



North Fork Landowners' Association  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
Sondreson Hall  
August 13, 2023

1. Call to Order
  - a. At 8:03PM
    - ✓ 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 Berg, N. Director - not present
    - ✓ Beth Ulrichsen, Secretary
    - ✓ Bill Walker, Past President
2. Welcome and Opening Remarks from the President
  - a. Richard thanked Lois Walker for being the guest speaker and for the discussion of the Polebridge Mercantile and presented her with a gift certificate for Home Ranch Bottoms for 2 slices of pie
  - b. Richard welcomed all to the meeting, there were approximately 40 people present
  - c. Richard reminded all that the next NFLA Membership Meeting would begin earlier, guest speaker at 6:00PM and general meeting at 7:00PM
  - d. Richard encouraged all to start bringing non perishable items for the October Food Bank collection to the next meeting
  - e. Richard thanked the NFPA for their donation of seltzers, plates/napkins/ flatware to the NFLA
3. July Minutes Read by Secretary
  - a. Minutes accepted as read/no corrections
4. Treasures Report
  - a. John reported that the NFLA financial standing is strong: \$5,735 in checking, \$16,659 in the Improvement Fund and \$15,984 in the Emergency Fund
  - b. John reminded all to start sending in membership dues for the new year
  - c. Richard encouraged those that might like to add a donation to their dues for the ceiling project
5. Building
  - a. Weed mitigation and fall fuels reduction around the property needed
  - b. A small crew will work in the fall to get rid of the brush piles and weeds
  - c. Jim Rittenburg offered to bring his chipper

- d. Richard shared that Bill is contact with Tris Hoffman, Forest Service Invasive Species Coordinator, about the best time to spray. She recommends spring, but spraying now makes them easy to find.
- e. Tina Lawrence shared that spraying after a light frost was a very beneficial time to spray
- f. Krista Johnson shared that you should call the Forest Service for help with mitigation.
- g. Larry Wilson explained that Tris had shared with him that the FS will be releasing insects to help reduce Spotted Knapweed
- h. Gerry Sterns reported that she tried to report Foxtail grass growing, but was unsuccessful in obtaining help. Bill will share Tris' contact info with her

#### 6. Committee Reports:

- a. Sunshine Committee
  - i. Bonny Ogle shared that 2 sympathy (for Bartram family and Jackie's mom), 1 get well, 5 birthdays, and 3 anniversary cards were sent, plus facebook greetings
- b. History Committee: Lois Walker shared the work being done on the Ford Schoolhouse. Windows scraped and repainted/concrete pad poured to stabilize/treating logs/ and replacing porch
- c. Lois also researched information for Rob Rego on the railroad right of way near Coal Creek and is writing an article about all those who have written articles for the newspaper since 1911 on the topic of the North Fork
- d. Maintenance Committee – no report available
- e. Welcome Committee: Beth Ulrichsen shared that there are copies of the Welcome Brochure available, and that it is always being updated so be sure to take a peek
- f. Fire Mitigation Committee:
  - i. Allen Chrisman shared that we are in Stage 2 Fire Restrictions – at 1 PM turn off all internal combustion engines and patrol for 1 hour, at 1AM you may start again, but check with neighbors first
  - ii. Allen reported that Firewise was a great event. The 20yr anniversary of the Wedge Canyon Fire was highlighted
  - iii. Allen encouraged all to keep track of their fire mitigation hours and share them with Molly Shepard. The hours spent help to maintain our Firewise Community status

#### 7. Reports from Non NFLA Groups

- a. North Fork Patrol:
  - i. Mark Heaphy shared that bow season begins soon, due to road closures north, more hunters will be present in south
  - ii. Mark spoke with the new Game Warden, and reported that there have been very few bear incidents
  - iii. The abandoned vehicle on Teepee Lake has been removed
  - iv. Mark explained that the recent death of an individual in the NF was not foul play, no further search being conducted
  - v. Doug Barn's nephews will contact Mark or Lynn about future auction information
  - vi. Mark reminded everyone to apply August 15<sup>th</sup> for the property tax rebate
- b. Polebridge Bear Smart:

- i. Suzanne Hildner reported a quiet month. They had a great season of training. She also asked that anyone wanting bear resistant canisters or Bear Aware posters to please contact the NFPA
- c. NFPA- no report available
- d. NF LUAC- no report available
- e. Trails:
  - i. Bill Walker shared that they are helping with the restoration project at Grizzly Inn
  - ii. Bill also shared that they have worked on more than 38 miles of trails this year.
  - iii. They are now working on trails with less than 1,000 feet/mile vertical gain per request of hikers wanting trails that can be hiked more easily
  - iv. Bonnie Hankey and Bill Walker are also interested in leading hikes, contact them if interested
- f. Fire Chief's Report:
  - i. Lynn Ogle reported that the smoke in the north was from Canada, the Sparwood Fire
  - ii. There are no local fires in the NF at this time
  - iii. Lynn responded to a question about having fires in your woodstove. He shared that they are allowed during restrictions, but only if you have a chimney screen
  - iv. Lynn explained to all that if you start a fire, you are responsible for the entire cost
  - v. Lynn also reminded all that cool damp weather does not end fire season, snow on the ground is the end.

## 8. Old Business

- a. No old business to report

## 9. New Business

- a. Ceiling Committee formed to develop a plan for mitigating rodents and pricing
  - i. Committee members are John Stone and Dan Jacobson
  - ii. Jim Rittenburg shared that Dan has been looking into a new ceiling and the avenues that animals are getting in.
  - iii. Richard shared that the hope was that a new ceiling would be in place within 18 months. (Spring 2025)
- b. Elections- Larry Wilson called for the election of NFLA board members for the 2023-2024 year.
- c. The following individuals were elected by acclamation:
  - i. President -Jack McFarland
  - ii. Vice President- Jim Rittenburg
  - iii. North Director -Cheryl Crane
  - iv. South Director - John Stone
  - v. Secretary -Beth Ulrichsen
  - vi. Treasurer -John Zardis
  - vii. South Director –Kevin Ulrichsen has one year remaining to term
  - viii. North Director- Steve Berg has one year remaining to term

## 10. Member's and Guest's Comments

- a. Randy Kenyon thanked Richard Hildner for his two years of service as the president of the NFLA.
- b. Richard thanked Bill Walker for his help and guidance
- c. Lynn Ogle thanked Bill Walker for all that he does to keep the website up and running
- d. Richard asked the newly elected board to meet following the membership meeting
- e. Next meeting date is September 10, 2023 at 6PM

11. Adjourned at 8:58

**Richard Hildner**

Mon, Aug 21, 7:23 PM (9 day)

12. Hi Beth,

Just to keep the record straight, the Hildner's used three tables, #1,2,&5 on Friday and returned them to the Hall on Saturday. They were washed down and returned in good condition. A donation to NFLA to follow.

Cheers,  
Richard

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