



## NFLA - Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Sunday August 11, 2024

Location: Sondreson Community Hall

Host: Cheryl/Board

Attendees: All Members invited (37 present)

- ✓ Jack McFarland, President
- ✓ Jim Rittenburg, Vice President  
John Zardis, Treasurer -not present
- ✓ John Stone, S. Director
- ✓ Kevin Ulrichsen, S. Director
- ✓ Cheryl Crane, N. Director
- ✓ Beth Ulrichsen, Secretary
- ✓ Richard Hildner, Past President

7:00 pm: Guest Presentation:

Rachel Malison, Flathead Biological station: Stoneflies in the North Fork

8:00 pm: Membership meeting

1. Call to order at 8:05pm
2. Welcome and Opening Remarks
  - a. Jack mentioned that the road between the Mercantile and bridge is now complete.
  - b. Jack shared that there have been a number of near misses on the NF Road, signs missing, culverts emerging out of the roadbed, county has been informed. Jack asked that people report road hazards.
3. July 14 Membership Minutes – Short summary (copies available at the hall and online) (Beth)
  - a. Jim motioned to approve minutes; Richard seconded; All were in favor
4. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Dues are due on Sept. 1. Online payment is available.
  - b. Membership numbers are slightly down (318 full members, was 349 last year). Increase in number of associate members (48 this year, 28 last year).
  - c. Jack shared that interest is much higher this year, and that we have received extra donations totaling over \$4,000. We are projecting a cash surplus.
  - d. The board decided to experiment with the Mag. Chloride application every other year. Will reevaluate next year based on road conditions after skipping application this year.
  - e. End of fiscal year is \$11,000 (cash and checking). \$24,000 in emergency and improvement funds combined.
  - f. The board decided to defer increase in dues until next year.
5. Committee Reports
  - a. Sunshine (Bonny)
    - i. 10 cards were sent out since last meeting
  - b. History (Lois)
    - i. Reported on the Ford Schoolhouse project, and shared that NBC Montana was going to have a special story on the schoolhouse. A youth conservation team removed the floor in July, and the project is now looking for volunteers for the last week of August to assist on the schoolhouse restoration.
    - ii. A biography is being written about Dr. Robert Funk, who once owned the Ford Schoolhouse. The author has been in contact with the North Fork History Project, and will be in the area this fall conducting further research and interviews.
    - iii. History Days have been very popular this summer.
  - c. Maintenance (Dan)
    - i. No report available
  - d. Welcome (Beth)

- i. Shared information that is handed out as a part of welcome visits.
  - e. Fire Mitigation (Kevin)
    - i. Reminder to all to maintain their hours for fire mitigation and get them to Molly for her Fire Safe Community report.
- 6. Organization Reports (Non-NFLA)
  - a. North Fork Patrol (Mark Heaphy)
    - i. Reminder that bow season starts in a few weeks.
    - ii. Reported that an erratic contractor vehicle was notified to the project manager. The driver was relieved of his job.
  - b. Polebridge Bear Smart (Suzanne Hildner)
    - i. Posters are still available.
    - ii. Quiet summer so far on the bear front.
  - c. NFPA (Flannery)
    - i. No report available
  - d. NF Trails (Bill Walker)
    - i. Hornet lookout was cleared.
    - ii. Grizzly Inn trail was cleared.
  - e. NFLUAC (Jack shared on behalf of Randy)
    - i. Rocky Bar O is still for sale. The plat map shows many parcels pieced together. The property could possibly be developed into 22 parcels, following our 20-acre minimum (taking into account that approximately 1500 acres of land is in conservation). The property is currently being advertised as one parcel.
  - f. Fire Chief (Lynn Ogle)
    - i. Recent rain is a great thing. Hoping that it continues. One small fire in the park that is being monitored. Fire restrictions have been downgraded.
- 7. Old Business
  - a. Propane heater for the hall (Jim update)
    - i. The board voted to approve the installation of a direct vent propane heater (\$2,500 budget for materials, volunteer labor)
  - b. Fire protection for the community hall (John Stone update)
    - i. five-foot fire-resistant space around the hall, propane tank and generator shed (will need gravel and road cloth)
    - ii. Metal is installed around the Hall
    - iii. Kevin shared that contractors are donating 3 side-dumper loads of gravel in trade for the NFLA allowing trucks to park in the Hall parking lot. There will be a gravel spreading party.
  - c. Jack shared that after further inquiry the fishing regulations on the East side of the North Fork River (Glacier Park side) will continue to not require a fishing license.
- 8. Member Comments
  - a. Jean Perry asked where Mag. Chloride is applied by the NFLA. (1/2 mile [South] of the Whale Creek bridge)
  - b. Lorna reminded everyone that August 23 (note the date) is the last Friday Pizza at Hornet parking lot.
  - c. Bonnie H. shared that ladies luncheon is on August 22 at the Northern Lights Saloon.
- 9. Elections
  - a. Larry Wilson was appointed by President Jack McFarland to conduct the election process.
  - b. Positions which need to be filled annually:
    - i. President
      - 1. Bonnie H. nominated Jack; Bonnie motioned; Kevin seconded; elected by acclamation
    - ii. Vice President
      - 1. Jack nominated Jim; Suzanne motioned; Bill Walker seconded; elected by acclamation
    - iii. Secretary
      - 1. Jack nominated Beth; Bonnie motioned; Suzanne seconded; elected by acclamation

- iv. Treasurer
    - 1. Jack nominated John Z; Ruth motioned; Bonnie seconded; elected by acclimation
  - c. South Director:
    - i. One position needed to be elected (currently held by Kevin Ulrichsen)
      - 1. Bill Walker nominated Kevin; Ruth motioned; Bonnie seconded; elected by acclimation
    - ii. John Stone is serving the second of his two-year term
  - d. North Director:
    - i. One vacancy (once held by Steve Berg)
      - 1. Lorna nominated Ruth Kinsolving
      - 2. Cheryl nominated Peter Pfeifer
      - 3. Vote by secret ballot: majority won by Ruth Kinsolving
    - ii. Cheryl Crane is serving the second of her two-year term
10. Next Membership Meeting
- a. Sunday, September 8
  - b. 6:00 NVSR – K9 demonstration and talk
  - c. 7:00 Business Meeting
11. Adjourn at 9:07pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Ulrichsen  
NFLA Secretary  
August 11, 2024