



North Fork Landowner's Association Board Meeting Minutes

Sondreson Hall
September 12, 2021 at 6:00 pm

Board Members Present

Richard Hildner, President
Kevin Halsey, Vice-President
Chris Heitz, Treasurer
Bill Walker, Past President
Kenna Halsey, North Director

Irv Heitz, North Director
Jim Rittenburg, South Director

Board Members Absent

Karina Pettey, Secretary
Kevin Ulrichsen, South Director

1. Minutes

1.1. August 23, 2021, meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by board members.

2. Treasurer's Update

- 2.1. Insurance carrier has requested an inspection of the hall. They are concerned we are possibly underinsured and about our fire safety. As discussed by the Board at its August 23 meeting, a fire mitigation inspection is scheduled with Deb Starling on September 20, 2021.
- 2.2. Review of NFLA budget and mission statements is scheduled for Thursday, September 30, 2021, at 5 pm or 6:30 if the Land Use Advisory Committee (LUAC) needs to meet prior to the board meeting.
- 2.3. Board Agenda Item (9/30) – Review of NFLA Budget and Mission Statements.

3. Committee Reports

3.1. Maintenance Committee

3.1.1. Status on Ceiling Research – Irv, Jim and Richard met with Arne Boveng. For the ceiling, Arne recommends a v-groove finish over plywood. Board discussion centered around “rough” versus “smooth” wood products and some type of acoustic panels/burlap may be needed to improve acoustics. There is no sense to install a ceiling until the mouse problem is resolved. Arne proposed an \$800 sound system (this is his “low” price point). Once everything is included it would be about \$1,000. Once an estimate on ceiling materials is obtained, we can determine how much fund raising will be needed.

3.1.1.1. **Action:** Jim Rittenburg will stop by RBM and price out ceiling options.

3.1.2. Scheduling of Fire Mitigation Assessment – Completed. See 2.1 Above.

3.1.3. Wood Stove – Irv is working on hearth tile for the new stove. It will be done by October 5th.

- 3.2. Richard reported all committee chairs have agreed to serve again for 2021-22. Richard advised that the NFLA used to have road and weed committees.
- 3.3. In a change of procedure for Membership Meeting, we will call for committee reports and if there is no report to be made, we will move on, versus asking for a report at each meeting.
- 3.4. Mission statements will be posted on the NFLA website and not read out at October membership meeting.

4. Old Business

- 4.1. NFLA Partnership Reports – Richard Hildner, NFLA President continues to call on various organizations to open channels of communication.
 - 4.1.1. North Fork Preservation Association (Flannery Coats) - Do we need an NFLA wildlife conflict committee?
Richard and Flannery discussed specific measures that we as a community can do to improve wildlife

conflict and get beyond bear fairs. Discussion centered around the creation of a team of trained “bear ambassadors” to educate owners using an approach like the fire mitigation assessments.

- 4.1.2. USFS (Rob Davies) – Hay Creek Road closure remains in effect until end of September. Fire rehabilitation is about 80% done. There will be good firewood cutting on Hay Creek Road when it reopens in October. Firewood permits are required. There is not enough marketable timber within the fire perimeter to set up a timber sale.
- 4.1.3. Flathead County Commissioners (Brad Able) – Richard introduced himself as NFLA President and thanked Brad for showing interest in the North Fork Community. There is a lower North Fork Road roundtable (Camas to Columbia Falls) scheduled for 1pm, October 6, 2021, at the fairgrounds. The interest is how to cost share between agencies and the county to improve road maintenance and dust control. Paving is not on the table at this meeting. The county has invited various agencies to attend.
- 4.1.4. Pete Melnick, County Administrator – Pete provided the following information on the roundtable. The roundtable invitees are only government officials who have anything to do with the road. Including GNP, DNRC, Flathead County, Offices of US Senators Jon Tester and Steve Daines, USFS, MDT, CBP, (likely not Federal Highways). Invitations are out, RSVPs have not come back yet. Richard requested a seat at the table as President of the NFLA. Pete noted the public interest regarding the North Fork Road. Pete’s message for NFLA membership was this, “The North Fork community is on the commissioners’ minds and its voice matters. Any road discussion will be slow and explore the ‘art of possible’. Anything to do with the road will be slow and deliberate.”
- 4.1.5. Flathead County Roads (Dave Prunty) – Key report to share with membership at large. Email from August 18, 2021, nothing has changed since that time. Last 5 miles between Trail Creek and Border is still scheduled for 2022.
- 4.2. Committee Clarifications – A weed committee used to exist, when its budget was denied, Valerie Cox quit. Richard will call for volunteers to take it on at the membership meeting. If no volunteers, it will wither away.
- 4.3. Schedule a time for NFLA board meeting to discuss communications strategy – Agenda item was not addressed by the board.

5. New Business

- 5.1. Meeting procedures – Meeting procedures were not discussed other than as noted in 3.1.3.2 above.
- 5.2. Membership meeting time discussion (move up to 6pm/7pm). Kenna suggested if the membership meeting time changed to move board meeting to another day. Due to calendar publication deadline, Chris Heitz requested that the issue be resolved promptly, or we could try “TBA” on the printed calendar.

6. Board Member Comments

- 6.1. Richard – LeGriz run is coming up, are we going to open the outhouse for the race? LeGriz donated \$500 last year for outhouse use. LeGriz organizers are stating that they “can’t” get outhouses. After considerable discussion the following was voted:
 - 6.1.1. Board Motion (Jim Rittenburg) Allow LeGriz to use outhouse and they donate funds to cover the cost of pumping. Motion Passed. There was one opposing vote by Irv Heitz.

Meeting adjourned before 7pm.

Minutes prepared by Karina Pettey, Board Secretary.