



North Fork Landowner's association  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
Sondreson Hall  
October 9, 2022, 7 pm

Board Members Present  
Richard Hildner, President  
Director

Jack McFarland, Vice-President

John Zardis, Treasurer Karina Pettey, Secretary Bill Walker, Past President

Jim Rittenburg, South Director

Kevin Ulrichsen, South Director

Board Members Absent  
Steve Berg, North

Irv Heitz, North Director

1. NFLA President's Welcome & Opening Remarks

1.1. Richard Hildner thanked Anthony Nelson, Glacier Institute Executive Director for his presentation to the membership and reminded members that we are collecting food and donations for the Veterans Food Bank.

2. Minutes of September 11, 2022, meeting were approved as read.

3. Treasurer's Report

3.1. September Financial Report – John reported that he and Chris are transitioning information. The new budget has been submitted to the board for approval, NFLA showed a year end loss of \$1,896, this was due to the timing of the fund raising for the new wood stove and the payment for its installation.

4. Committee Reports

4.1. Fire Mitigation – Molly Shepherd requested that everyone submit their hours/expenses for the Firewise Program prior to November 1. The program has an annual cycle of November 1 to October 31 each year. You may email her the information.

4.2. History Report – Lois Walker reported on the roof renovation at the Ford School House. (Attachment 1)

4.3. Maintenance Committee – Reported under new business.

4.4. Social Committee – Reported under new business.

4.5. Sunshine Committee – Bonny Ogle reported 15 birthday, 1 get well, and 3 sympathy cards were sent in the past month.

4.6. Wall of Fame – no report.

4.7. Welcome Committee – Beth Ulrichsen plans to work with the Welcome Committee to revise/update the brochure over the winter. Please provide any comments to her.

5. Old Business

5.1. Maintenance Committee – Jim Rittenburg reported that Dan Jacobsen is willing to take over the maintenance committee from Irv Heitz. Dan will meet with Irv to transition any outstanding issues. Jim Rittenburg, Kevin Ulrichsen and Jack McFarland volunteered to be on the Maintenance Committee. NFLA members expressed their appreciation to Dan for his willingness to take on Sondreson Hall maintenance.

## 6. New Business

- 6.1. Recognition of NFLA supporters – postponed
- 6.2. October Food Bank Drive – please leave checks/food items this evening.
- 6.3. Firewood needed for the Hall – Jim Rittenburg will be bringing some firewood for the Hall, Lois Walker also mentioned that there is wood from the Ford School house property that could be brought to the Hall as well.
- 6.4. Vermin proofing the Hall – Richard advised members that there will be fund raising and volunteer opportunities next summer as we work to protect the Hall.
- 6.5. Thanksgiving Dinner Hosts are Krista Johnson and Zoe Zardis with support from Steve Berg.
- 6.6. Social Committee – Richard Hildner and Lorna Rittenberg discussed the need for an active social/fund raising committee. The ice cream sale raised over \$300 this summer and she'd like to see a part of those funds reserved for Social Committee activities. The board will take up the issue at its next meeting in January, in the meantime, Lorna and her group will put together a mission statement and budget request for the treasurer.
- 6.7. Richard Hildner discussed the NFLA committee guidelines put together by Karen McDonough in 2014. He has revised them and reviewed with the NFLA Board of Directors. Karina will get these out to all committee chairpersons.

## 7. Reports from Non – NFLA individuals or organizations

- 7.1. North Fork Patrol – Mark Heaphy reported that hunting season opens October 15. Please take license plate number and report violations. Do not confront hunters! A bear broke into a steel building and opened a sealed metal can containing rat poison. The owner did everything properly, and we need to watch for a dead bear.
- 7.2. Polebridge Bear Smart Committee – No report
- 7.3. NFLUAC Update – Randy Kenyon reported that a final blast was sent out last Wednesday. Several members stated they did not receive the email. The NFLUAC will address their concerns and make sure it is distributed. Copies of the proposed text amendment are available on the front porch of the Hall for those without internet. The proposal goes before county commissioners on November 1, 2022.
- 7.4. Trails – Bill Walker reported that the annual Trails business meeting and dinner will be held at Jim & Lorna Rittenburg's home beginning with a trail walk at 5pm.

## 8. Member / Guest Comments

- 8.1. October 15 is the last astronomy night of the year at Jim Rittenburg's home.

## 9. Adjournment

- 9.1. The next NFLA membership meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2023, at 8pm.
- 9.2. Interlocal meeting is February 8, 2023, and will be hosted by the USFS in Kalispell.

## **NORTH FORK HISTORY PROJECT**

September-October 2022 report

Special thanks to Terry Atha, Jim Rittenburg, and Randy Kenyon for helping with the recent re-roofing project at the Ford Schoolhouse. They took off three different levels of roofing, so it was quite a bit of work. The building now boasts a handsome cedar shingle roof, with occasional metal hookings in case the building needs to be wrapped during a fire emergency. There were eight or nine people working on the project each day, directed by members of the Forest Service historic preservation team out of Missoula.

To my knowledge, they'll be back at some point to do clean-up work at the site. You may have noticed that there are still rounds of wood from the big trees that they took down. That wood is available. If you're interested, please let me know.

We lost two former long-time North Fork residents recently: Gerane Block (Dan's wife) and Ron Holton. I do keep a file of North Fork obituaries and have family bio files for many of the original homesteaders, if you ever need information in that regard, along with copies of all of the homestead patents that are available on the BLM website.

I continue working on my history of the Polebridge Mercantile. Only one more chapter to go! If anyone has photographs of any of the former owners, I would be happy to have them.