



North Fork Landowners' Association Membership Meeting Minutes

Sondreson Hall

July 9, 2023

- ✓ Richard Hildner, President
- ✓ Jack McFarland, Vice President
- ✓ John Zardis, Treasurer
- ✓ Jim Rittenberg, S. Director
- ✓ Kevin Ulrichsen, S. Director
 - Irv Heitz, N. Director -not present
 - Steve Bergs, N. Director -not present
- ✓ Beth Ulrichsen, Secretary
- ✓ Bill Walker, Past President

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks from the President
 - a. Presentation by Paul Travis from the Fathead Land Trust -18 people in attendance
 - b. Meeting – 20 people in attendance
 - c. Richard thanked Karina Petty for her years of service to the NFLA as secretary, and welcomed Beth Ulrichsen as the interim secretary for the remainder of Karina's term.
 - d. 2 new members were present, John Stone and Cheryl Krane (returned after 20 years!)
 - e. A moment in remembrance of Skip Bartram
2. June Minutes Read by Secretary
 - a. No changes suggested, minutes accepted as read.
3. Treasures Report by John Zardis
 - a. John shared that the NFLA is in good financial standing
 - b. Emergency and Improvement Funds are at about \$16,000 each and checking account is at about \$5,000.
 - c. Both Emergency and Improvement Funds are in 3 month CDs, earning 5% interest and can be withdrawn with a month penalty if needed. In the future both will be placed in longer CDs, when rates improve for longer duration.
4. Committee Reports:
 - a. Sunshine Committee- Lynn Ogle reported that 11 cards and emails had been sent for birthdays, anniversaries, and condolences.
 - b. History Committee- Lois Walker shared that she has made new connections with former Mercantile families, that she will soon be working with Columbia Falls Historical Society on the schools of the North Fork, that she has also discovered that the National Weather Service has records dating back to 1932 on high and low

temperatures recorded at the mercantile, that she helped share info about the Floyd Aley Homestead with Dale Horton, that she shared history of Covey Meadow in the Park with Rob and Trish Rego, and that she is working with Bonny Ogle to display photos and artifacts for Becky Braunig's memorial.

- c. Maintenance Committee- Dawn Jacobson reported, on behalf of Dan, that the bait stations inside and outside the Hall have gone missing. Richard asked that anyone who may know where they are please contact him.
 - d. Welcome Committee- Beth Ulrichsen reported that they have revised Welcome Brochures for those who would like to have one and that they have made additional Welcome plaques to had out to new folks on the North Fork.
 - e. Fire Mitigation Committee- Richard shared that the workshop held on June 22nd was a success, The workshop highlighted the work done on his new cabin to make it fire resistant and the fire mitigation work done over the winter. Richard shared that Kevin Ulrichsen gave a great summary of fire protection inside the home. Richard also reminded all that FireWise and the Interlocal are on Wednesday the 12th starting at 9:30. Firewise will review the events of the Wedge Canyon Fire that occurred 20 years ago. The Interlocal will follow, right after lunch, at 1:00. A researcher from Michigan University will attend Firewise, and on the 13th at Flathead Valley Community College, will present a seminar on Population Change/Aging, and Wildfire. If you are interested in attending the seminar contact Richard.
5. Old Business
 - a. None reported
 6. New Business
 - a. The board has decided to form a Ceiling Committee to develop a plan for mitigating varmints and pricing. The committee will be small, about 3 members. The Board is looking for a few interested members to be on this committee.
 - b. Kevin shared that RBM did not have materials to donate that we were looking for. We thanked them for their efforts.
 7. Reports from Non NFLA Groups
 - a. North Fork Patrol- Richard shared notes from Mark Heaphey. Mark explained that Doug Barne's nephews have been to the house, secured flammable items, and will auction off cars and things. They appreciated the neighborly help they received. Mark also mentioned that Kevin gave a great talk on Fires inside the home and that possibly his notes could be posted online. Mark encouraged all to be sure that they alert family/friends where you are when floating the river. He shared that the abandoned truck on Teepee Lake Road has been reported to the County and will be removed.
 - b. Polebridge Bear Smart- Suzanne Hildner shared that they have conducted the 2nd Seasonal Employee Training at the Saloon, Mercantile, and Home Ranch Bottoms. There will be a third training for more employees. It has been well received. Susan also shared that their latest Bear News publication is out and that there are a few Bear Resistant containers still available for purchase (\$300). Also, there is a new Bear Aware poster available, target audience is rentals. They are to help remind

those that are not used to bear country what to expect and do. Susan also shared info on the Initial Response program. Volunteers, working with FWP, can deploy deterrents that can help with bear situations. They have trail cameras and scare alarms to identify or scare bears. FWP is notified when Initial Response Program volunteers come to assist.

- c. NFPA- Suzanne Hildner reported that at the upcoming July 22nd Meeting and dinner, Road Ecologist, Liz Fairbanks will speak.
- d. NF LUAC- no report available
- e. Trails- Bill Walker shared that they are getting ready for the Interlocal luncheon. They will host lunch, with Dawn Jacobson's help. He also shared that they are waiting to hear from the State on the Cost Share Agreement and that they are making progress on the trails, Coal Ridge Trail is now open.
- f. Fire Chief's Report-Lynn Ogle reported that it is dry and that fire danger is high. He expressed that in the event of a structure fire, equipment is limited in the NF, get pets and family out. Richard added that his recent experience with igniting an old bird's nest resulted in 5 minutes of burning. He recommends removing nests from structures once eggs have hatched.

8. Members and Guests Comments

- a. Lois Walker shared that she has a few Mercantile books for sale.
- b. Richard reminded all that on August 13th, Lois will be the speaker at the NFLA meeting.
- c. Richard shared a concern about Hall use. It seems that things are not always put back in order after use. Trash needs to be removed, doors locked, generator propane turned off, floor swept, etc. Bill Walker will post a list on Facebook.
- d. John Stone shared a concern about the political message present at the 4th of July Parade. Richard stated that the parade is not NFLA sponsored.

9. Adjourned at 8:54PM

Respectfully submitted by,
Beth Ulrichsen
Secretary
7/11/2023