

The Birch Bark

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association

4730 Lake Road, Farwell, Michigan 48622

Office: (989) 588-2853 Fax: (989) 588-4924 Security: (989) 588-7066

JANUARY ISSUE

www.whitebirch.org

VOLUME 1

CLUBHOUSE HOURS

Monday	9:00 A.M.	9:00 P.M.
Tuesday	9:00 A.M.	5:00 P.M.
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday	9:00 A.M.	9:00 P.M.
Friday	9:00 A.M.	5:00 P.M.
Saturday	10:00 A.M.	9:00 P.M.
Sunday	1:00 P.M.	5:00 P.M.

POOL HOURS January - February

Monday	4:00 P.M.	8:30 P.M.
Tuesday	Closed	
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday	4:00 P.M.	8:30 P.M.
Friday	Closed	
Saturday	10:00 A.M.	8:30 P.M.
Sunday	1:00 P.M.	4:30 P.M.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday	8:00 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
Tuesday	8:00 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday	8:00 A.M.	8:00 P.M.
Friday	8:00 A.M.	4:00 P.M.
Saturday	8:00 A.M.	12:00 P.M.
Sunday	Closed	

COMMUNITY EVENT & MEETING SCHEDULE

01/31/06	Budget Meeting	7:00 P.M.
02/05/06	Super Bowl Party	6:00 P.M.
02/06/06	E.P.C.	As Needed
02/09/06	Seedlings & Saplings	6:00 P.M.
02/11/06	Board Meeting	9:00 A.M.
02/20/06	Conservation	6:30 P.M.
02/22/06	Guest Speaker	7:00 P.M.
02/27/06	Communications	7:00 P.M.
03/11/06	Raffle Award	At Board Mtg.

REMINDER TO MEMBERS

to please return checked out movies from the clubhouse. There are about 100 tapes that have still not been returned.



FACILITIES RENTALS or SCHEDULING EVENTS

To rent the facilities or to schedule an event, please contact the clubhouse or manager at (989) 588-2853

POSTING TO COMMUNITY CORNER or EVENT SCHEDULE

For posting to the Community Corner in the newsletter or on the website, please contact Marilyn Lesperance **after** 1:00 P.M. at (989) 588-2184 or email: l02277@peoplepc.com



For posting an Event in the newsletter or on the website, please contact Toni Passage at (989) 588-2483 or email: tonik45@hotmail.com

The Birch Bark

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Marty Perkins
1st Vice President	Ken Passage
2nd Vice President	Al Isaac
Director	Dave Conley
Director	Marvin Frayer
Director	Scott Hayer
Director	Dan Holzer
Secretary	Carrie Forfinski
Treasurer	Priscilla Moore

STAFF AND COMMITTEES

Activities	Toni Passage	588-2483
Campgrounds	Fred Witchell	588-6797
Communications	Terry Obrecht	588-0347
Conservation	Mike Turner	588-6496
Entrance	Theresa Turner	588-6496
Environmental	Chick Witchell	588-6797
Future Planning	Tom Crook	588-0202
Manager	Gail White	588-2853
Security	Tom Forman	588-7066
Seedlings & Saplings	Tina Hayer	588-0496
	Joe Romine	588-3155

JANUARY BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Board Members Present:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by President Marty Perkins. Present were 1st Vice President Ken Passage, 2nd Vice President Al Isaac, Directors, Dave Conley, Marv Frayer, Scott Hayer, Dan Holzer, Treasurer Priscilla Moore, Secretary Carrie Forfinski was absent.

Manager Present: Gail White

Board of Directors - Actions Taken:

Board heard treasurer's and manager's report and approved payables.

Awarded \$6,000.00+ to Hershberger for replacement windows and repair of the overhang on the pool side wall of the clubhouse.

Approved \$4,500.00 for Timber Lake project.

Ratified 2005 employee bonuses.

Withdrew motion for removal of the E.P.C. chair.

Motion passed unanimously to set 2006/2007 assessments at \$375.00.

Approved the \$15.00 Birch Bark advertising fee.

Manager to provide the written procedure the association follows in lien placement and foreclosures for publication in the newsletter.

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Dear WBLRA Members,

I would like to mention with winter here, even though Doug does a great job on our roads, we need to all slow down a bit. Our roads can be, and are slippery at times. With safety in mind, and the fact we don't have any guard-rails along our roads, there are some pretty deep ditches, BE SAFE.

There have been questions brought to this board through rumors, allegations, asking why do they not do this, why won't they do that? How come they spend this amount of money, on this, and on that?

Folks I would like to say, this is YOUR association, this board is a TOOL, for you to use to take care of what is yours. If you have a chain saw and you do not pick it up, guess what? The tree will still be laying there.

The Board has its Directors' e-mails in the Birch Bark, also with the website coming along, there's a section in the members area called "Ask the Board ". Let us know how you feel. I have always said, this board has an open door policy. If you have something on your mind, let us know, so we may best understand what the people of WBLRA really want.

Have a great month, we are inching slowly back towards SPRING, and the fun starts again. CAN'T WAIT!!! Hope to see you soon.

Marty Perkins



COMMUNITY CORNER

- Congratulations to the Forfinski family on the birth of their new baby girl in December.
- For all their help with the preparation and clean up during the holiday festivities, belated 'Thanks' goes to Angela Bendell, Carolyn Cheadle, Tina and Scott Hayer, Joe Romine, Phyllis and Al Willoughby, Chick and Fred Witchell, and anyone else we may have forgotten.
- Thank you to Georgia Romine for the cupcakes at the January board meeting.
- Wishes for a speedy recovery to Eileen Sullivan who broke her leg in a car accident.
- Great job goes to Joe Romine for finding the property irons and to Dave Conley, Dan Holzer and Fred Witchell for clearing the trees at the emergency exit.
- Thank you to Mark Connelly for volunteering and using his bucket truck to trim tree branches that were overhanging the roads.
- Well wishes to Sherry Graham who is recovering from surgery.
- Congratulations to Jim & Marilyn Lesperance who will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary in January.
- We would like to wish Ashley Hayer, Mackenzie Harmon and Kasie Van Pelt a Happy Birthday in February, as well as Ken Passage who will be celebrating his 50th on Super Bowl Sunday!



SUPER BOWL PARTY and CHILI COOK-OFF

**Sunday, February 5, 2006,
Starting at 6:00 p.m.**

Super Bowl XL is in Detroit this year and the world will be watching. But if you don't have skybox seats for the game, don't despair. There will be plenty of snacks and steamy chili at the clubhouse as White Birchers can join fellow members for our Super Bowl Party and Chili cook-Off.

As in past years, squares are currently being sold (\$5 each) for the football pool. Half the proceeds will go to the winners and half will go toward a planned 4th of July picnic/party for all members. Bring a snack to share and your own beverages

In addition, we will be having a chili cook-off where members can show off their favorite recipes. Most everybody thinks their chili is the ultimate, whether it's chunky and flavorful or melts the pot you cook it in.

Bring a pot of your masterpiece (and the \$2 entry fee) and let's see your best. Voting will be by ballot from among tasters (\$1 will get you a sampling cup from which you can try all the entries). The winner will receive a small prize and bragging rights. And hopefully, no one will receive heartburn and indigestion.

Winter may be in full swing now, but laughter and community can make the days much warmer. Come enjoy with us.



The Birch Bark

CONDENSED MONTHLY INCOME STATEMENT – Dec. 1 - Dec. 31, 2005

	<u>Dec. 1 – Dec. 31, 2005</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>2005/2006 BUDGET</u>
INCOME	14,604.40	416,156.52	435,400.00
Asset Transfer - Grader			27,500.00
TOTAL INCOME	14,604.40	416,156.52	462,900.00
EXPENSES			
Exec. Payroll	13,708.03	114,159.60	143,700.00
Office Expense	2,136.06	15,209.44	14,150.00
Roads	3,074.74	55,080.53	60,200.00
Clubhouse Maintenance	5,505.79	54,105.98	60,700.00
Campground Maintenance	1,318.59	21,235.19	29,160.00
Entrance Costs	498.81	5,312.01	6,000.00
Capital Improvements	1,196.65	3,921.04	25,000.00
Gen. Assoc. Maintenance	1,704.50	26,796.68	24,000.00
Maintenance Bldg.	430.12	1,985.11	3,000.00
Goods for Resale	50.16	4,639.47	5,350.00
Special Events	12.29	1,418.04	1,000.00
Prof. Costs	378.00	7,369.87	6,290.00
Bd. & Committees	51.60	384.38	1,050.00
Security	1,172.84	14,247.69	13,000.00
EPC Costs	0.00	66.05	0.00
Lake Costs	501.14	16,459.68	21,300.00
Taxes & Insur.	3,637.34	22,731.34	20,000.00
Debt Retire.	2,492.39	24,923.90	29,000.00
Lot Purchases	0.00	829.00	0.00
TOTALS	37,869.05	390,875.00	462,900.00
CASH BAL. BY FUND	<u>12/31/05</u>		
General	25,286.62		
Reserve	82,958.95		
Petty Cash	125.00		
Development Fund	23,500.00		
Spa Fund	943.26		
Furniture Fund	3,169.69		
Playground	1,172.64		
TOTAL CASH	137,156.16		

JUST ASK

If members have a question they would like to ask the board or a particular committee, you can do so here. Member questions and responses will be posted as soon as they are received from the person or group responsible for providing the answer.

Please limit your questions in good taste to 500 words and then mail them in care of the board member or group from which you would like a response.

You can also email questions to the addresses listed below.

Please make sure that “**Just Ask**” appears in the subject line of your email so members know that the question is to appear in the Birch Bark.

Marty Perkins, President
martyperkins@sbcglobal.net

Ken Passage, 1st Vice President
Liaison to Communications Committee
kpassage@hotmail.com

Al Issac, 2nd Vice President
Liaison to Future Planning Committee
ajjisaac@toast.net

Dave Conley, Director
Liaison to Activities Committee
manager@whitebirch.org

Marv Frayer, Director
Liaison to Campgrounds and Security
manager@whitebirch.org

Scott Hayer, Director
Liaison to Environmental Protection Committee
lakesidescott@yahoo.com

Dan Holzer, Director
Liaison to the Conservation Committee
manager@whitebirch.org



**CONSERVATION COMMITTEE PROJECTS
FOR 2006**

By: Mike Turner, Chairman-Conservation Committee

The Board of Directors approved the Conservation Committee Projects for 2006 at the January Board Meeting.

The projects include:

- Porta-Potties at Timber Lake and Holiday Lakes-during camping season
- Garbage cans at Timber, Holiday, White Birch Lake and Stuart Park- during camping season
- E. coli testing at Timber and Holiday 'Lake Beaches- 4 sampling events-June, July and August
- Educational and Informational Programs-Speakers Series-Conservation Related Issues-First is February 22 at 7:00pm-Forest Pests and Invasive Species
- Improving Timber Lake Beach Park
- Adding sand to the beach area-making the beach a nicer place to swim
- Installing Swimming Area Buoys-to define the swimming area
- Installing a bike rack-to park your bike
- Installing new picnic grills-so you can picnic at the park
- Defining and developing the parking area-making it safer for everyone · Grading the drive to improve access and reduce erosion into the lake
- *If funds allow*-installing a swimming raft- for your swimming enjoyment

The Conservation Committee would like to thank the Board for their commitment to the Natural Resources within White Birch Lakes.

These projects will be implemented this spring for your enjoyment this summer and for many years to come. Fun-days to compliment the projects are planned for May; the Committee will be providing additional information next month.

The Conservation Committee is also hosting a Conservation Issues Speaker Series. The first of

these events will be held Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00pm at the Clubhouse.

Roger Lintemuth, MSU-Extension's, *Northern Michigan Forest Pest Specialist* will be presenting "Invasive Pests of Michigan Forests." Roger will provide insight into the species that are invading forests of Michigan, how to identify them and what we can do to prevent their spread.

Come out and enjoy the Speaker Series and the refreshments provided by Sylvia Wagner and Theresa Turner. Tom Dorsey will be making sure the coffee pot is on and the coffee always fresh.

See you there!



LOCAL NUMBERS FOR REFERENCE

Clare County Animal Control	989-539-2458
Clare County Sheriff	989-539-7166
Clare County Transit	989-539-1473
Clare County Treasurer	989-539-7801
Consumers Energy	1-800-477-5050
Farwell Board of Education	989-588-9917
Farwell Bus Garage	989-588-9111
Farwell Post Office	989-588-2889
Lincoln Township Fire Dept.	989-588-9402
Lincoln Township Treasurer	988-588-2574
Mid-Michigan Medical Center	989-802-5000
Mid-Michigan Urgent Care	989-386-9911
Poison Control (National)	1-800-222-2122



STILL TIME TO BUY RAFFLE TICKETS

Raffle tickets are still available for the cabinet made by Herbert Breen with 100% of the donations going towards the playground equipment fund.

The cabinet measures 15 3/4" wide, 21 1/2" long and stands 25 1/4" high, has one exposed shelf and an internal storage area with two privacy doors and is stained in golden oak and protected with a polyurethane finish.

Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Tickets will be sold from January 14, 2006 until March 11, 2006 and can be purchased from Joe Romine, Tina Hayer, at the clubhouse, or through the mail.

If purchasing tickets through the mail, please send a check to White Birch Lakes Recreational Association in c/o of the Seedlings and Saplings. Don't forget to include your name and phone number so Tina or Joe can contact you if you are the winner!

The winner will be announced at the March Board Meeting!



WEBSITE UPDATE – CHECK US OUT

The WBLRA website is in the process of being updated. Members can watch as progress is being made.

Occasionally, with these updates there will be times that the site will be temporarily unavailable so the bugs can be worked out.

If anyone has any suggestions for additional information or improvements, please attend our monthly committee meeting scheduled on the 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the clubhouse or email: kpassage@hotmail.com or tmobrecht@ejourney.com.

Check out our progress at www.whitebirch.org and as always, thank you for your patience during this transition.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

CHEESE SPAGHETTI

Pre-heat Oven to 450

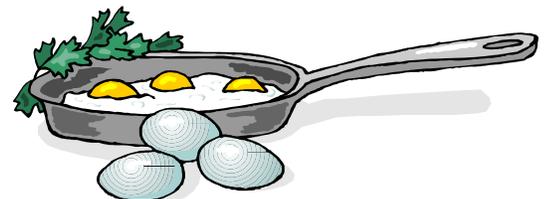
1/2 Stick margarine
1 lb. Cooked, drained spaghetti noodles

Preparation

Use a 13 x 9 inch pan sprayed with Pam cooking spray (or equivalent). Mix cooked and drained noodles with 2 cans heated tomato sauce. Layer noodle mixture with grated cheese.

Lightly pepper each layer if you wish. End top layer with cheese. Cut up 1/2 stick of margarine; put on top layer. Bake in 450 oven until cheese melts and bubbles, 10 to 20 minutes.

Marilyn Lesperance



The Birch Bark

DECEMBER 10, 2005 – APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. All Directors present: Marty Perkins, Ken Passage, Al Isaac, Scott Hayer, Dave Conley, Marv Frayer, and Dan Holzer.

A new flag was presented with color guard provided by Girl Scout Troup 616. Pledge and prayer were given.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Marty Perkins adds assessments and fines to new business and Gail White adds Rustin Lake and Pond bid that was received in the mail to new business as well. Motion by Al Isaac supported by Scott Hayer to approve agenda. Motion carried.

Correction by Al Isaac to minutes in correspondence to Dreyer of Lot 1996 to be changed to 1196. Scott Hayer asks that motions made during the last meeting be clarified. Motion made to table minutes by Scott Hayer and seconded by Dave Conley. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Priscilla Moore states that for the month of November the total income was \$14,165.77 and total expenses were \$30,391.71 with a cash balance of \$158,530.96. Review of communication costs, grading clarification, and training costs by Ken Passage. Marty Perkins offers breakdown of "other" category given by Gail White. Motion to approve treasurer's report by Ken Passage and supported by Al Isaac. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Marty thanks the front end committee for a wonderful job.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Letters available at office) Gail White states Mike and Barbara Valensky of lots 156 and 178 sent a letter and package of hats and gloves to be forwarded to the needy in the community. Toni Passage, #163, writes a letter disagreeing with White Birch's letter from EPC chair Chick Witchell and EPC liaison Scott Hayer to a member in regards to circumstances that caused him to not remove a camper on time. Gail White explains that the letter is a form letter and that apologies have been issued. Marty Perkins relays his disagreement with the letter as well and the procedure used to send out the letters. After further discussion of procedures and letter a motion was made by Dan Holzer to remove Chick Witchell from the chair of EPC. Seconded by Dave Conley. Motion to table issue by Marv Frayer and seconded by Al Isaac until further review of the issue can be completed. Discussion held as to tabling the issue. Vote with roll call requested. Members carried motion unanimously. Gail continues correspondence with letter from anonymous defibrillator donor asking to maintain the defibrillator at White Birch. Letter from Tina Hayer of lot #538 requesting all additional costs that will be incurred if the board proceeds with shed placement on vacant lots and any changes to Covenants and Restrictions. Suggestion by Al Isaac to address Dreyer letter under New Business.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Gail checked with Visiting Nurses about having a Flu clinic at the clubhouse but they have already scheduled all of the clinics for this year and suggests calling in July of 2006 for next year. Thank you to Betty Metz for the rest of the hats that were donated. Also a thank you to Herb Breen for the table that was donated to be sold for the playground equipment. Request for closed session after the meeting for personnel issues.

Motion by Marv Frayer supported by Dan Holzer to pay bills Bills. Electricity doubled from last year at campground. Discussion as to any light problems and shut off time. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Security: Tom Forman unavailable but asked that Gail relay that all has been quiet.

Activities: Toni Passage has nothing new to report.

Entrance: Theresa Turner unavailable but submitted letter thanking the entire entrance volunteers.

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DECEMBER 10, 2005 – APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES Continued...

Letter available at office.

EPC: Chick Witchell, no lot improvements. Committee working on the shed placement issue. Called township and zoning about the rules and regulations but they are still working on their changes. Realtors contacted about value of property with the shed placement. Told that if the sheds are uniform and maintenance free they shouldn't have any effect on the property value. Survey drawn up by committee to be given to White Birch members was read. Discussion as to the costs of survey, sheds, Covenants and Restrictions, storage facility considerations. Wording of survey discussed. Scott Hayer suggests accepting survey with word changes that were discussed and agreed with by Dave Conley. Gail White directed by board to place the survey with revisions discussed into the next Birch Bark.

Futures: Tom Crook absent. Report submitted by Tom Crook to Gail White suggesting that decisions should be made according to the value added to the community for future planning in cases such as the gate, tennis courts and lakes. Letter available at office.

Seedlings: Tina Hayer thanked all those who helped to decorate the clubhouse and discussed the children's cookie decorating party. Also a sledding party is being planned this year. Tina also thanked Herb Breen and reiterated that his donation is intended to be raffled off with the proceeds to go to the playground equipment.

Communications: No report.

Conservation: Mike Turner states that the next meeting is December 19th. Looking into holding an informational meeting for the members on forestry issues such as gypsy moths and the emerald ash borer. The emerald ash borer has been found within a mile of here. Track trees are in Clare County have a ribbon and cut around them with a do not touch sign in order to find the emerald ash borer. Also, the lake benchmarks have been discussed. The original planning included nine plaques but changes in water levels and variables have changed. Al Isaac offers suggestion of information placed together for membership on forestry issues.

Election: No report.

Campground: Fred Witchell states that there are still people at the campground using it. As of December 1st, anyone camping will pay a \$5.00 fee per day for campground fee. Those unable to pay this while they are here due to the clubhouse being closed or other circumstances will receive a bill at the end of the season rather than for each and every use. Everyone that presently has storage or a site will receive a card in the mail that needs to be returned for next year. This card will be kept on file. This will help to keep phone records and information updated.

COMMENTS FROM FLOOR:

Chick Witchell, Lot 648, reminds everyone of the Christmas party and offers a thank you to Dave Conley for candy canes donated. Bill Hammond, Lot 63, states concerns about the maintenance of Old State Road due to safety issues such as emergency vehicle passage and requests that members voice these concerns to the county. States that with 300 homes and 600 votes that the county should be taking care of this road. Mike Turner, Lot 86, suggests that these concerns should be addressed to the elected officials especially due to these numbers. Mark Connelly, Lot 277, offers the use of his bucket truck in order to remove the tree overhang that is in need of being trimmed. Terry Obrecht, Lot 251 discusses the cost concerns of issues versus membership desire to have changes. Asks for clarification of Article 15 of the Covenants and Restrictions. This is read by Gail White. Discussion as to the clarification made by board and membership and what a voting member is defined as. Chuck Hastings, Lot 78, agrees with the survey that is going out with the revisions for the shed approval. Also, asks about what the time period, whether this is a re-audit, and the cost of the audit is for that is being considered by the board. Tina Hayer, Lot 538, requests that Dick Allen be contacted for further interpretation of Article 15 and that he provide a written interpretation to the board before the vote of the shed or any other issue that this may concern. Dan Rahl, Lot 1335, states that he is concerned about the way that the meetings are upheld by the president. Brian Kozlowski, Lot 688, asks for the purpose of the audit, whether it is to satisfy the By-Laws or whether the board feels there is money missing, or concerns about mismanagement. Dave Conley

DECEMBER 10, 2005 – APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES Continued...

states that Marv Richardson brought up some concern at the annual meeting. Marv Richardson denies stating that anything stated had nothing to do with current records or budgets. Toni Passage, Lot 163, asks about the vote that was originally on the ballot before at an annual meeting. Thought that members already voted on getting an audit. Board explained that By-Laws have changed. Fred Witchell, Lot 648, said that he went to the bank in Farwell a few years ago about getting a building loan for a storage facility and that while the information may now be outdated a study had been done on this issue and at the time a profit could be made. Mary Perkins, Lot 1095, voices her concerns that the \$45,000 cost for 16 units only benefits 16 people and that the few thousand dollars that it may cost for individual sheds would benefit many more. Terry Obrecht, Lot 251, states her concerns with a storage facility and that 16 units is not enough for the amount of campers in White Birch. Marv Richardson, Lot 550 and 551, restates that he did state that there were concerns 15 years ago that he doesn't have an answer to but that it has nothing to do with current budgets. Dave Conley restates concerns he has heard from the membership. Marty Perkins states that much of the concern came from the auditor's statement that it wasn't an actual audit but rather only a procedural audit. Mark Connelly, Lot 277, suggests that an audit requires the need to be backed up with a reason. Also voices his concerns with the gate not operating lately. Marty Perkins explains that back up parts are ordered. Ron Tagg, Lot 246, asks why we are continuing to use the exit gate when it isn't necessary. Explanation that people use the exit gate to gain entry. Gail White explained that the entire unit has been ordered. Doug Lake, Lot 1137, explains that he was told that the company told him when it was put in that there wouldn't be any maintenance of the gate and if there was they would come and fix it whenever it was broken. However, they have shown since that that may not show up for a week or two and that he has never received any training yet he is required to deal with the gate. He states that he would like to receive training on the gate so that he can fix it himself and not have to rely on a company that has to come from Detroit. Marv Richardson, Lot 551, states that not only should Doug be trained but information should be provided about how the gate works to help eliminate some of the abuse due to impatience and so forth. Marty Perkins states that requiring the use of proxy cards may help some of the abuse as well. Was told that 75% of the survey put out to the members before did not want to only use the proxy cards. Mike Turner, Lot 86, wanted to know how the membership gets onto the guest panel. Further discussion about the guest panel and problems over the past few years among membership along with the problem of how many non-members have codes. Tina Hayer, Lot 538, asked about the process of receiving a DEQ permit for the lakes. Mike Turner, Lot 86 explains the process further and explains he has already contacted the person needed for this. Marty Perkins asks to close the comments from the floor. Al Isaac asks to put Doug Lake's training on the agenda for next month while Gail looks further into the information needed for it. Motion to close comments by Dave Conley and seconded by Scott Hayer. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Motion for the acceptance of the Election Committee's recommendations made by Al Isaac. Seconded by Scott Hayer. Marv Frayer asks if signature and ID check is required by membership to get their card. Gail White asks Anne Hobart if every member will receive an absentee ballot application. Anne Hobart, Lot #454, explains that those that leave for Florida or elsewhere would not receive the ballot if it did not go First Class mail and further explains that the request for the ballot can go by Birch Bark. Discussion as to whether this can be sent this way or maybe to send out one Birch Bark via First Class when the time comes. Ken Passage asks Anne Hobart why it was felt to be acceptable to have those in the nominating committee run for office. Anne Hobart explains that according to Robert's Rules that those that serve on the nominating committee should not be disenfranchised from running for office. Motion to accept Election Committee's recommendations carried. Marty Perkins thanks everyone who was on this committee for their work. Marv Richardson, Lot 551, requests that the last election results be entered in the minutes. Determined that these results will be entered into next month's Birch Bark. Ken Passage makes a motion to accept the last Communications Committee's recommendation of making the

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DECEMBER 10, 2005 – APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES Continued...

Communication Committee a working committee that will be responsible for the Birch Bark and the Website. Seconded by Dan Holzer. Marv Frayer asks Terry Obrecht Lot 251, about password changes to internet site. Terry explains that this was the committee's recommendation in order to password protect the system so that any changes that are made can be tracked and in order to have a checks and balances system for the board and committee. Marv Richardson, Lot 551 asks for clarification on a working committee versus an advisory committee. Marty Perkins explains that an advisory committee can make recommendations but can not go beyond these recommendations. Al Isaac explains the password protection in that accountability is important in order to know who is entering what information. Scott Hayer voices concerns about volunteers who will lose their say on this committee. Tina Hayer, Lot 538 asks if Pat Graham will be a part of this committee since she had been board directed to run the Birch Bark. It was explained that she had not signed up for the committee. Ken Passage explains that all volunteers are welcome. Marty Perkins asks for vote of the motion on the floor. Motion passed 6-1. Marty Perkins reads list of those on committee: Terry Obrecht, Barb Adair, Tom Dorcey, Todd Graham, Marilyn Lesperance, Monica Meyer, Toni Passage, Mary Perkins, and Joe Romine. Also if Pat Graham would like to be on the committee she is welcome. Tina Hayer requests her name on the list. Ratification of list requested. Ken Passage makes motion to ratify list. Tina Hayer told that her name is on the list if she wants it there. Discussion as to whether the list can be ratified without closing membership to any others who may wish to join. Ken Passage withdraws original motion and asks to make a motion to ratify list without closing membership. Seconded by Scott Hayer. Terry Obrecht, Lot 251, asks if Robert's Rules can be used as a guideline rather than exact rules in regards to volunteers. Gail explains the procedures as guidelines for volunteers. Marv Frayer suggests the list be posted. Marty Perkins calls for vote. Motion to accept the list as an open list carries unanimously. Terry Obrecht is named the chair of the committee.

Motion made for acceptance of Dreyer letter for the easement by Scott Hayer and seconded by Marv Frayer. Ken Passage voices concerns over the easement. Motion withdrawn by Marv Frayer. Al Isaac makes a motion to proceed with the development of the emergency exit. Seconded by Marv Frayer. Fred Witchell explains that some of the markers were torn out by the road commission and a survey will need to be done to replace these. Motion carried. Dan Holzer asks if road commission may be held responsible for this bill.

Marty Perkins explains the Tuesday night meeting in which the board agreed upon the audit. Motion to accept the audit by Dan Holzer and seconded by Dave Conley. Marv Frayer expresses concerns about having only one company that responded. Gail White requests that the dates of the audit be included in the motion. The years 2004 – 2007 to be included in motion determined. The reason for the audit is to be compliant with the By-Laws. Further discussion as to whether the audit will be necessary every year after this. Ken Passage explains that this audit will establish a good baseline to be used from here on. Motion carries unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board discusses who is responsible for issuing fines as to whether the board should be involved in determining fines levied. Dave Conley suggests that there are times when there are extenuating circumstances and special consideration may need to be considered. Ken Passage asks what the current procedure has been. Gail explains that three warnings are given to the member and they are informed of the appeal process at the time. Rustin Lake and Pond letter read by Gail White for the treatment bid of the lakes. Marty Perkins suggests other bids. Al Isaac asks when an answer is necessary so that Conservation Committee has time to review. Gail explains that they need an answer before the end of this year. Mike Turner explains the importance of knowing the acreage covered by the bid and other additional information. Scott Hayer asks Mike Turner for recommendation. Suggestion that since it may be too late for this year that next summer other bids are considered. Dave Conley makes a motion to accept

DECEMBER 10, 2005 – APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES Continued...

Rustin Lake and Pond's letter. Seconded by Scott Hayer. Motion carries unanimously. Marty Perkins asks to meet one week prior to next meeting since the budget is coming up. Marv Richardson, Lot 551 asks when assessments will be going out. Gail White explained that the bills went out after the first of the year last year. Suggestion made that these assessments go out earlier next year.

Motion to adjourn made by Al Isaac and supported by Dave Conley. Motion carried.

MANAGERS NOTE

By Gail White

Congratulations to Les and Anna Sidell, lots 89 and 90 for building the 300th home in White Birch Lakes Recreational Association.

We even have number 301 starting.

Please remember when you come to use the pool, bring your membership card for identification.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

By Tina Hayer

The committee has approved contiguous lot status for lots 89-90 and lots 1252-1253.

This month there was discussion on lot 208 pertaining to the uncompleted structure which is in violation of our building restrictions. The committee decided to ask the Board of Directors to get a legal opinion from Mr. David Dreyer, the association's legal counsel, on how the association should proceed with this situation.

A survey had been placed in last months Birch Bark. The intent of the survey is to explore the possibility of changing the Covenants and Restriction's, at a cost to the association, to allow permanent storage sheds on non-resident lots.

Many surveys have been filled out and returned. Our committee is urging everyone to fill out the survey and mail it in.

We want to know what our membership is interested in. Only one survey per household please.

Thank You,
The Environmental Protection Committee



SEEDLINGS & SAPLINGS

By Tina Hayer

No meeting was held this month. We are still trying to get the children together for a sledding party. This activity is pending until we get enough snow.

Valentine cards and cookies party will be held on Thursday February 9, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. at the clubhouse.

We will be making and sending Valentine cards for some of our members in the association that may need a little cheer, especially during the winter months. The children really enjoyed doing this last year. It brought many smiling faces to our members.

If anyone has a name of a member that you would like us to send a Valentines card to, please call Joe Romine at (989) 588-3155 or Tina Hayer at (989) 588-0496.

The Birch Bark

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association
4730 Lake Road, Farwell, Michigan 48622

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Please submit all articles for the "Birch Bark" newsletter no later than the Friday following the monthly board meeting. Articles can be addressed to the Communications Committee and dropped in the mailbox under the bulletin board at the clubhouse, mailed to the office or emailed to: kpassage@hotmail.com or tmobrecht@ejourney.com