



## NFLA - Membership Meeting Minutes

Sunday September 8, 2024

Location: Sondreson Community Hall

Host: Board

Attendees: All Members invited (44 present)

- ✓ Jack McFarland, President
- ✓ Jim Rittenburg, Vice President
- ✓ Richard Hildner, Past President
- ✓ John Zardis, Treasurer
- ✓ Beth Ulrichsen, Secretary
- ✓ John Stone, S. Director
- ✓ Kevin Ulrichsen, S. Director
- ✓ Cheryl Crane, N. Director
- ✓ Ruth Kinsolving, N. Director

6:00 pm: Guest Presentation: Mark Heaphy and Julie Balch, Flathead K9 Foundation

7:00 pm: Membership meeting

1. Call to order at 7:25pm
2. Welcome and Opening Remarks
  - a. Jack Comments: Welcomed Ruth Kinsolving to the board, Thanked Mark and Margaret for all they do to keep the NF Patrol running, and thanked the Board for all that they do for the NFLA. Jack encouraged all to let the Board know of road concerns, the NFLA has been in contact with the County about road signs and road condition.
3. August 11 Membership Minutes – (copies available at the hall and online) Bonny made a motion to accept the minutes, Jim seconded it, All in favor
4. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Year End report by John Zardis: \$32,000 cash, down \$10,000 from last year due to the expenses of the ceiling project and the fire mitigation work completed. Many members shared that they like the online payment link on the website. John will be sending out a post card soon to remind all of yearly dues being due.
5. Committee Reports
  - a. Sunshine (Bonny): Many cards sent out again this past month and the donated cards for sharing are greatly appreciated.
  - b. History (Lois): The work day at the Ford Schoolhouse was very productive, information is being researched on the possibility of a CCC Camp on Red Meadow in the 1930s, also research is being conducted to determine if there had been a Hudson Bay out camp in the 1840s in the NF, the Rittenburgs are restoring a cabin on their property (former Charlotte Fishel property) built by the LeFabver family in 1919, working to reconstruct the history of the glacier Wilderness Cabins (on the road to the ranger station), and researching the Sam and Mary Sansavere family who homesteaded what is now Sondreson Meadow.
  - c. Maintenance (Jim Rittenburg): Maintenance on the generator was completed, installation of the propane heater will be completed by the next meeting.
  - d. Welcome (Beth): Zoe and Beth welcomed many new folks this summer, they are planning another welcome tour in the coming weeks.

- e. Fire Mitigation (Molly): No fires on the NF this year so it will be a bit more challenging to compile the needed hours to maintain Firewise status. Be sure to get your hours and expenses to Molly by mid October.
6. Organization Reports (Non-NFLA)
- a. North Fork Patrol (Mark Heaphy): Bow season has started, if you see something do not confront, take pictures and license plate.
  - b. Polebridge Bear Smart (Suzanne Hildner): No significant episodes with bears so far this year. If you need help with problem bears, contact Suzanne or Polebridge Bear Smart. There are a few bear resistant garbage cans available for \$300.
  - c. NFPA (Suzanne): The Grizz, 50-mile marathon is October 2. Volunteers are needed for stations. Starting and stopping at Glacier Institute.
  - d. NF Trails (Bill Walker): Forest Service has cleared slumps on Hay Creek Rd., much of the alder was also and the trail is in great shape.
  - e. NFLUAC (Randy): Only one showing so far of the Ladenburg property, 1500 acres are in conservancy and they do an annual visit to check on compliance of contract.
  - f. Fire Chief (Lynn Ogle):
    - i. No fires until the recent truck fire- great cooperation from agencies (Park Service, Boarder Patrol, Blankenship Fire, Forest Service, Construction Company sent 2 water trucks).
    - ii. Lynn also shared that the Veterans' Food Pantry is collecting nonperishables at our next meeting and they are also participating in the GreatFish Community Challenge
7. Old Business
- a. Fire mitigation for hall (Kevin): The gravel donated by a business in exchange for parking trucks in our lot has been spread. Volunteers (John Preston, Jim Neneman, Richard Hildner, Kevin Ulrichsen, Ed Neneman) brought equipment and tools to get the project completed.
8. New Business
- a. Inputs/requests for speakers/topics for next summer – Jack requested that the membership think of presentation suggestions for next year. Please share ideas with board members. Possible ideas include conservation easements and how they work, Homestead medical preparedness, or off-grid power innovations.
  - b. Auction next summer – Richard has volunteered to be the auctioneer. The Board is looking for input, suggestions, and GOOD used old stuff.
9. Member Comments –
- a. Bill Walker shared information about the truck fire incident on the NF Road adjacent to his property. A 2024 Ford F 150 burned on Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. It was a road construction truck caring rolls of road cloth on a trailer. The driver was not injured, the truck burnt completely, leaving only a small pile of metal. Bill's property caught fire, about ½ an acre, but was extinguished by the Blankenship Fire Co. and the Forest Service Fire Crew. All local agencies came to assist.
  - b. Richard Hildner has 24 feet of drainpipe if anyone can use it.
  - c. Dawn Jacobson asked about the missing Neighborhood Cookie Plate (Tom Edwards started the tradition of filling the plate with cookies and then sharing it with a neighbor, who in turn is to do the same.) There are two plates, one might now be accounted for.
10. Next Membership Meeting
- a. Sunday October 13
  - b. 6:00 Geologic History of Glacier National Park, Teagan Tomlin
  - c. 7:00 Business Meeting
11. Adjourned at 8:20pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Ulrichsen, NFLA Secretary  
September 12, 2024