

The Birch Bark

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association

4730 Lake Road, Farwell, Michigan 48622
Office: (989) 588-2853 Fax: (989) 588-4924
Safety: (989) 588-7066



May Issue

www.whitebirch.org

Absentee Ballot

The application for Absentee Ballot is on page 7. Please read the instructions carefully and return by mail by the due date.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Good morning everyone,

Sorry but this is going to be a little longer this month, believe me it is just as hard on me as it is you. I think spring is finally here at White Birch, as everybody here knows that when you leave the gate thru the winter months the White Birch community seems to have its own private weather zone. One of our neighbors on Laurel Lane, Mr. and Mrs. Kelly and family lost their home to fire last Sunday morning, fortunately there were no injuries. Our thoughts and prayers go out to this family and also to Sally Keillor our activities chair, as she has lost a brother this past week.

We had seven homes and three cars broken into in one evening this past month. The sheriff arrested four young adults and one minor. Apparently they were staying in an abandoned home on Elm, that they used to live in last summer.

Last month there was a motion brought before the board to disband the finance committee and was passed by a four to three vote. I respect all board members rights to vote as they feel they should to represent the membership. What puzzles me is why something of this importance was not discussed at the board workshop, the evening before the board meeting. The purpose of these workshops is to present all the information that has been gathered so that all board members can hopefully make an educated vote on behalf of the membership. I, as President, ask the board members about two weeks prior to these workshops, and continue doing so up until the start of the meeting if there is anything they wish to add to the agenda. This important subject was not brought up. I do not understand why this happened this way. The finance committee was recommended by the audit firm and it also was recommended that the finance committee meet with the auditors without management present. As far as I know we have always had a finance committee. The finance committee has no power and cost the association nothing. But it does help the board set the budget and also make suggestions and give their opinion based on our finances to the Board of Directors for them to use to make final financial decisions for White Birch.

Thank You,
Robert Briggs
President

Coming Events

May 14	Board Meeting	10:00 am
May 21	Scrap Book Day	10:00 am – 6:00 pm
May 28	Garage Sale/Bake Sale	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
June 11	Board Meeting	10:00 am
July 2 or 3	Parade & Pig Roast Pot Luck at the Pavilion	12:00 pm & 1:00 pm
July 16	Annual Meeting of the Members	10:00 am
Aug 13	Halloween Hayride at the Pavilion	7:00 pm
Sept 3	Labor Day Celebration/Yippee Skippee/Pot Luck w/Brats at the Pavilion	12:00 pm
Sept 17	Garage Sale/Bake Sale	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Nov 19	Chili for Hunters at the Clubhouse	11:00 am – 2:00 pm
Dec 10	Christmas Party/Pot Luck/Game Night at the Clubhouse	5:00 pm

Business and Supervisors Offices will be closed Monday, May 30th, Monday, July 4th and Monday, September 5th, 2011



BOARD SEATS

There are two Board seats open for Election this year. If you have the desire to serve your community please send a letter of intent to Director Mary Perkins, the nomination Chair, or to the office by June 1st.

The Annual Meeting of the Members is July 16th this year.

Donations for the Kelly's

If you would like to donate to the Kelly Family whose home was destroyed by fire earlier this month, donations are being collected at the Clubhouse or can be sent to Chris or Sue Kelly:

C/O Farwell United Methodist Church
281 East Ohio Street
Farwell, MI 48622

Thank You!

POOL HOURS

May 13th through October 1st

Monday 9:00 am to 7:30 pm
Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am to 3:30 pm
Closed Wednesday
Friday and Saturday 12:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Sunday 10:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Memorial, July 4th and Labor Day Weekends

Friday 12:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Saturday 10:00 am to 8:30 pm
Sunday 10:00 am to 8:30 pm
Monday 9:00 am to 7:30 pm

OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
2nd & 4th Saturdays 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
Closed Sunday



EPC and Lot Improvements

Thanks to Dick Brandt for filling in as chairman of EPC while I was enjoying the nice Florida sunshine this winter.

The EPC needs LOT IMPROVEMENT APPLICATIONS to be turned in A WEEK TO 10 DAYS before they meet so all members of the committee can check out the proposed lot improvement.

EPC meetings for spring and summer:
May 13, June 7th, July 8th and August 12th.

Thanks,
Chick Witchell

Get Your Newsletter Faster

By having sent direct to your email! Over 60 members have already signed on. It saves a lot of time and helps to keep our cost down. Just email Alice at supervisor@whitebirch.org and ask to be put on the list.



Don't Forget the Soap & Shampoo

Campers ... please don't forget to bring your soap and shampoo. WBLRA is no longer providing these items at the campgrounds bath houses due to theft of the dispensers.



Scrap Book Day

Sylvia Wagner is hosting a scrap book day at the Clubhouse on May 21, 2011 at 10:00 am to 6:00 pm for any WBLRA member interested in attending.

Bring your scrap book supplies and a sack lunch for a day of laughs, fun and scrapping! Got questions, call Sylvia at 588-4733.

Burn Permits

Please remember when spring cleaning your lot and burning those left over leafs you need to call toll free, (866) 922-2876 or go on line at

www.michigan.gov/burnpermit

for a Burn Permit number.



It's Almost Time

WBLRA Annual Garage and Bake Sale

Saturday, May 28 2011, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Watch for the sign-up sheet posted at the Clubhouse for Member wanting to participate.



STORAGE POLICY

1. Only one camping unit (camper) may be stored on any residential lot.
2. Camping units stored on residential lots must be stored in the back of the residence or out of sight of the roadway. They must be at least 100 feet from the roadway, if at all possible. Variances to locations due to hardship may be granted by the EPC. This variance must be granted in writing prior to the placement of camping units in locations other than stated above.
3. All camping units must be registered at the WBLRA office and display a WBLRA sticker in a visible location. This sticker must include the lot number OF THE OWNER of the camping unit.
4. Pre-paid reservations for camping unit storage must be received NO LATER than July 31st of each year in order to reserve the same location. Payments received AFTER July 31st will be assigned space as available.
5. Members who want to reserve a storage space for their camping unit must be a member in good standing or have a payment plan arrangement. Members who default on a payment plan will not be eligible for storage space the following year unless they become a member in good standing.
6. Camping units and other items must be contained within the designated space and items stored in an orderly fashion.
7. Fees for storage in the STORAGE AREA are for the designated space and are NOT to be assessed on a per item basis. Fees for storage in the CAMPGROUND are for the space and are NOT to be assessed on a per item basis WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CAMPING UNIT. ONLY ONE CAMPING UNIT PER CAMPGROUND STORAGE SPACE IS ALLOWED. If an additional camping unit (more than one camping unit per campground space) is placed on said space, then an additional campground storage fee will be applied.
8. Members wanting to move their camping unit in or out of the storage must notify the office prior to moving.
9. Any units stored in the CAMPGROUNDS (occupying campground camping spaces) must be removed PRIOR to the start of the Memorial Day weekend, but NO SOONER than 14 days prior to the start of the Memorial Day weekend. Any units that are in storage may not be stored greater than 12 months (November 1 – October 31) without written permission of the Board of Directors.
10. A \$5.00 per night fee will be assessed to camping units that utilize electrical hook-up. Units that are left plugged in and unattended will be also be assessed the \$5.00 per night fee.
11. A camping unit will be considered abandoned if no registration card is filed each year/season. All attempts to contact the owner will be made prior to any legal action being taken to remove and/or dispose of the unit.
12. ALL units must be self-contained and be maintained to meet the standards of “safe and road ready”. Pursuant to Michigan State law, all recreational vehicles must display a current license or the Association can be held liable for personal property tax on all non-registered vehicles.
13. White Birch Lakes Recreation Association is to be held FREE from any liability for damage, vandalism, fire or theft. Storage of units is at the individual member’s discretion and at their own risk.

The Birch Bark

Proposed White Birch Lakes April 9, 2011 Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order: President Briggs called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Directors present: President Briggs, 1st Vice President Stephens, Director Dombrowski, Director McNeil, Director Cox-Perkins and Secretary, Elaine Carrasco. Director Bryant absent due to a family event. Director Nalepa absent due to a family situation. Director McNeil led the membership in prayer. President Briggs led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Additions to the Agenda:

Under New Business, Director McNeil adds White Birch property down payment.

Under Old business, Director Briggs adds legal Issues, closed session, after comments from the floor and committee announcements after his president reports.

III. Approval of Minutes:

(1) Director Cox-Perkins moves to approve the minutes, second by Director McNeil, carried.

IV. Income Statement/Treasurers Report:

Treasurer, Elaine Carrasco reports income for the month of March at \$229,951.63, we spent \$21, 280.42, and total of all accounts both unrestricted and restricted, \$448,665.06.

(2) Director Stephens moves to accept the income statement as reported, second by Director McNeil, all in favor, carried.

(3) Director Stephens moves to accept the payables as presented, second by Director McNeil, carried.

President Briggs thanks Terry Obrecht for volunteering to take over publication of the Birch Bark. He also removes from the EPC committee, Michael Graham and Judy Gute.

(4) Director Cox moves to ratify the EPC committee removals, second by Director Stephens, carried.

VI. Committee Reports:

Chick Witchell reports for EPC. She thanks Dick Brandt for filling in for her this winter. Accessory building approvals for Lot #659 and #770. She requests, in the Birch Bark, that they need to receive applications for EPC approval a week to ten days before EPC meets. Meeting dates will be posted in the Birch Bark. She will be touring the association for violations. Fred Witchell reports for Campground. Fred talks about brush removal in the storage area before the trailers are removed. He also requests permission to get prices to purchase fire rings.

VII. Comments from the Floor (Agenda Only):

Available at the clubhouse.

VIII. Old Business:

(5) Director Stephens moves to award the real estate bid to White Birch Realty as the exclusive realtor for the White Birch Lakes owned properties, second by Director McNeil, carried.

IX. New Business:

(6) Director McNeil moves to change the required \$800.00 down payment that is currently required on White Birch properties to \$1,300.00 or ten percent , whichever is greater, second by Director Stephens, carried.

The Birch Bark

Proposed Meeting Minutes ... continued

(7). Director Cox-Perkins moves to turn the land contract of lot #1130 over to our attorney to handle, second by Director McNeil, carried.

(8). Director McNeil moves to go with the Mineral Well Brine from Beckman for our first application only, second by Director Stephens, carried.

(9). Director Cox-Perkins moves to approve the campground storage policy as amended, second by Director McNeil, carried.

(10). Director Dombrowski moves to make some revisions on our campground procedures, second by Director Cox-Perkins, carried.

(11). Director Cox-Perkins moves to include the absentee ballot request in this month's newsletter, second by Director McNeil, all in favor, carried.

(12). Director Cox-Perkins moves to get bids on repair of the tennis courts, second by Director McNeil, amended for the bid to include an adjoining shuffle board court, all in favor, carried.

X. Comments from the Floor:

Comments are available at the clubhouse.

(13). Director Stephens moves to go into closed session, second by Director McNeil, carried.

XI. Closed Session:

(14). Director Stephens moves to accept our attorney's advice in an ongoing legal matter, second by Director McNeil, carried.

XII. Adjournment:

(14). Director McNeil moves to adjourn, second by Director Stephens, carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Submitted by,
Elaine Carrasco

Camper Storage 2011 – 2012

Members wanting to renew their previous storage site have until July 31, 2011 to renew. Reservations will be handled exclusively through the Clubhouse Supervisor Office and Business Office. You can make your reservation in person or contact the offices at (989)588-2853 Monday through Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

The pool attendants, campground or safety personnel are no longer authorized to accept any storage reservations. Your payment in full is required at the time of your reservation. No reservations will be accepted without your complete payment.

Storage fees for this year have been reduced: campground storage is now \$75.00 and the storage area is \$40.00.

2011 Application for Absentee Ballot

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association Election

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association (WBLRA) By-Laws provide that members may vote by absentee ballot by requesting a ballot in writing.

If you choose to vote by absentee ballot in the 2011 WBLRA elections, you must complete this application and return it to the address below.

There will be no ballot in the Birch Bark as in previous years.

Absentee ballots will be sent out shortly after June 15, 2011. To receive an absentee ballot, this application must be RECEIVED before Tuesday, July 5, 2011.

Name, Last First _____

Address _____

Lot Number(s) _____

(Note that you may only vote for lots upon which you pay an assessment - not contiguous status lots.

Member's signature: By signing this application, the undersigned certifies that they are an owner of the listed lot(s), that they are a member in good standing, that they intend to submit an absentee ballot for the lot(s) listed, and that they will not permit a non-member, or member not in good standing to vote using the absentee ballot(s) they will be issued.) Please make sure you have updated any contact information with the WBLRA office as ballots will not be forwarded or mailed to an address not on file.

Member's Signature

Return this completed application to

White Birch Lakes Election

P.O. Box 839

Farwell, MI 48622

If you do not receive a ballot, please contact

Bob Briggs, President WBLRA at (989) 588- 4543

Mary Cox-Perkins, Board Liaison WBLRA at (989) 588-3338

Office Use Only

Membership Status Verified: _____ Ballot Number(s) Issued _____
(initials)

Not Verified: _____
(initials)

Absentee ballots may only be received if requested by application in writing.

No absentee ballots will be sent via the Birch Bark, nor may they be passed out by members or others.

Applications for absentee ballots shall be signed by the members requesting them.

Applications for absentee ballots must be received by July 7, 2011 to receive a ballot.

Absentee ballots must be received via mail by 4 p.m. July 15, 2011 to be counted.

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4730 Lake Road, Farwell, Michigan 48622



LOOK FOR THE “APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT” INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WBLRA is always looking for Members to volunteer for activities and committees. Anyone interested in lending a helping hand to your community, please contact any Board Member, the office, committee or sign up at the Clubhouse.

BOARD of DIRECTORS and OFFICERS

President - Robert Briggs	cofbriggs@yahoo.com
1st VP - Teresa Stephens	rabidstamper@yahoo.com
2nd VP - Dorothy Nalepa	dnalepa8990@charter.net
Director - Steve Bryant	sfbryant1@yahoo.com
Director - Linda McNeil	lucymcn79@hotmail.com
Director - Kevin Dombrowski	kd460@sbcglobal.net
Director - Mary Cox-Perkins	funk49pt@yahoo.com
Sec/Treasurer - Elaine Carrasco	ecoffice@whitebirch.org (989)-588-2853

OUR STAFF

Supervisor	Alice Van Bennekom supervisor@whitebirch.org
Maintenance	Jeff Wheeler Tom Alsup
Clubhouse	Georga Romine Tammy Verlaque Frank Metz

Welcome Back Campers

A 14-day permit is being issued so all campers can return early. The association camping season will officially start

Friday, May 13th 2011

As a reminder, all campers stored in the Campground section must be moved to your lot by

Monday May 23rd

Regular campsite rental and campground clean up will begin that week.

Please make sure to register your camper at the office.

Have a Great Camping Season!

Although a private gated community, White Birch Lakes Recreational Association is not responsible for monitoring, insuring or securing dwellings, property or the personal belongings of its members or their guests.