incidents when available. The NF Patrol is not law enforcement. Please keep valuables / weapons in a safe or secure location. Crimes must be reported to the Sheriff's Office. Mark provided an update on the 3 break-ins in 2020. The perpetrator was apprehended in Canada and returned to Washington state to face charges there. The weapons stolen were recovered and returned to their owners. Mark was thanked for his service.

### Firewise Report – Lynn Ogle

Lynn reminded members of the Firewise meeting is scheduled for the morning of the summer Interlocal Meeting on July 14. There will be in depth analysis of the Camp Fire in Paradise, CA. Lois Walker suggested that the NF Firewise sign needed to be replaced. Lynn will research obtaining a new sign.

### Sunshine Committee –Bonny Ogle (Attachment 1)

A total of 65 cards were sent between October 15 and June 13.

### Welcome Committee – Gerry Stearns

Gerry discussed the packet sent by the Welcome Committee to all NF landowners of record this spring, it contained a cover letter, updated Welcome Brochure, Living with Wildlife brochure and the existing North Fork zoning regulations.

### Supply Committee – Richard Hildner

If supplies need to be purchased, get him a list and he will pick up supplies.

### History Committee Report – Lois Walker (Attachment 2)

Lois Walker provided an update regarding archive requests received from October – May. See attached.

### Maintenance Committee Report –Irv Heitz

- Irv thanked everyone who showed up for the Hall spring cleanup, over 30 people participate. The outhouse was repaired, the hall cleaned, and Charlie Martin has offered a cord of split lodgepole as a donation.
- Members will need to decide how they wish to heat the hall in the future. The existing barrel stove metal has thinned to the point it is dangerous and must be replaced. The wood cookstove really needs to be removed or replaced as well. We have two basic options which were discussed at length:
  - Replace the existing barrel stove with another wood stove, this would include redoing the chimney.
  - Replace with either propane wall heaters or a ceiling mount propane furnace. This would require other renovations to the hall.
- Chad Bruns offered to speak with Denny Frey about building a custom stove for the hall.
- Irv Heitz will research solutions and cost and provide a report at the July meeting.

## **Old Business**

### Website Maintenance

Bill Walker continues to work on the website, he was delayed over the winter due to other issues. The website will transition to a new hosting service this summer and we will be purchasing an SSL certificate.

## **New Business**

### Volunteers to host traditional NFLA summer fund raisers

- The board asked members to consider hosting the pie social, crazy hat dance, or an auction. No one volunteered during the meeting.
- Lorna Rittenburg is leading a group to host an Ice Cream Sale on August 18 in Polebridge. Our target market is tourists!
- Steve Kelly discussed the private party he and Dick Leigh are hosting at Home Ranch Bottoms on July 8, from 6-9 pm. There will be live music and a raffle fundraiser for the new heating system. Raffle tickets are \$5 each, 6 tickets for \$20 and \$40 tickets for \$100. Current raffle items include:
  - Floating cooler

- Key Lime Pie
- Huckleberry Pie
- Bottle of Wine
- Mark Heaphy asked why fund raisers were needed when we have over \$30,000 in the bank. Chris explained that \$15,000 was set aside by membership vote for the roof and generator. Our annual budget is about \$8,000 and that leave about \$7,000 to cover any other repair or expense items. The new heating system would likely require the entire \$7,000 and leave us with no cushion for unexpected expenses.

#### NFLA Elections

- NFLA elections are scheduled for August and very important this year due to the ongoing work of the NFLUAC. 6 NFLA board members are appointed to serve on the NFLUAC per the interlocal agreement. Currently the following positions are open.
  - President (needs to be a fulltime resident)
  - Vice-President (preferably a fulltime resident)
  - Treasurer (possibly)
  - Secretary (Karina Pettey will run for re-election)
  - North Director (Irv Heitz position, he will consider running for re-election)
  - South Director (Jim Rittenburg position, he **is** running for re-election)
- The following board members currently serve on the NFLUAC
  - Larry Wilson
  - Bill Walker
  - Irv Heitz
  - Kenna Halsey
  - Karina Pettey
  - Jim Rittenberg

#### **Reports from Non-NFLA individuals or organizations**

##### North Fork Land Use Advisory Committee- Randy Kenyon, NFLUAC chairman (Attachment 3)

Randy provided an update on the planning board meeting and announced that the text amendment subcommittee planned to hold a working session (no public comment) at the hall on Thursday, June 16 from 5-7 pm. It is open to public observers.

#### **Meeting Adjourned at 9:47 pm**

Minutes recorded and prepared by Karina Pettey, NFLA Secretary

6/13/21

WGLA Sunshine Committee  
Report from 10-15 to 6/13/21

Birthdays	48
Sympathy	6
Get Well	8
anniversaries	2
Thank you's	1
	<hr/>
	65 cards sent out

Bonny S. Ogle

## NORTH FORK HISTORY PROJECT

June 2021 report

I had a lot of information requests over the winter.

Helped Katie Cantrell, who now has a place on Kintla Ranch Road, with her profile of Larry Wilson that was published in December edition of *Flathead Living* magazine. I understand she's now the new editor of the magazine.

I provided information to the American Rivers folks who were working on the story of the Glacier View Dam, the effects it would have had on the North Fork, and the people and organizations who fought it.

The Northwest Montana Lookout Association asked permission to use some of our oral history with Kay Rosengren as part of a podcast they're creating on old-time fire lookouts.

Jim Rittenburg researched information on the homestead cabin that sits on the former Fishel property that he and Lorna have purchased. We found that it was originally part of the LeFebvre homestead.

I provided Cindy Frey with information on the Parrish family, relatives of hers who lived here in the 19-teens and 1920s.

Forest Service archeologist Meghan Mulholland requested history on the Ben Rover Cabin and the Schnaus Cabin. I also helped her and Arne Boveng put together some research on Moran Ranger Station.

Jim Rittenburg and I provided the article "Bullets We Have Dodged" for the spring NFLA newsletter. Be sure and catch it, if you haven't already. And I put together an article on last year's traffic count on the North Fork Road during the summer Interlocal.

I had a request from a lady named Annie Chappell, who used to live with mountain man Bill Atkinson up at the border. We traded information about what was going on in the North Fork during that time.

I helped Tom Holycross research information about the guest cabin on their property that was built by Walt Hammer and originally sat on the Hammer property at Placer Point near Tepee Flats. The Holycross place is on what was originally the Howard Miller homestead.

Chris Graff is involved with a group that collects and works with vintage woodworking tools. He and the Glacier Institute are talking about helping Will Hammerquist construct a replica of the old Polebridge Schoolhouse that used to sit on Square Peg Ranch property north of Polebridge, using only hand tools available at the time. The school was built by local homesteaders in 1918-1919.

I put together a compilation of references to the Inside Road in local newspapers, dating back to 1903, in preparation of the history ride we did with Larry Wilson in honor of his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Park archivist and I have been trading a lot of information back and forth.

I've made several visits to Karen Feather to help her organize and preserve her sizable collection of photographs from her period as owner of the Merc and the Saloon. I also continue to wade through the huge volume of materials in the John Frederick collection, which also contains a lot of photographs and slides.

And I'm continuing to work on my history of the Mercantile and all of its owners. That has turned out to be quite a job.



Hello,

As you are all aware, the proposed NF text amendments were the subject of a Planning Board Hearing on June 9. The meeting did not go as hoped, but we believe we have a clear pathway forward. A few key points/take-aways from the meeting:

- First, it is important for all to know that our proposed text amendments were reviewed for content and format by the Planning and Zoning Department prior to submittal to the Planning Board. The Department provided feedback all along the way and produced a very supportive Staff Report (which has been shared with you all previously) for submittal to the Planning Board.
  - We are grateful to the Planning Department for the help we have received over the past 6 months in preparing the draft document. However, it became clear at the Hearing that the Planning Department and the Planning Board do not see eye-to-eye and that neither the draft regulations, nor the Staff Report, met the Planning Board's expectations.
- We learned a few things at the Hearing that will affect our approach moving forward:
  - We were told at the start of the Hearing that we had 3 minutes to make our case; in fact, we learned *after the fact* that we could have had up to an hour to make a presentation and help explain the North Fork context, the rationale behind the proposed changes, and the nature of the proposed amendments to the Planning Board. Having the opportunity to make a substantive presentation would have gone a long way toward helping prevent misconceptions (e.g., about pre-existing NF language, language copied from other existing County regulations, etc.) that became apparent over the course of the meeting.
  - The Planning Board requested that we strip-out language that can't be enforced. Much of the language in question was included at the request of numerous members of the community as a means to help encourage good-neighbor behavior in a variety of unique NF contexts. We understand the Planning Board's request and will need the community to support the fact that some of the issues we attempted to address through "positive peer pressure" will have to be removed.
- We ultimately requested that our proposed regulations be tabled so that we can make the requested improvements for re-submittal to the County.
- As a result of this feedback, the text amendment subcommittee is currently assessing what a revision might look like. The subcommittee will be meeting at the Hall on June 17 at 5 pm for a working session (open to the public for observation) to develop proposed next steps to present to the LUAC.
- We are grateful to the community for writing letters of support and for turning out for the meeting. It is important to remember that community support is critical to getting through this process successfully, but that ultimately we also need to meet the requirements of the Planning Department, Planning Board, and the Board of Commissioners. We will continue to keep the community informed and look forward to your continued engagement, feedback, and support in this process.

We deeply appreciate the time, effort, and thoughtful dialogue that you have all contributed to this effort!

Randy Kenyon  
NFLUAC Chair