



NFLA - Membership Meeting Minutes

Sunday August 9th, 2026

Location: Community Hall

Host: Cheryl Crane

Attendees: All Members invited

Board:

Jim Rittenburg -present

Jack McFarland -present

Beth Ulrichsen -present

Kevin Ulrichsen -present

Cheryl Crane -present

Ruth Kinsolving -present

John Stone -present

John Zardis – not present

Betsy Holycross -present

7:00 pm: Guest Presentation:

North Valley Search and Rescue – Mark Heaphy

8:00 pm: Membership meeting

1. Call to order 8:24 pm
2. Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - a. Welcome – Jim welcomed all
 - b. Raffle for ALERT swag- Jim raffled off ALERT pins and a small water bottle cooler
 - c. Upcoming memorial for Ray Hart– Sept 27th, please RSVP
3. July 12th Membership Minutes – Short summary (copies available online) A brief summary was shared, accepted as printed
4. Treasurer's Report -Jim shared that we currently have \$42,401 in the bank, only \$660 less than last year at this time, which is great considering we just finished up the outhouse renovations and the fire mitigation projects. We have had \$4,277 in donations this year.
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Sunshine -Bonny Ogle shared that 20 cards were sent (see attached)
 - b. History -Lois Walker shared the many projects underway. (see attached)
 - c. Maintenance -Jim shared that the outhouse renovations are complete. We had a bat inside recently and we are now on the hunt for holes that might be sealed. New bait traps have been put out for the increase of mouse sign.
 - d. Welcome -Beth announced that Cheryl Crane has graciously agreed to become welcomer
 - e. Fire Mitigation- Richard Hildner shared that the newest Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the North Fork. Copies were made available to the membership and can also be found on the NFLA website. Richard extended a very special thanks to Allan Chrisman for all of his hard work, countless hours, and perseverance in completing the plan. His efforts should be recognized. He also thanked Lincoln Chute for generously donating the color printing of the plan. Richard encouraged all to see Suzanne Hildner for a Count Me In form or go on the NFLA website under Fire Mitigation. Richard also addressed the poor air quality from all the wildfires. He demonstrated how to make an air purifier using a box fan and four furnace air filters.
6. Organization Reports (Non-NFLA)
 - a. North Fork Patrol -Mark Heaphy shared that they have started the process of renewing the license needed for their radio frequency. He also reminded all that bow hunting season begins in about a month.
 - b. Polebridge Bear Smart -Suzanne Hildner shared that because the huckleberry crop this year is dismal there is a concern for more bear issues. She also stated that bear resistant trash cans are still available.
 - c. NFPA -Suzanne Hildner reminded all that their annual meeting is August 22nd. Potluck dinner at 5:30, program at 7:15 (Dan Fagre-geologist)
 - d. NF Trails -Bill Walker working on clearing trail to Grizzly Inn, 1/3 of trail completed. It was suggested that they work on trail 375, Link Lake Trail. Many trees down on the first section, close to trail head. Jim Rittenburg shared that he has started working on the Wedge Canyon Trail, they have gotten about 6 miles in. Many trees down, large piles.

- e. NFLUAC -Randy Kenyon shared that there is a workshop planned to discuss any amendment changes on August 20th at 4pm. Polebridge townsite landowners are being contacted about the workshop. Contact Randy Kenyon to be on the email list.
 - i. Randy also discussed the recent concern about the helicopter pad on Trail Creek Road being used in the Kintla Lake oil well capping. The county received and followed up on a zoning compliance complaint. The county came up to the site and determined that there are zoning violations. A few locals have reported that there hasn't been as much disruption as first thought. They have only flown on one day in the past month.
- f. Fire Chief -Lynn Ogle reported that fire danger is very high. Smoke is coming from MT, WA, OR, ID, and Canada. The Skillet Fire in Olney, MT is now up to 3,300 ac. He recommended moving firewood away from structures.
 - i. Kevin thanked the many North Forkers who came to the car fire last week on Allen's Switchback. It was great to see such a large response.
- 7. Old Business
 - a. Membership suggestions for speakers for next summer -we are still looking for suggestions for next year.
- 8. New Business
 - a. Community Hall project – Paul Marotz suggested a ramp be put in place on the back deck for access to the outhouse. John Stone will lead the project.
 - b. NFLA Bylaws/Meeting time- Jim inquired about the meeting time for Membership Meetings. He polled the group to see if folks were interested in moving the start to time to 6:00pm permanently, for all meetings or does the membership want to continue with the split 6:00pm (Sept. and Oct.) / 7:00pm (May, June, July, August) time starts as it is now. By show off hands 16 to start at 6pm always, 10 to keep it as it currently is. Jim will continue to ask for input at the next few meetings.
 - c. NFLA August Elections- Larry Wilson opened nominations.
 - i. President- Jim Rittenberg was nominated by Betsy Holycross, reelected by acclamation
 - ii. Vice President – Betsy Holy Cross was nominated by Jim Rittenberg, reelected by acclamation
 - iii. Secretary- Betsy Holycross nominated Beth Ulrichsen, reelected by acclamation
 - iv. Treasure- Larry Wilson nominated Dawn Jacobson (not present), withdrew his nomination. Lois nominated Jan Caldwell, he declined. Jack McFarland nominated John Zardis, reelected by acclamation
 - v. South Director- Kevin Ulrichsen, reelected by acclamation
 - vi. North Director- Ruth Kinsolving, reelected by acclamation
- 9. Community Events Update
 - a. Calendar review and updates -Beth reviewed the community calendar- Art Night has been canceled
 - b. Suzanne Hildner shared that the Le Grizz race will be held on October 10 from Big Creek to Vance Hill and back. They are looking for volunteers.
 - c. Dave Pokorny shared that a group from Polebridge is trying to put together a bike night ride to celebrate the 110th NP birthday. Watch for advertising on Facebook.
- 10. Member Comments- no comments
- 11. Next Membership Meeting
 - a. Sunday September 13th, 2026, at **6:00pm** Moose Creek Fish Barrier - Matt Boyer and Kris Tempel
- 12. Adjourned at 9:25

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Ulrichsen
NFLA Secretary
August 11, 2026



Habitat
for Humanity

8/7/26

Sunshine Committee

Birthdays 9

Get Well 1

Thank You 3

Anniversaries 3

Sympathy 2

Thinking of you 1

Graduations 1

Total cards 20

Heather Matthews

passed away in Feb.

Card + donation to the

recent memorial.

Larry & Ruth Kinsolving's

precious dog Wilson

passed away.

Bonny S. Ogle



NORTH FORK HISTORY PROJECT

August 2026

Rob and Trish Rego and I have made two trips to the Park Library to research the bound volumes of the *Hungry Horse News*. We're up to 1965 now and are collecting a lot of good information.

I reviewed the last 11 of Larry Wilson's photograph albums and scanned another 165 photos for the archives. For the record, I have now scanned 3,649 of Larry's photos. If you need a picture of something or someone historic in the North Fork, just ask me! (Except for Frank Clute. To my knowledge, he was never successful in getting a picture of Frank.)

I pulled together information on maintenance and improvements at the Hall, so that we have a record of those projects over the years.

Rob Rego has graciously accepted the job of researching and documenting the homestead-era structures that we still have standing in the North Fork. We have a spreadsheet with those that we already know about, but I'm sure there are others. So, if you have an old homestead-era building on your property, please let him know, to be sure we have it on the list. He is recording the original homestead owner, the current owner, and a description of each structure that still exists—type of building, dimensions, type of joinery, any history we know about the structure, and photographs. That way we'll have a record of the properties and structures, even if they subsequently get destroyed by fire.

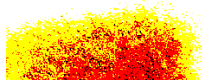
Ryan Powell from the Forest Service has been heading up a crew to work on the floor at the Ford Schoolhouse. Rob has helped him a good bit, and recently he's had MCC [Montana Conservation Corps] and YCC [Youth Conservation Corps] people helping him. We may yet need volunteers to help install the new floor and will let you know.

We had a great turnout for the Coffee with Ray Brown session. The recording and a transcript of it are now available on the NFLA website.

This coming Wednesday, we have Coffee with Rob Fisher scheduled, at 10:00 at the Evans property. Rob was curious about the history of the Ben Maes cabin that he lives in and the Quinn cabin that burned down in October 1977. It had been built by Fred "Big Nose" Johnson, who lived out at the end of Trail Creek Road. I provided him with the information that I had.

Rob and I have been slowly collecting all of the history of the Kintla Guest Ranch that we can—the owners, the people who worked there, the guests, etc. There might be a nice little document in the offing eventually.

Lois Walker, Historian



Income Statement
North Fork Landowners Association
For period ending

	<u>7/31/26</u>	<u>7/31/25</u>		<u>12 month 8/31/25</u>
Full time members	263	296		307
paid in advance for next year	24	12		30
Life Time members	2	2		2
Paid in previous year	30	24		24
Associate members	21	14		15
Total members	<u>340</u>	<u>348</u>		<u>378</u>

	<u>7/31/26</u>	<u>7/31/25</u>	<u>12 month Budget</u>	<u>12 month 8/31/25 Actual</u>
Dues	4,245	4,745	4,900	4,895
Dues next year	270	255	300	300
Donations	4,277	4,219	3,500	4,379
Carol Daly one-time donation	-	7,500	-	7,500
Donated service	539	839	588	888
NF Patrol contribution	252	168	190	168
Fundraisers	-	3,848	-	3,348
Hall rental	125	875	875	950
Interest/Dividends	1,204	1,083	1,100	1,083
Total revenue	<u>10,912</u>	<u>23,532</u>	<u>11,453</u>	<u>23,511</u>
Insurance	-	(153)	(2,332)	(2,416) 3% increase assumed
Mag Chloride	-	(2,178)	-	(2,178)
Newsletters - printing/postage	(1,542)	(1,217)	(1,254)	(1,217) 3% increase assumed
Paypal fees	(104)	(157)	(200)	(157) Increased usage assumed
Propane & rental	-	(606)	(800)	23/24 we filled in spring
Office supplies & postage	-	-	(100)	(1,126) 24/25 we filled spring & fall
Repairs & maint	(385)	(159)	(300)	-
Fire Mitigation Committee	(48)	-	(1,200)	(159) 0.0%
History Committee	(185)	-	(150)	-
Social Committee	(469)	(630)	(1,000)	- Archival supplies
Sunshine Committee	(125)	(315)	(400)	\$275 t-give & Xmas + \$360 pizza 2025
Welcome Committee	-	-	(150)	(630) + 353 Pizza parties 2024
Supplies	(485)	(795)	(800)	(340)
Property tax	(90)	(90)	(100)	(795) several 1x expenses 2024
Misc.	-	-	(100)	(90)
Interlocal meeting	-	-	(50)	-
PO Box rental	-	(166)	(170)	(166)
Safe Deposit box	(30)	(30)	(30)	(30)
IT expenses	(91)	(360)	(400)	(360) 2 year renewals in 2023
State Annual fee	-	-	(20)	-
Patrol/Poaching passthrough	-	(125)	-	(125)
Treasurers Stipend	(539)	(539)	(588)	(588)
Total ordinary expenses	<u>(4,092)</u>	<u>(7,520)</u>	<u>(10,143)</u>	<u>(10,377)</u>
Ordinary income (loss)	<u>6,820</u>	<u>16,012</u>	<u>1,310</u>	<u>13,134</u>
Improvements expenses	<u>(5,209)</u>	<u>(2,746)</u>	<u>(1,000)</u>	<u>(5,178)</u>
Net Income/(Loss)	<u>1,611</u>	<u>13,266</u>	<u>310</u>	<u>7,956</u>

Balance Sheet
North Fork Landowners Association
For period ending

	<u>7/31/26</u>	<u>7/31/25</u>
Checking	3,807	15,915
Paypal account	30	258
Poaching fund savings	2,138	2,144
Emergency fund CD	18,937	17,913
Improvement fund CD	7,221	6,831
New CD	10,268	-
Total assets	<u>42,401</u>	<u>43,061</u>
RE	40,789	32,834
Current profit	1,611	10,227
Total equity	<u>42,401</u>	<u>43,061</u>