

NFLA Business Meeting
Sondreson Hall / June 2, 2007

Minutes submitted by Secretary-Treasurer Pat Cole:

Before the meeting, Ed Heger presented a plaque and card to John and Nancy Hubble in appreciation of their community contributions over the years, as they are relocating to Arkansas.

Ed Heger took a roll call of board members. Molly Shepherd, Pat Cole, Jon Cole, Frank Vitale, Oliver Meister, Gerry Stearns were present. Lynn Ogle was not present. Approximately 18 members were in attendance.

Ed reviewed the minutes from the October, 2006 meeting.

Pat Cole presented the financial report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

North Fork Patrol/Fire/Law Enforcement: Larry Wilson advised they made two calls to the Highway Patrol to spend some time in the North Fork, but were advised there is not enough traffic here to justify their presence. They will only come for accidents.

Larry advised that permits are required for burning now, with no burning allowed after June 30.

The North Fork Patrol checks residences in the spring and fall. If you notify them that you are going on vacation, they will check on your residence while you are away.

Land Use Planning: Jon Cole advised that we originally had one year to comply with the county growth policy. The new growth policy now allows the county up to five years to review neighborhood plans to determine if they require updating. The North Fork neighborhood plan is considered compliant with the growth policy until it is reviewed by the county, and was made an addendum to the policy. It is up to the county to prioritize the review of the existing neighborhood plans. Therefore the committee is on hold until it hears back from the county.

Fire Mitigation: Molly Shepherd advised there are still funds available for fire mitigation for landowners. They are trying to get a weed effort going in the North Fork. If anyone is interested in joining the committee, we are seeking volunteers. John Frederick and Frank Vitale advised they would work on the weed committee. Molly advised there is going to be a fire mitigation meeting at the end of the month, and those interested in joining the weed committee should attend. Ed suggested we hold a weed meeting prior to the July meeting. Molly will provide Richard Wackrow with the website for noxious weeds information.

Molly brought two signs which were awarded to the North Fork as a Firewise community. It was agreed one sign should be placed at Sondreson Hall, one at Polebridge and another south of Lee Downes place along the North Fork Road.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ed advised that the new website is up and running thanks to the efforts of Richard Wackrow. Richard asked that Larry Wilson write up something on the North Fork Patrol to advise patrol policies.

NEW AND CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Hall Rental: Ed clarified the hall use policy which requires a \$50 deposit for rentals plus a \$50 fee for members and a \$100 fee for non-members. Ed advised that since there is no way of knowing how many keys are floating around for the hall, that we get a new lock for the front door. Jon Cole recommended that we get a “do not duplicate key” in order to maintain control over the keys. Ed suggested that new keys be held by the secretary/treasurer, president, law enforcement (Larry Wilson) and fire (Lynn Ogle).

Furniture Rental: Ed advised that hall tables and chairs have been rented or borrowed in the past and have been returned dirty, late and that some have gone missing. Ed asked if we wanted to establish a policy on this. After some discussion, Richard Wackrow made a motion that we have a policy not to rent out hall furnishings unless an exception is made by the board. The motion was seconded and approved. Gerry Stearns suggested that if the board approved a rental, that a contract be signed with the number of items going out and the condition. Ed asked Gerry to draft the agreement.

Trail Creek/Graves Creek Roads: Larry advised that Graves Creek is passable as an escape route. The Nokio Creek washout on Trail Creek may be open in July. The section of Graves Creek north of Trail Creek to Terriault Lakes area won't be open this year.

Canadian Flathead: Ed advised that \$300,000 funding was approved by the state legislature for water quality monitoring. They also provided some funding for the Flathead Basin Commission. The Flathead Coalition, of which we are a member, is also staying on top of this. The Cline Mine missed some deadlines for field work this year, however, British Petroleum is to evaluate the entire coal field area for the potential of coal-bed methane. They are willing to spend up to \$100 million on this appraisal over the next three to five years. B.P. is starting an outreach program which should last for a few months. A long-term solution is being sought to the mining issues. Richard Wackrow inquired if a B.P. rep could attend the Interlocal.

Molly advised that the RC&D Council which we joined last year would like someone from the North Fork to serve on their board. A volunteer is needed. They are the primary funnel for federal money in this part of the state. Other organizations can also apply for grant money. Larry agreed to go to 2-3 meetings.

Ed announced that the hall cleanup is next Saturday at 10AM. The Interlocal is Wednesday, July 18.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.