

NFLA - Membership Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Sunday October 12, 2025

Location: Community Hall

Host: Richard Hildner

Attendees: All Members invited

6:00 pm: Guest Presentation:



Jerry Wernick – History of the Tamarack Springs School and Greenhouses

7:00 pm: Membership meeting

Board Members in attendance:

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

1. Call to order 7:12pm
2. Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - a. Betsy Holycross facilitated the meeting for Jim who was unable to attend
 - b. Food Drive – Lynn Ogle shared that each October the NFLA membership donates food items to either the Veterans’ Pantry or the Columbia Falls Food bank. This year’s donations will go to Columbia Falls Food Bank. Lynn will deliver the donations. This has been a standing event for 15 years.
 - c. Betsy shared that there has been a call for comments for Scoping project for Cyclomoose. The public comment period has been extended to Oct 16th. They are reaching out to the NF Community; they did not initially receive any comments from the community and felt that they should extend the comment period to allow for comments in case the original plea was not received. Details are available on the on NFLA website and NF FB page (*email comments to Cullen.o'brien@mt.gov*)
 - d. FedEx Request- Earl requested that it be mentioned at our meeting that FedEx is exploring the installation of community package boxes at the ends of roads off the NF Road. This would help them with delivery time. They are in search of one point person for each road to be the contact person to which they might be able to communicate the plans with. This is not a NFLA project.
 - e. Sept 14th Membership Minutes – Short summary (copies available online) -Beth shared the highlights of the minutes. Minutes were entered as read.
3. Treasurer’s Report – Betsy shared that a copy of the proposed budget was available on the front table.
 - a. 2025/2026 Draft Budget will be finalized at Nov. Board meeting. Please get in touch with John Z. if you have any special funding requests.
4. Committee Reports –
 - a. Sunshine -Bonny shared that 17 cards were sent since our meeting last month, 151 cards have been sent to date
 - b. History -Lois shared her report, please see attached
 - c. Maintenance -Betsy shared that Dan Jacobson has installed an additional shutoff valve for the propane lights
 - d. Welcome -Beth shared that she and Zoe will be visiting the two new families on Moose Creek later this month. She also shared that she and Lois Walker have been working on the extensive NF Landowners List of all properties in the North Fork. This list is used for delivery of the NFLA newsletter as well as for emergencies, such as during fire season
 - e. Fire Mitigation -Richard Hildner shared the “Count Me In” form for all to fill to help in the submission of Firewise hours and expenses. These hours are needed in order to maintain of Firewise standing. Suzanne Hildner is the recorder, all forms should be submitted to her by October 31st. Suzanne will send reminder emails to all who have filed in the past

5. Organization Reports (Non-NFLA)
 - a. North Fork Patrol -Mark Heaphy reminded all that October 25th general hunting season starts.
 - i. Emergency and Alert reminder- call 911, then call neighbors or Mark. Reporting party should talk directly to 911 Dispatch to give specific details.
 - ii. Mark shared that there was a mission last night for a hypothermic hunter. He reminds all to be prepared for the weather
 - b. Polebridge Bear Smart -Suzanne Hildner shared they are wrapping up the season. Justine has given the NF an A+. If folks know of a problem bear, let Suzanne know, especially when there is an event scheduled in the area
 - i. Expired bear sprays are still being collected
 - ii. Bear resistant containers are still available for purchase
 - c. NFPA- Suzanne Hildner shared that the Board is having a retreat next Sunday. Pass along any concerns or ideas for discussion
 - d. NF Trails -Bill Walker shared that it will be late fall before they are on the trails again
 - i. Their annual meeting will be this Saturday at the Rittenburgs'. A short walk will take place before the meeting and potluck
 - e. NFLUAC -Randy Kenyon shared that they are still looking for an additional member, let Randy know if you are interested
 - f. Fire Chief -Lynn Ogle stated that we escaped fire season! He reminded all that it is now time to check propane lines. He reminded all that burn permits are available online
6. Old Business
 - a. Membership suggestions for speakers for next summer –Betsy shared that the following have been secured for next season: Glacier Institute confirmed for June; ALERT and North Valley Search and Rescue targeted for July and August
 - i. Candidates for September and October are: Jim Williams (Mountain Lions), Flathead K9 Foundation, Research at Kintla Lake, Glacier International Airport History and Current Expansion Project, and FWP fish biologist to talk about Moose Creek Fish barrier (the Hildners mentioned they are still willing to come next season)
 - b. Hall back porch project -John Stone that it is COMPLETED!
 - c. Woodstove chimney check-up – Kevin shared that Dave Fern came and cleaned the chimneys. He gave a good bill of health for both chimneys.
7. New Business
 - a. Outhouse improvements - John Stone shared that Jim Rittenburg checked the outhouses and there is no need at this time to have them pumped. Ideas for improvements include: grab bars, secure the structure to the cement base, and replace plexiglass on existing doors with frosted plexiglass 2/3 up allowing for more privacy, light and continued ventilation.
 - b. Knapweed management around Hall – Jim contacted Kearstin Edwards. Spraying for knapweed will be conducted in the spring
 - c. Community Events Update -Beth shared that the latest calendar has been added to the NFLA website and to the NF Facebook page.
 - d. Calendar changes and notifications – Beth shared the upcoming events: Thanksgiving Potluck, Christmas Potluck, and New Year's Eve Party
 - e. Thanksgiving – coordinated by Zoe Zardis
 - f. Christmas Party – we are still looking for someone to help coordinate this event, anyone who is willing please contact Beth Ulrichsen (bethulrichsen@gmail.com)
8. Member Comments
 - a. Beth Ulrichsen thanked Bill Walker for all that he does for our organization. He does more than anyone knows! She expressed her appreciation for all he does. The membership agreed with a round of applause for Bill.
9. Next Membership Meeting
 - a. June 14th, 2026. Presentation by Anthony Nelson, Executive Director of The Glacier Institute
10. Adjourn at 8:01 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Ulrichsen
NFLA Secretary
October 14, 2025

NORTH FORK HISTORY PROJECT

October 2025

Before they left for the winter, Rob & Trish Rego delivered to me 22 boxes of John Frederick records that they rescued from the Square Peg Ranch barn and performed an initial sorting on in the Pittman "Giraffe Barn" this summer. I have now roughly sorted and inventoried the entire collection, which constitutes about 40 banker's boxes. It contains a lot of information about the North Fork Hostel and the North Fork Preservation Association. There are three boxes about the Cenex well hearings in 1989, three boxes about the Cabin Creek Mine in Canada, lots and lots of subject files, and three boxes of photographs. There's still a ton of work to do, but at least all of the records are in one place now.

Rob and Trish and I sorted through the many photo albums that Larry Wilson has created over the years, to identify which ones I've already scanned and those that I still need to do. There are 11 albums that I need to review, which I'll do this fall. It's quite a collection, to say the least. I'm scanned about 3,000 photographs so far.

It was nice to attend the end-of-season Prom at Northern Lights Saloon again this year. The Prom has been a tradition most years since 1983. I have photos of many of the Proms, but not all. If anyone has ones they'd like to share, I'd be glad to have them.

Finally, I'd like to wish the NFIA a Happy Birthday. From 1947-2005 (58 years) the organization was known as the North Fork Improvement Association. In 2005, the membership voted to change the name of the organization to the North Fork Landowners Association, mainly because of the semantics associated with the word "improvement." According to my records, Lynn Ogle was president at the time. Gerry Stearns was one of the moving forces behind the initiative. So, the NFLA is officially 20 years old this year. Happy Birthday, and many more to come.

Lois Walker, Historian

