

NFLA - Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Sunday September 14, 2025



Location: Community Hall

Host: John Zardis and John Stone

- ✓ Jack McFarland
- ✓ Jim Rittenburg
- ✓ Beth Ulrichsen
- ✓ Kevin Ulrichsen
- ✓ Cheryl Crane
- Ruth Kinsolving
- ✓ John Stone
- ✓ John Zardis
- ✓ Betsy Holycross

6:00 pm: Guest Presentation:

Wild Wings live raptor presentation – Hosted by John Zardis

7:00 pm: Membership meeting

1. Call to order 7:05pm
2. Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - a. Food Pantry – Lynn shared that for the past 15 years the NFLA has donated to local food pantries each October. He requested that the membership gather up their can goods at the end of the season and think of donating them to the food pantry. Donations of food or money will be given to either the Veterans' Food Pantry or the Columbia Falls' Food Pantry.
 - b. USFS Road Update – Richard shared that he has been in contact with Rob Davies about Moose Creek Road and Red Meadow Road. Rob explained that there are three contracts in progress currently. Culverts are being replaced on Red Meadow and Moose Creek Roads and a third project, a timber sale, on Center Mountain. There will be no road closures, but expect delays. Bill Walker will post alerts as received.
 - c. Final Auction item - Richard explained that one item was still available from the auction, pine siding. He suggested that the membership allow John Stone to have the siding as a way of showing our appreciation for all his efforts in accomplishing the many recent Hall improvement projects. The membership agreed unanimously.
3. Aug 10th Membership Minutes – Short summary (copies available online) Beth shared the minutes. There were no questions or corrections. The minutes were approved as read.
4. Treasurer's Report -John Zardis shared that we have 378 paid members this year vs 384 members last year. Total equity is \$40,790.00. Please see the attached for the full financial report.
 - a. 2025/2026 Budget requests are needed from individual committees. Please contact John with your committee's request.
5. Committee Reports

- a. Sunshine -Bonny shared that 11 cards and emails were sent out since last month. She expressed that she is in need of sympathy cards, donations are being accepted. Please see the attached list of cards sent.
- b. History -Lois shared information on her current research of the remaining homestead families that are still currently in the North Fork. She also shared that she has two interviews scheduled and that she has discovered a 1918 map of the North Fork. Please see the attached report.
- c. Maintenance -Jim shared that Dan Jacobson has completed the generator maintenance, applied anti slip tape to the front steps, and will be installing a separate shut off valve for the propane lights.
- d. Welcome -Beth shared that she and Zoe met and created a new batch of Welcome signs to be handed out when they visit new families. She also explained a little bit about the variety of brochures and information that they hand out when visiting.
- e. Fire Mitigation -Richard Hildner shared that he and Allen Chrisman are the new co-chairs, replacing Molly Shepard. Suzanne Hildner has taken on the reporting the NF FireWise hours and expenses to FireWise to maintain our Firewise status. North Forkers need to submit their data to Suzanne by mid October. Molly Shepard has a new FireWise sign to replace the faded sign near Ladenburgs, Kevin will install the sign.
 - i. Jim shared with the committee and the membership that the proposed Fire Mitigation committee was approved. Please see the attached list.

6. Organization Reports (Non-NFLA)

- a. North Fork Patrol -Mark Heaphy shared that Patrol members have received new NF Patrol signs to put on their vehicles when responding to a call. This will identify them to responding agencies.
 - i. The Whale Creek poaching incident is still in the courts, the Poaching Fund has awarded a reward to the reporting parties.
 - ii. Hunting Season has begun, hunters will be seen in the area. Report unusual incidents.
- b. Polebridge Bear Smart -Suzanne Hildner reminded all that this is the time of year when the bears are hungry, fingers crossed that we continue to have a quiet bear season.
 - i. Recycle bear spray in the bin located on the front porch.
 - ii. She reminded all that bear resistant trash cans are still available, contact her if you are interested.
- c. NFPA -Suzanne Hildner shared that they had a great annual meeting. It was well attended and the program by the River Alliance was wonderful.
 - i. Suzanne shared that the Department of Agriculture has moved to rescind the Roadless Rule. The comment period is open for three weeks and ends on September 19th. You can find the website on the NFPA website, gravel.org, under Action Alert.
- d. NF Trails -Bill Walker shared that Trails recently cleared the trail to Grizzly Inn. He also shared that Trails has cleared 30% more trails this season than accomplished last year.
- e. NFLUAC -No report available
- f. Fire Chief -Lynn Ogle shared, as the rain came down, that there was no fire season this year.
 - i. Lynn shared that there have been a lot of lightning in the area, he asked that all watch for fire starts.
 - ii. Lynn also reminded everyone that there still is no open burning permitted.
 - iii. He also reminded all to check propane lines for leaks and to be sure chimneys are cleaned.

7. Old Business

- a. Membership suggestions for speakers for next summer -Jim asked for suggestions from the membership. Larry Wilson suggested North Valley Search and Rescue. Jim shared the ideas so far generated: Alert, K9 Foundation, Glacier Airport update and history, talk on mountain lions, and a talk on research conducted at Kintla.
- b. Hall back porch project -John Stone shared that the porch storage project is complete. Shelving was repurposed, and all items are now organized in the closet.

- c. Woodstove chimney check-up – Kevin shared that he has contacted Dave Fern, he will be coming up to clean and check the chimney. Kevin encouraged members to call for their chimneys to be cleaned.
 - d. Hall acoustics – Jim shared that the Board discussed the concern about the noise level in the Hall brought up by a member. It was decided to table it for the time being.
8. New Business
- a. Outhouse improvements - Jim shared that the Board will look into installing a full door on the outhouse for added privacy, check that the outhouses are securely bolted down, and look into installing handrails and smooth the walkway ramp access into the outhouse.
 - i. It was suggested that it be looked into as to when the last time the outhouse was pumped out. Richard Hildner believed it was done in 2022.
 - ii. Lynn Ogle reminded all not to place anything but toilet tissue in the outhouses.
 - b. Kearstin Edwards inquired about spraying for knapweed around the parking lot and Hall. She offered to help with the spraying. It was suggested that spraying be done after the first frost, but before the first snow.
9. Community Events Update -Beth shared the upcoming Community Calendar events and the change in date of the Star Gazing to September 28th.
- a. Christmas Party Host needed – Mark and Margaret Heaphy and Jan Caldwell, as well as the late Alice Caldwell, were thanked for their 15 years of hosting the Christmas gathering. They are “retiring” and are happy to train the next host.
 - b. Anyone interested in hosting Christmas at the Hall should contact Beth Ulrichsen, or any member of the Board.
10. Member Comments
- a. Lynn Ogle shared that the Veterans hosted a 6 hour canning class last week and will be conducting another class next week. He encouraged others to attend and shared that if there was interest the presenters were willing to come to the NF and hold a class.
11. Next Membership Meeting
- a. Sunday October 12, 2025, at 6 pm with Amber Steed (FWP) -Richard will host.
12. Adjourned at 8:17 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Ulrichsen
NFLA Secretary
September 16, 2025

Income Statement
North Fork Landowners Association
For period ending

	<u>8/31/25</u>	<u>8/31/24</u>
Full time members	307	296
paid in advance for next year	24	24
Life Time members	2	2
Paid in previous year	24	21
Associate members	15	41
Total members	<u>372</u>	<u>384</u>

	<u>8/31/25</u>	<u>8/31/24</u>	<u>12 month Budget</u>	
Dues	4,895	4,880	4,800	
Dues next year	300	330	300	
Donations	11,879	4,196	3,500	
Donated service	888	618	588	
NF Patrol contribution	168	185	190	
Fundraisers	3,348	-	-	
Hall rental	950	600	-	
Interest/Dividends	1,083	1,570	1,000	
Total revenue	<u>23,511</u>	<u>12,379</u>	<u>10,378</u>	
Insurance	(2,416)	(1,845)	(2,265)	\$150 of last year will pay this year
Mag Chloride	(2,178)	-	(1,700)	
Newsletters - printing/postage	(1,217)	(1,157)	(1,250)	8% increase assumed
Paypal fees	(157)	(112)	(200)	Increased usage assumed
Propane & rental	(1,126)	(353)	(606)	new heater/extra use due to ceiling 295.40 @ 1.849
Office supplies & postage	-	-	(100)	
Repairs & maint	(159)	(814)	(300)	
Fire Mitigation Committee	-	-	-	
History Committee	-	(553)	(350)	Archival supplies
Social Committee	(630)	(239)	(1,000)	\$275 t-give & Xmas + \$360 pizza 2025
Sunshine Committee	(340)	(493)	(500)	+ 353 Pizza parties 2024
Welcome Committee	-	(53)	(80)	
Supplies	(795)	(1,054)	(250)	several 1x expenses 2024
Property tax	(90)	(140)	(150)	
Misc.	-	-	(100)	
Interlocal meeting	-	-	(50)	
PO Box rental	(166)	(150)	(150)	
Safe Deposit box	(30)	(25)	(25)	
IT expenses	(360)	(91)	(516)	2 year renewals in 2023
State Annual fee	-	-	(20)	
Patrol/Poaching passthrough	(125)	-	-	
Treasurers Stipend	(588)	(588)	(588)	
Total ordinary expenses	<u>(10,377)</u>	<u>(7,667)</u>	<u>(10,200)</u>	
Ordinary income (loss)	13,134	4,712	178	
Improvements expenses	(5,178)	(9,930)	(3,000)	

Net income/(Loss)	7,956	(5,218)	(2,822)
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Balance Sheet
North Fork Landowners Association
For period ending

	<u>8/31/25</u>	<u>8/31/24</u>
Checking	3,400	6,435
Paypal account	-	62
Improvement fund savings	-	174
Emergency fund savings	-	187
Poaching fund savings	2,144	1,799
Emergency fund CD (5.09 APY)	18,277	17,503
Improvement fund CD (5.09 APY)	6,969	6,675
New CD	10,000	
 Total assets	<u>40,790</u>	<u>32,835</u>
 RE	32,834	38,052
Current profit	7,956	(5,217)
 Total equity	<u>40,790</u>	<u>32,835</u>

9/3/25

9/3/25 Sunshine Committee

Thank you 5

Net Well 1

Sympathy 1

Birthday 3

Thinking of you 1

Total cards 11

1 Billions in

Marie Parnate passed
away. Sent John a card

Benny S. C. B.

Make-A-Wish.

FORM 1000-10

NORTH FORK HISTORY PROJECT

September 2025

I have two oral history interviews coming up. I've developed questions for Ray Brown and Ted Ramon. Ted's is interesting, of course, because he is a descendant of the Milton and Ethel Huck family, who were original homesteaders in the North Fork. The Hucks raised four children here, Helen (Ted's mother) and three sons, and they had a stillborn child. Milton and Ethel were members of the NFIA from 1952 to 1964, and Milton was president of the organization in 1957-58. The property has been divided among family members, but Helen retained the homestead cabin. She died in 2012 at age 97.

To my knowledge, we have at nine or ten homestead properties here in the North Fork that are still in family hands, more than 100 years later:

Milton & Ethel Huck homestead – now owned by Ted Ramon and daughter Tasia, Clayton Brown, Barbara Heckathorn, and other family members
Harry & Lena Holcomb homestead – now owned by the Mathison family
George Tacheny homestead on Moose Creek Rd. – now owned by Peter Moore, Ruth Tacheny, and other family members
Victor Tacheny homestead on the North Fork Rd. – now owned by Jim Putnam and other Putnam family members
Frank & Ethel Newton along the river – now owned by daughters Carol Hamilton and Evelyn Custis.
Adelbert Glover homestead on Teepee Lake Rd. – now owned by Robert & Carrol Bigler and other family members
A.G. and Ella Vance homestead on the Polebridge Loop Rd. – now owned by their great-granddaughter Iola Mason

Three on Big Prairie:

Charles Schoenberger homestead – now owned by the Cusick family
John & Harriet Walsh homestead – now owned by Pat & Trish Walsh & other family members
William Cummings homestead – now owned by the Heylman family

Does anyone know of any others that I've missed? We have plenty of families that go way back, but they weren't original homesteaders.

Larry Wilson and I brought a couple of maps for people to look at this evening. One of Larry's former students brought him two big folios of maps, of the Blackfeet National Forest (most of which is now Flathead National Forest) and the Kootenai National Forest, from 1918. I picked two individual maps of this area, which it turns out are available online, and had them printed out. They're laid out on the desk, if you'd like to see them.

Lois Walker, Historian

Proposed fire committee members:

Co-Chair: Allen Chrisman

Co-Chair: Richard Hildner

Member: Molly Shepherd

Member: Larry Wilson

Member: Lynn Ogle

Member: Jerry Wernick

Member: Dick Leigh

Member: Todd Lando

Member: Kevin Ulrichsen

Ex-Officio Member: Lincoln Chute