



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

March Issue

www.whitebirch.org

Volume 3

CLUBHOUSE HOURS

Monday	9:00 am	9:00 pm
Tuesday	9:00 am	5:00 pm
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday	9:00 am	9:00 pm
Friday	9:00 am	5:00 pm
Saturday	10:00 am	9:00 pm
Sunday	1:00 am	5:00 pm

POOL HOURS MARCH - APRIL

Monday	4:00 pm	8:30 pm
Tuesday	Closed	
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday	4:00 pm	8:30 pm
Friday	Closed	
Saturday	10:00 am	8:30 pm
Sunday	1:00 pm	4:30 pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday	8:00 am	4:00 pm
Tuesday	8:00 am	4:00 pm
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday	8:00 am	8:00 pm
Friday	8:00 am	4:00 pm
Saturday	8:00 am	12:00 pm
Sunday	Closed	

COMMUNITY EVENTS

04/08/06	Board Meeting	9:00 am
04/08/06	Easter Egg Hunt	1:00 pm
04/17/06	Conservation	6:30 pm
04/24/06	Communications	7:00 pm
05/27/06	Annual Yard Sale, Country Store and Hot Dog Stand	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
05/28/06	Kids Fishing Contest	8:00 am - 10:00 am
06/02/06	Blood Drive	1:00 pm - 7:00 pm
06/10/06	Kids Scavenger Hunt	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
07/03/06	Member Party	T.B.D.

IMPORTANT CHILD SAFETY REMINDER

The bus stop was located on Squirrel Run to minimize the risk of our kids being hit by cars on White Birch Lane. But lately, more and more cars have been seen waiting on White Birch Lane to pick up kids.

When the bus drops them off, the kids run off to the cars and behave...well...like kids out of school. PLEASE. For the safety of all our kids, please wait in the designated parking areas or safely off to the side of Squirrel Run and not on White Birch Lane.

A few seconds of convenience can never be worth harm to a child.

Also, with the weather improving, more kids will be out on our roads. Please be especially attentive and watch your speeds. **Thank you.**

POOL HOURS FOR SPRING BREAK

The pool hours for spring break, March 27-31 will be: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 3:00pm to 8:30pm, Sat. 10:00am to 8:30pm, Sun. - 10:00am to 4:30pm.

THE POOL WILL BE CLOSED ON APRIL 10, 2006 for one week during construction.

We hope to be open again for Good Friday, April 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads for items and services are "FREE" and can be posted by members only.
(Sorry, no real estate ads at this time)

- "89" Perris Pacer travel trailer. Sleeps (4) comfortably. New curtains, spare tire, good for hunting or fishing, perfect for the occasion. **MUST SELL!** \$950.00 or best offer. Call Sam Cohen at (313) 535-2904 or cell (313) 310-7775

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
Treasurer	Priscilla Moore
Secretary / Assist. Treasurer	Carrie Forfinski

STAFF AND COMMITTEES

Activities	Mary Perkins, Secretary	588-3338
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 &	Tina Hayer	588-0496
Saplings	Joe Romine	588-3155

MARCH 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, Dan Holzer, Treasurer Priscilla Moore, Secretary Carrie Forfinski. Board member absent: Scott Hayer

Manager Present: Gail White

Board of Directors - Actions Taken:

Approved February meeting minutes.

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

Tabled paying the auditor bill until a final package is received.

Appointed Carrie Forfinski as Assistant Treasurer.

Approved absentee ballot request form.

Approved board meeting 'Agenda' to be published on the website for member review prior to actual meeting.

PRESIDENTS CORNER

Hello WBLRA'ers,

With spring time approaching, I would like to remind our residents and non-residents that the weather is starting to be spring like; which brings our young people out to play.

They ride bikes, golf carts, recreational vehicles and walk on our roads. This means we need to take the time to pay attention at our stop signs and curves so we don't have any accidents that we would be sorry for a long

time coming. Please drive carefully.

Throughout this year I have seen change within our community. A lot of good things are happening with more members volunteering on our committees, projects and helping people in need.

As you will see in this newsletter we are starting to explain the new election process. I think it's very important you read through these voting changes and if you have any questions, you can contact me or the office for clarification on what you are supposed to do for an absentee ballot.

Voting has to be one of the most important things to keep our community growing and changing for the times we live in. If you feel you would like to get involved and you think you can offer your community a helping hand, you might consider running for the board. You have a couple of months to consider, so give it some thought. We have a wonderful community here, I myself think it is worth working for.

Hope to see you all soon, spring has almost sprung!

Marty Perkins, President

WHITE BIRCH LAKES ANNUAL YARD SALE

**Saturday, May 27 2006
9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

This is your opportunity to conduct a Yard Sale on your property. All publicity and newspaper advertising is furnished at no cost to you!

Open to all WBLRA property owners. This annual event attracts hundreds of shoppers so please plan now, clean out the garage and storage areas.

Sign up sheet will be posted at the Clubhouse.

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Notice of Self Nominations for Board Elections

In keeping with the recommendations of the election committee, the nominating committee for the purpose of soliciting a list of qualified candidates for the upcoming election of board members at the annual meeting in July has been formed. The committee members thus far are:

Al Isaac (committee chair)
Joe Romine
Toni Passage

The election committee recommendation was for a committee of at least 5 members. There is a sign up sheet in the office for anyone wishing to be a member of this committee. Anyone wishing to run for the board can leave their name and an introductory bio letter at the WBL office or send their name and letter to me at ajjisaac@toast.net.

The nomination period will end on June 1st.

It is the intent of the committee to publish the names and letters in both the May and June Birch Barks as well as on the official web site, so as to ensure a greater chance that everyone will see the list of candidates and be informed of their intent to run and their views.

The nominating committee chair and the manager will verify that all candidates are members in good standing per the recommendation of the election committee.

There will be four board positions up for election at the annual meeting.

Any questions may be directed to me by phone, email, or in person. I urge all members to consider running and to be involved in the decisions which affect our entire community.

Al Isaac, Nominating Committee Chair

New Absentee Ballot Procedures for WBLRA Elections

The Board of Directors adopted the recommendations of a committee formed to review WBLRA election procedures at a meeting held on December 10, 2005. The revisions included sweeping changes to the absentee ballot procedures in order to comply with our by-laws. If you plan to vote by absentee ballot, you need to know the following:

- Absentee ballots may only be received if requested by application in writing or at the office in person. No absentee ballots will be sent via the Birch Bark, nor may they be passed out by members or others.
- An application for absentee ballot shall be mailed to all members by April 1, 2006. (The Application form is included on page 4 in this edition of the *Birch Bark*.)
- Applications for absentee ballots shall be signed by the members requesting them.
- Applications for absentee ballots must be received by July 5, 2006 to receive a ballot.
- Absentee ballots must be returned by 4 p.m. July 14, 2006 to be counted.

Although these new procedures may seem more complicated, they were deemed necessary to bring our election procedures in compliance with our by-laws and to ensure fairness and accuracy in our elections. They were also designed to encourage greater membership participation in elections.

For the complete text of the Committee's recommendations, please visit our updated website at www.whitebirch.org and click on the link in the Member's Area that says "Opinion Polls and Voting Issues" or contact the office to request a copy.

Application for Absentee Ballot for 2006 White Birch Lakes Recreational Association Elections

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association (WBLRA) By-Laws provide that members may vote by absentee ballot by requesting a ballot in writing or by personally requesting an absentee ballot at the WBLRA office. The association is also required to provide an application for absentee ballot to all members by first class mail by April 1 of each year.

If you choose to vote by absentee ballot in the 2006 WBLRA elections, you must complete this application and return it to the office. **There will be no ballot in the Birch Bark as in previous years.**

Absentee ballots will be sent out after June 1. To receive an absentee ballot, this application must be RECEIVED in the office before Wednesday, July 5, 2006.

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.)

Member's Signature

Return this completed application to WBLRA, Attn: Carrie Forfinski--Elections, 4730 Lake Dr., Farwell, MI 48622.

If you do not receive a ballot, please contact Ken Passage, 1st Vice President WBLRA at (989) 588-2483.

Office Use Only

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

Not Verified: _____
(initials)

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CONDENSED MONTHLY INCOME STATEMENT Feb. 1 - Feb. 28, 2006

	<u>Feb. 1 – Feb. 28, 2006</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>2005/2006 BUDGET</u>
INCOME	10,175.12	435,390.34	435,400.00
Asset Transfer - Grader		27,500.00	462,900.00
TOTAL INCOME	10,175.12	435,390.34	435,400.00
EXPENSES			
Exec. Payroll	10,696.87	135,421.91	143,700.00
Office Expense	2,101.21	18,712.86	14,150.00
Roads	0.00	58,252.24	60,200.00
Clubhouse Maintenance	5,326.60	64,339.14	60,700.00
Campground Maintenance	506.95	22,472.59	29,160.00
Entrance Costs	1,490.55	7,143.45	6,000.00
Capital Improvements	5.98	4,594.89	25,000.00
Gen. Assoc. Maintenance	2,309.01	31,616.56	24,000.00
Maintenance Bldg.	439.05	2,513.90	3,000.00
Goods for Resale	69.98	4,994.71	5,350.00
Special Events	26.49	1,499.39	1,000.00
Activities	-153.00	-153.00	
Prof. Costs	305.00	7,711.87	6,290.00
Bd. & Committees	43.20	427.58	1,050.00
Security	883.54	16,227.81	13,000.00
EPC Costs	0.00	66.05	0.00
Lake Costs	1,943.67	18,756.69	21,300.00
Taxes & Insur.	0.00	22,731.34	20,000.00
Debt Retire.	2,492.39	29,908.68	29,000.00
Lot Purchases	0.00	829.00	0.00
TOTALS	28,487.49	448,067.66	462,900.00

<u>CASH BALANCE BY FUND</u>	<u>02/28/06</u>
General	19,052.44
Reserve	43,502.43
Petty Cash	125.00
Develop. Fund	25,500.00
Spa Fund	943.26
Furniture Fund	3,278.19
Playground	1,177.12
TOTAL CASH	93,578.44



COMMUNITY CORNER

- Congratulations to Keri McArthur who won 1st runner up in the Shepard, Maple Syrup Festival pageant.
- A special thank you to Barb Adair and Mary Alice Harrington for their donation of dozens of plastic Easter Eggs.
- Thank you to Mrs. Calhoun for her donation of craft supplies to the Seedlings and Saplings.
- Congratulations to Chad and LeAnn Smith and big sister Melissa, on the arrival of their healthy baby boy on Feb. 28, 2006.
- Our sympathy goes out to Bill Ferrell with the death of his wife, long time resident and volunteer, Shirley Ferrell.



RAFFLE AWARD

Our congratulations go to Harry & Helen Thompson who were the winners of the handcrafted oak cabinet donated by Herb Breen.

We would also like to congratulate Todd Graham in his winning 'Free Bread for a Year' donated by Chris Ptaszek.

The Seedlings and Saplings thank all who bought tickets and supported the Campground Playground Fundraiser. **You all helped us raised an AWESOME \$284.00!**

Thanks again to Herb and Chris for their generous donations that made the fundraiser a huge success!

WHITE BIRCH REALTY, INC.

10751 Harrison Avenue • Farwell, MI 48622
(989) 386-6990 • Fax: (989) 386-9770
www.whitebirchrealtyinc.com

STEPHEN F. BRYANT
Assoc. Broker

Authorized Builder

Cell: (989) 240-5893
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ASK THE BOARD

If members have a question they would like to ask the board or a particular committee, they 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/email them in care of the board member or group from which you would like a response. Be sure to put "Ask the Board" in the subject line.

QUESTION:

I know that the lot dues are to generate funds for WBL'S, but the whole set up is wrong. This has nothing to do with the current board or of the past. It has to do with how the whole idea was set up when WBL'S came into being. I think that it does not matter how many lots you own, only one membership should be needed. I have 4 lots; I pay \$1500.00 per year. Lot owners with only 1 lot pay \$375.00. Do I get any more benefits because I own more than 1 lot??? Of course not!!!! So there lies the problem. Everyone with more than 1 lot pays for those with only 1 lot. If the annual dues were \$1000.00 per member (Family), not lot owner, then it would be fair. The way it stands now it's because I am a large land owner I have to pay more for the same benefits, it doesn't make sense. I'm sure all the 1 lot owners would have a fit, but they don't care about the multi lot owners. Why can't you as the new board come up with something that is fair to all!!!! Let's forget about the one lot one vote idea. It should be one vote for every membership and have nothing to do with the number of lots. I have 4 memberships for my wife and I. That is crazy!!! Let's get progressive and more forward. I know that this dues thing is keeping WBL'S for becoming what we all want and that is a thriving wilderness paradise. We should have people on a waiting list to get in here!!!! Thanks for your time.

Respectively submitted,
Richard J. Hess, Lots 930,931,932,933 and Beyond

ANSWER:

Let me answer this as best as I can. 1.) I am a one lot owner because that is all I could afford. That was my choice and that is my financial situation. I knew how much the assessments were when I bought my land. I signed the C&R's knowing full well that there is one lot assessment for each lot owned. The only exception to this rule is a contiguous lot and this was included in the C&R's to encourage people to build, so member's who can afford

more than one lot do in fact get a break on their assessments when they build a home. The C&R's is part of a purchase agreement when you buy into WBL. As long as WBLRA is WBLRA, the assessments per lot can't be changed because you can't alter the purchase agreements of all the members. 2.) You asked what additional benefits do you get with your (4) lots in comparison to those with only one. The person that owns one lot has 100 foot property front, compared to your 400. I guess it is all in your needs. A person with one lot can have only one camper, heck Richard; you can have a mini campground with your four. You also have 4 votes compared to the person with one that has only one vote. As president, I am continually trying to keep the budget down so our assessments stay as low as possible. I can tell you they will not be going up any time soon.

Thank you for your letter and suggestions.
Marty Perkins, President

QUESTION:

In the past (3) years, (3) separate accounting experts (tax preparer in 2003, accounting firm from Clare in 2005 and the new auditors in 2006) have recommended changes to the associations book keeping practices, especially in the area of recording assessments owed and collections. I heard that the recommendation was to consolidate the books. There seems to be something inadequate in the way we keep our books for (3) separate accounting experts to recommend the same changes. The first question is: Why are there two separate areas of recording association transactions to begin with? and the second question is: Does the board intend to take the advice of the paid experts and require that the books be consolidated?

David Obrecht Lot #251

ANSWER:

To answer your first question: we aren't really sure why the books have never been consolidated. I think it was just an out of date practice that has been handed down over time. To answer your second question: Yes, we are very interested in what the auditors have recommended. I plan to discuss the recommendations with the board and hope to adopt the recommendations that make sense for the association. We have a meeting set up on Feb. 24, 2006 with the auditors so they can explain how to implement their suggestions. We authorized training back in August and also plan to install the latest version of QuickBooks.

Marty Perkins, President

JUST ASK - EMAIL ADDRESSES

Marty Perkins, President martyperkins@sbcglobal.net

Ken Passage, 1st V.P.
Liaison/Communications kpassage@hotmail.com

Al Isaac, 2nd V.P.
Liaison/Future Planning ajjisaac@toast.net

Dave Conley, Director manager@whitebirch.org
Liaison/Activities

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

Scott Hayer, Director lakesidescott@yahoo.com
Liaison/E.P.C.

Dan Holzer, Director manager@whitebirch.org
Liaison/Conservation

**CORRECTION TO ASSESSMENT COLLECTION
POLICY**

In the February newsletter the 2003 adopted policy for assessment collection was published.

The policy in regards to the collection process remains the same but as of October 2005, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to give security the authority to uphold the associations By-laws Section 7 - Suspension of Privileges of Membership.

Suspension of privileges and use of the common properties includes admittance to the clubhouse while any charges; including fines owed the association remains unpaid.

We apologize for any inconvenience or confusion that this may have caused.



**FOR SALE BY OWNER REAL ESTATE
LISTINGS**

Check out our free 'For Sale by Owner' real estate listings at: www.whitebirch.org



EASTER EGG HUNT AT THE CLUBHOUSE

APRIL 8, 2006, 1:00 PM

The White Birch Bunny has been spotted. He is hiding hundreds of eggs filled with candy and prizes in our woods. We need all White Birch children to come out and help us find them before the native wild life eats them all. Bring your empty basket and your wide open eyes to see if you can find the egg to get a prize.

If anyone can donate a bag of candy or prizes it would help with the cost of the Easter Egg Hunt. Just drop the items off at the office. Also, if any one can donate time to help stuff the eggs we will be doing this on April 6, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the clubhouse. The bonus part about stuffing the eggs is that you will get to eat a piece or two of the candy...we have to make sure the candy tastes good for the children! Last year we stuffed over 600 eggs. So, if anyone can find the time we would love to have you help.

PLEASE BRING A SNACK TO SHARE (cupcakes, Jell-O eggs, cookies, etc.) Drinks will be provided.

See the Community Calendar for up coming Seedlings & Saplings Events

Thank you!
Tina Hayer and Joe Romine



- Anyone wanting to make a contribution in the way of baked goods, crafts or manpower to the **Country Store** during the annual yard sale please contact a member of the Activities Committee.
- If anyone is interested in ordering trees from the Gladwin Conservation District, Spring 2006 Reforestation Program, the deadline is **April 8, 2006**. Order forms are at the clubhouse.
- The permanent shed survey is still available at www.whitebirch.org under 'Opinion Polls & Voting Issues'.

MANAGER'S NOTE

We have had several reports regarding the bus stop in the afternoons when the children get out of school. Parents are parking on White Birch Lane and the children are running out from the bus. This is a dangerous situation waiting for an accident to happen.

Please, when you are meeting the bus, park at the bus stop and pick up your child there. The bus stop is there for the safety of the children. Please help to keep all of the children out of harms way.

We will be closing the pool for cleaning the week of April 10, 2006. The construction on the window wall repairs will also be done at that time. We hope to be back in business by Good Friday.

If you have questions, give me a call at 989-588-2853 or e-mail manager@whitebirch.org.

I saw the first robins and red-winged blackbirds this morning!! Spring is on its way.



NO OUTSIDE FIREWOOD ALLOWED AT WBLRA

By: Mike Turner

As the camping season at White Birch approaches, many members begin to get excited about the thoughts of being able to enjoy their lots at White Birch Lakes. Some members may dream about being able to enjoy a sunrise or sunset while fishing on one of the lakes, others may dream about riding their A TV around WBL to see what has changed since last summer, while still others may simply dream about sitting around the campfire enjoying the solitude and beauty of WBL.

As you enter WBL for the first time since last fall, you may immediately notice the sign at the entrance that states: Do not bring firewood into WBL. Due to the rapid spread of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), the Board felt it was wise to not allow firewood to be brought into WBL.

If you are one of the members dreaming about enjoying a campfire at WBL, PLEASE remember... DO NOT bring firewood with you! Most everyone has seen the highway billboards stating entering or leaving an EAB Quarantined Zone or the billboards stating: Do not move firewood! Many have also seen the bumper magnets: Don't Move Firewood...! It Bugs Me!

For several members, especially those that live in Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Quarantined Zones, bringing firewood with you to WBL is illegal.

If you live in one of the 21 EAB Quarantine zone Counties, such as: Branch, Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gratiot, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, Saginaw, Sanillac, Shiawassee, St. Clair, Washtenaw and Wayne or in one of the 31 outlier areas within St. Joseph, Van Buren, Berrien, Kalamazoo, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Montcalm, Oceana, Mason, Midland, Roscommon, Huron, Iosco, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Alcona, Montmorency, Presque Isle, Cheboygan, Emmet, Charlevoix, Antrim, Grand Traverse, Benzie or Manistee Counties and you move firewood from these areas to WBL-you are violating the law and could be prosecuted with fines and possible jail time! You could also be responsible for infecting White Birch Lakes, with the Emerald Ash Borer.

All hardwood firewood movement from the 21 Quarantined Counties and 31 Outlier Areas is prohibited! As is moving hardwood firewood from the Lower Peninsula into the Upper Peninsula, other states or Canada! Violations of the EAB Quarantine can result in fines and penalties ranging from \$1,000 to \$250,000 and up to five years imprisonment!

The WBL Board has offered to provide free campfire wood that may be picked up at the Campground so that no one will have to bring firewood from home or possibly be responsible for bringing the Emerald Ash Borer to WBL. There are signs posted at the entrance stating: Do not bring firewood into WBL!

So, before you leave home to begin your camping season at WBL, please remember to leave your firewood at home. You may go to the WBL Campground and get the campfire wood that you need. By complying with the Law, yes-it is the LAW; you will be ensuring that WBL is beautiful for years to come!

For more information or to find out if you live in an EAB Quarantine Zone, please go to the Michigan Department of Agriculture Website, michigan.gov/mda and click on EAB then scroll down to find the EAB Regulated Areas and Recent Detections Map.

With your cooperation, we can keep WBL-EAB Free!



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FEBRUARY 11, 2006 – 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.

Pledge and prayer were given.

Auditor Tina Hopp gives the results of the recent audit of White Birch Lakes. Gives a review of financial statements. Provides suggestions to improve the bookkeeping and records of White Birch. Recommends providing more specific details of expenditures and cash flow, training on QuickBooks after upgrade, reorganizing financial statements, creating a procedural manual, consider changing procedure on past due assessments, and the segregation of duties such as cash receipts and bank reconciliations. Draft copy available at the office.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Additions to New Business: Manager's contract (closed session), pool covers, procedure of transferring funds from line item to line item, and Teal Lake. Scott Hayer motions to accept additions and seconded by Al Isaac. Motion carries.

Scott Hayer states that the January 14, 2006 minutes need to be revised to strike Scott Hayer's withdrawal of the motion to maintain current assessments but rather only to withdraw the motion to accept the budget until after the public meeting. Also the motion to accept the Timber Lake project carried. In addition, add the approved cost of about \$6,000 for the wall at the clubhouse. Motion made by Al Isaac to accept the minutes with amendments and seconded by Dave Conley to approve November and December minutes. Motion passed 6-1

TREASURER'S REPORT: Priscilla Moore states that for the month of January the total income was \$5,858.90 and total expenses were \$28,635.13 with a cash balance of \$114,180.71. Reserves of \$22,000 have been moved and more will probably need to be moved to get through February. The lakes will probably need to be taken from the reserves along with the audit, the regular running expenses, the fuel, and the note payment. Scott Hayer suggests holding off on the Timber Lake project. Marty Perkins suggests the Development Fund. Discussion as to the use of this money as it was set up for long term development of White Birch and Gail explains that this is a Contingency Fund. Marty Perkins states that the motion was made and passed for \$4,500 for the lake project. Discussion as to whether this money is for next year or this year proceeds along with the wall project. Priscilla Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Al Isaac and supported by Marv Frayer. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: No report by the President.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Letters available at office) Gail White provides a letter from Clare Conservation requesting an application for the lake project. Tina Hayer reads a letter from Lenore Hayer requesting an apology from the President and requesting the Secretary to include more of her correspondence.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Gail states that Hershberger Builders will begin on the wall project in March. Also, the pool will be cleaned at this time in order to prevent the pool from being closed more. The bulletin board has thank you notes from the kids at Farwell Schools for the hats and mittens. Thank you Georgia for providing the muffins as well. There have been problems with the gate. It has been broken and two different people have driven through the gate. Restitution is being pursued. Gail is meeting with a representative of Red Cross in order to set up a blood bank in White Birch. Gail also wrote a letter explaining her history with White Birch and qualifications and states her concerns about the president and also the allegations and issues that have arisen currently. She has supplied a copy of this letter at the office.

PAYABLES APPROVAL: Priscilla asks for an explanation of the bike rack and grills. Determined this was for the Timber Lake project previously approved. Marv Frayer asks if 3 places have been looked at for the bike rack and two grills for Timber Lake. Mike Turner responds that this is included in the packet provided to the board and that seven places have been looked at. Scott Hayer asks why there is a difference in price and Mike explains that while some things may cost more than others, such as the buoys cost less. Scott Hayer states his concerns that if the items are off what was proposed then the project may not be able to be completed within the approved budget. Priscilla states that she needs an original copy of the bills in order to support writing a check. Motion by Ken Passage supported by Marv Frayer to pay bill bills. Motion carried.

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FEBRUARY 11, 2006 – APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES Continued...

SECURITY: Tom Forman states that things are quiet. The Sheriff Department was contacted in regards to the gate but there has been no response yet.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Activities: Toni Passage thanks everyone who attended the Super Bowl party. Congratulations to Mike Turner who was the winner of the Chili Cook-Off. Also thanks to all who helped in clean-up. States her concerns about the line item for special activities and whether this line item is for the committee or for anyone with an activity. Would like to have a line item that is specifically for the committee so that any money raised can go into an income area that can be used by this committee for White Birch activities.

Entrance: Theresa Turner restates that the next event will be Easter.

EPC: Tina Hayer states that there was a meeting last Friday. New resident on Squirrel Run, Lot #45. Tree removal on #475 approved. Lot #208 has been sold and a new residence is being planned. The roof of the home on the corner of Hemlock and Laurel has been fixed and is being cleaned up and the bank is intending to sell it.

Futures: Tom Crook absent. Looking for a good time and place for a meeting.

Seedlings: Tina Hayer states that the Valentine party has been rescheduled. Also there is a great area for sledding in front of the clubhouse thanks to Doug.

Communications: Terry Obrecht states that newsletter has been well received for the most part. Received question about the cost of the newsletter in comparison to past years. States that the advertising will make up for the difference in cost of the first class mail. States that only 14 Birch Bark newsletters were returned since the new mailing change.

Conservation: Mike Turner reminds everyone of the February 22nd Conservation Meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the forest specialist speaker.

Campground: Campground closed.

COMMENTS FROM FLOOR:

Debby Gerish, #373 states concerns with the stolen hot tub and says that if the security cameras are not checked regularly she would volunteer to do so in order to ensure proper maintenance and that a good visual is being kept. Dawn Holzer, #1102, commends Doug Lake on his road maintenance and also suggests that in order to have better energy efficiency that covering the sliding doors of the clubhouse may be considered. Bob Adair, #60, read a prepared written statement that is available in the office or Joe Romine. Voices his concerns about the president's actions for in regards to the workshop on property transfers, the Birch Bark, the minutes, spending, and request for apology. Theresa Obrecht, #251 states that the Covenants and Restrictions require the maintenance of the common properties, and therefore White Birch is obligated to maintain the lakes with the assessments. Todd Graham, #957 states that in regards to the recommendation of the auditor to have a board member check the bank reconciliation, he feels that the entire board should review and approve it as a whole as a part of the treasurer's report. Also asks which bid was approved for the wall, the one which removes the entire wall or the one repairing the existing wall (board answers that the wall will be repaired). Also commends Gail White on her integrity and sticking with it. Tina Hayer, #538 states concerns that who the audit was rewarded to and how much it will cost needs to be addressed in the minutes. Theresa Obrecht, #251 asks for a clarification of the auditor's statement in regards to the inadequacy of records prior to 2004. (Al Isaac responds that this was regarding assets in such as the road grader which was purchased without maintaining records of who they were purchased from, cost of maintenance and so forth. Gail and Priscilla state that the documentation is there that it was just not recorded.) Tim Toner, #620 asks Marty Perkins if he feels he owes an apology for the allegations that were previously made (Marty Perkins responds that the questions arose in a workshop as questions and therefore he doesn't feel he mishandled the situation) Lenore Hayer, #697, asks Marty Perkins where he obtained the deed. Toni Passage, #163 states that the same question may be asked of those who obtained a deed of her husband and hers at the August meeting and asks that everyone move forward. Brian Kozlowski, #687 requests that the board determine who is going to oversee the lake project's budget so that the board doesn't have to review every expenditure. Mike Turner, #87 states that there are times when discounts become available and he feels that it is in the best interest of White Birch to take advantage of these. (Priscilla requests that the office be informed when this occurs) Joe Romine, #542 asks if it true that the president has singled out individuals such as Gail and several board members. (Mr. Perkins states that this is not true) Kathleen Kozlowski, #687 offers her support of the statements of Mr. Romine and Gail White. Discussion from the floor proceeds (no lot numbers or names provided) in regards to allegations and rumors of dismissals. Statements requesting mutual respect follow asking that everyone move forward from these issues. Tina Hayer, #538 states that Teal Lake is disgusting and expresses her desire for the board to do something for this lake (Marty Perkins explains that this has been researched and algae blooms

The Birch Bark

FEBRUARY 11, 2006 – APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES Continued...

suffocated the fish and it will be treated this year) Carrie Forfinski, #1099 asks that anytime someone writes any correspondence or addresses the board with a long written statement or letter, that this should be provided to the office in order to prevent extensive typing or communication costs. This is not an effort to sugar coat anyone's opinion but rather to allow them to provide it in their own words.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Gail White states that according to research done by herself and Doug Lake that a pool cover would prevent the dehumidifier from running continually. She expects an expenditure for \$1,000 for a pool cover and a reel. This would be a solar cover that would keep the heat in and would by best estimates pay for itself within a year. Motion by Marv Frayer and supported by Dan Holzer to authorize the expenditure up to \$1,000 for the next budget year. Motion carries.

Ken Passage states his concern with moving money from one category in order to pay for another that has been depleted. States that he would like to see the board be more proactive about staying with the budget by keeping the line items separate and treating them as separate departments unless the board reviews a request for a transfer and then authorizes it. Ken Passage makes a motion supported by Dan Holzer to strictly maintain the budget's line items unless the board is requested and approves a transfer if the need arises. Priscilla Moore asks for a clarification for the flexibility of the line items. Marty Perkins states that this would only pertain to each category not each item individually in the category and Priscilla asks that this be made clear in the motion. Ken Passage amends the motion to state that the budget will be more strictly kept under the main categories of line items unless the board is requested and approves a transfer if the need arises. Motion carries.

Marv Frayer states his concerns with Teal Lake. States that according to the C&R, the lakes are to be maintained and feels that something must be done about it this year. States that the boat to treat the lakes couldn't get to it. Gail suggests providing manpower to carry the boat for them to the lake. Dave Conley states how little water is in the lake and a long term goal may need to be considered eventually, such as digging out the lake. Concerns about the lake dying is discussed. Mike Turner discusses that the weed killer adds sediment and perhaps harvesting the lake should be considered instead. Dave Conley suggests having CMU bring their students out for a project that would provide free suggestions. Gail states that this has been done and an entire proposal was provided. Scott Hayer states while he did support the motion, that perhaps the Timber Lake project should not have been a priority as new details arise. He feels that in terms of conservation, not recreation, there may have been two other lakes (Holiday Lake and Teal Lake) that should have had priority and that Timber Lake may have been a mistake. Gail states that she will contact CMU in regards to Teal Lake.

Marty Perkins appoints Al Isaac to the nominating committee chair. Al accepts.

Marty Perkins appoints Ken Passage to the Teller's committee chair. Ken accepts.

Motion to move into closed session for the Manager's contract made by Marv Frayer and seconded by Scott Hayer. Motion carried.

Motion made after closed session by Marv Frayer and seconded by Scott Hayer to extend Gail White's contract by one year to February 28, 2008. Roll call vote, Aye Marv Frayer, Dan Holzer, Dave Conley, Scott Hayer and Al Isaac. Nay: Ken Passage and Marty Perkins. Motion carried 5-2.

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

The Birch Bark

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

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association
does not endorse and is not responsible for products and/or services advertised in the newsletter.

ADVERTISE IN THE BIRCH BARK

To advertise in the Birch Bark, please call 588-3338. Please note that ads are not automatically renewed and payment must be made prior to listing.

Advertising Rate

One Business Card (2" x 3 1/2") - \$15.00 per month
(One card per business **ONLY** please)

Fees and Ads must be submitted by the 15th of each month preceding the next issue. Business cards must be "copy-ready" or clear enough for clean scanning. Please make checks payable to White Birch Lakes Recreational Association and to the attention of **The Birch Bark** for accounting purposes.



*****ABSENTEE BALLOT*****

REQUEST INSIDE THIS EDITION

Please see page #3 for new absentee ballot procedures and page #4 for the new 'Absentee Ballot Application Form'.



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All committee articles for the "Birch Bark" are due no later than the 5:00 pm, Wednesday following the monthly board meeting. Committee articles can be addressed to the Communications Committee and dropped in the mailbox under the bulletin board at the clubhouse, emailed to: kpassage@hotmail.com or tmobrecht@ejourney.com