

The Birch Bark

Volume 16, Issue 1

March 1999

From the President

Dear Fellow Members of WBL:

At our March meeting we again discussed the Gypsy Moth spraying. As you should know by now, the County **did not** include us in the program for state funded spraying for Gypsy Moth in 1999. It seems they hired a new director and when he looked into the count he didn't think WBL qualified. By the time we were told it was too late to be included. We have arranged for the spraying to be done and to be paid by our current assessment. However, for next year we will not let them exclude us. To be sure this doesn't happen I have all ready contacted Sandy Caul, our representative's office, and I encourage all of you to make contact.

The addresses are:

Representative Sandy Caul
615 Romney Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Senator Bill Schutte
520 Farnum Building
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

Senator JoAnne Emmons
805 Farnum Building
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Board Meeting

April 10th 9 AM at the Clubhouse

May 8th 9 AM at the Clubhouse

Trailers back on Lots

May 15th Stored units can be put back on lots

May 25th Units stored on Campground must be removed

March Minutes

Unapproved Minutes of March 13, 1999 Board Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

President Gail White called the board meeting to order at 9:00am. Present were 1st VP Pat Zakalowski, 2nd VP Steve Bryant, directors Jay Farr, Don Keuster, Linda Brabant and Roy Miller. Also present were manager Tim Fall and Secretary/Treasurer Margaret Lawson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Steve Bryant moved to accept the minutes of February's meeting. Seconded by Pat Zakalowski. All in favor. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Stated income for February was \$3,507.63 and expenses were \$19,666.16 leaving a balance at the end of February of \$15,300.89. Total income for the 1998-99 fiscal year was \$187,426.73 and total expenses were \$259,216.82 leaving an EOY balance of \$15,300.89. Linda Brabant moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Pat Zakalowski. All in favor. Carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID

The bills to be paid in the month of March were presented to the board for approval Steve Bryant moved that we pay those bills. Linda Brabant seconded the motion. All in favor. Carried. Manager Fall has received a bid from Level Propane, which he would like the board to consider. This item will be added to New Business.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Report given by President Gail White.

CORRESPONDENCE

The manager had received some correspondence from the membership and has given them to the appropriate committees.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE-

Chairman Linda Brabant stated that she has not as yet been able to form her committee and she is having trouble getting members. She will place an article in the next newsletter asking for volunteers.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE-

Report given by Billie Roffe.

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A sample letter will be included in this Birch Bark. If you have any questions please call the office.

On a better note, the Committees are working, Campgrounds will have options ready for us soon and we will pass them on for your input. The Activities Committee is continually coming up with fun things for us all to do, and the Futures Committee is working on a list of costs for work that should be done for maintenance of WBL In fact the whole Board is trying to stay on top of things.

As usual I encourage you to contact the office with any concerns.

HAPPY SPRING!

Gail White

Sample Wording for Gypsy Moth Letter:

To Whom It May Concern:

I own property at White Birch Lakes Recreational Association, Lincoln Township, Clare County, Michigan. This past year we experienced a serious escalation of the Gypsy Moth infestation. We are told that funds are available to spray qualifying areas but our county didn't apply for them.

In the past, our 1700-acre, wooded association has had such serious infestation that it has been used as an example of a worse case scenario. We are very concerned that we do not see a repeat of past infestation levels. We are spraying our entire association at our own expense this year. Not only are we disappointed that available funds were not utilized, but also that the surrounding areas in our county are not being treated.

We would appreciate your consideration and any recommendations you might have in this matter.

February 1999 Income

Income	
Assessments	2,855.00
Sales, Permits & Other	652.63
Total Income	3,507.63
Operating Expenses	19,666.16
	<hr/>
Net Income(loss)	(16,158.53)
February "EOM" Cash on Hand	15,300.89

FUTURE COMMITTEE-

Report given by Joni Farr. Discussion of the trailer storage situation and the removal of the abandoned trailers. Jay Farr moved that we send out notification to the membership that all camping units have to be registered and licensed and removed from the storage area by June 20th. Seconded by Pat Zakalowski. All in favor. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Report given by Manager Tim Fall. Discussion on the new electrical feed that has to be installed at the gate. The old wiring is shot. At the same time the manager is also looking into getting new lampposts to replace the mercury vapor lights. Roy Miller moved that we replace the lights at the front gate with 3 lampposts not to exceed \$1,500.00. Seconded by Linda Brabant. All in favor. Carried. Manager Fall is also looking into getting some pay phones for the campground, front gate and inside the clubhouse. He is checking into buying our own pay phones. We have received a quote from "Earls" of \$10.00 an acre to spray for Gypsy Moths this year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-GYPSY MOTH APPROVAL

Manager Fall explained the bid by "Earls", what it included and how it compared with other bids. The total cost would be about \$17,000.00. That is 1700 acres at \$10.00 an acre. Linda Brabant moved that we accept the bid of \$10.00 an acre. Seconded by Don Kuester. All in favor. Carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Frank Zakalowski, lot 1305, questioned the beaver situation.

Joni Farr, lot 931, would like to see the "private property" signs reinstated at the entrance. Manager Fall stated that new ones are in the process of being made.

Steve Bryant, lot 1, stated that we are getting a lot of "outside" snowmobile traffic in White Birch.

Don Kuester, lot 656, questioned the "Automated Gate Entry" topic. Much discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS-PROPANE TANKS

Discussed the bid from Level Propane. The bid is for us to buy the tanks and we would get 44.9 cents a gallon until 2001. The purchase of the 4 tanks we need would be an expenditure of \$4,000.00 of which we would save \$3,000.00 a year in propane fees. If we just purchased 3 tanks at \$3,000.00 the savings would nullify the cost of the tanks. Steve Bryant moved that we purchase 3 tanks and lease the 4th and take the Level Propane bid. Seconded By Linda Brabant. All in favor. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Linda Brabant moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Pat Zakalowski. Meeting adjourned at 10:10am. The next board meeting will be April 10th 1999 at 9:00am at the White Birch Clubhouse.

*RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
MARGARET E. LAWSON
SEC/TREAS WBLRA*

Bulletin Board

Please be careful to observe White Birch Lakes 25-MPH Speed Limit.

We have had several near collisions reported. I know it is difficult to maintain the speed limit on some of the "straight stretches" here in WBL. However, several of our residents are regularly traveling in excess of 40 and 50 mph. Please don't let this point be "driven home" by the loss or injury of one of our members. Thanks for being careful. – Tim

WBL Entrance Lights

The underground electrical feed was evidently damaged by frost. We are aware the lights are out and have contacted an electrical contractor to correct the problem.

Brush Disposal at Old Maintenance – Ski Hill area Discontinued

Due to the liability incurred we can no longer accept brush and tree limbs. We will be able to continue accepting leaves and grass clippings.

Swimming Pool Repainted

Thank you for your patience during the weeks the swimming pool was serviced and repainted. The pool will be open again April 17, 1999.

Burning Permit Required

Burning other than in an approved fire pit requires a permit from the DNR (517-539-1212). Please do not do any burning in WBL unless there has been adequate rainfall and you have provisions readily available to deal with a fire.

WHITE LAW OFFICE

Gerald L. White

104 East Fourth, Clare MI 48617

517-386-2827

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PROPANE

RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL-INDUSTRIAL-FARM

Gypsy Moth Spraying

White Birch Lakes will be sprayed for Gypsy Moth Suppression. Bacillus Thuringiensis (BT) will be used in White Birch Lakes. BT is a naturally occurring substance.

BT is NOT dangerous to humans, honeybees, pets or natural insect enemies of the Gypsy Moth. If a White Birch property owner does not want their lot sprayed they will need to contact the WBL office in writing.

Pets must be leashed

We have several residents that are not complying with our pet guidelines. As our residency increases we must have better control of pets. We will continue to utilize Clare County animal control as necessary. We know you enjoy your pets and we want to keep WBL safe for them as well. Thanks.

White Birch Board of Directors

GAIL WHITE, PRESIDENT

PAT ZAKALOWSKI, 1ST VP

STEVE BRYANT, 2ND VP

DON KUESTER, DIRECTOR

JAY FARR, DIRECTOR

LINDA BRABANT, DIRECTOR

ROY MILLER, DIRECTOR

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association

4730 Lake Road

Farwell MI 48622-9618

Office: 517-588-2853

Email: manager@whitebirch.org

Travel Trailers stored at WBL - Units stored on campsites at the campground must be removed by May 25.

We are planning on excavating the **Camper storage area** this year. All campers in the storage must be clearly identified. We will dispose of unidentified units per the state regulations. We certainly don't want to dispose of a unit in error. However we have accumulated a number of units that are unidentified and appear to be permanently in storage. We must remove them.

For many years, WBL rules have required identification on stored units and have prohibited storage of any unit for more than 12 consecutive months. We need your help in order to provide a respectable storage area for your convenience.

White Birch Lakes

4730 Lake Road

Farwell MI 48622-9618

BULK RATE

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Board of Director Elections!

This year there are 4 director positions to be filled at the annual membership meeting July 17th. It is the ideal to have candidates contact the nominating committee in advance so that their names will be placed on the mail-in ballots and the membership has the opportunity to learn of the candidates' plans and visions for White Birch through their introductory letters in the Birch Bark prior to the election. Unfortunately, it often happens that there are "nominations from the floor" on the day of the annual meeting. Not only does that involve a hurried question and answer period for voting members to learn the candidates' stance on White Birch issues, but those names were not included on the mailed-in ballots.

White Birch Lake is a beautiful and dynamic community with a special meaning for each of us. Our Board needs representation from our experienced owners who know the historical problems at WBL and their resolutions as well as newer members who bring a fresh outlook and an eagerness to become more involved.

The BOD meets in the clubhouse on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Everyone is welcome!

If you are interested in being a candidate or would like to nominate someone as a candidate, please contact either Tim at the WBL office or Linda Brabant at 810-979-7074 (weekdays) or 517-588-3410 (weekends) or send an introductory letter to be published in the June issue of the Birch Bark.

A candidate must be an owner or associate owner. Nominations must be received by June 15th to be included in the newsletter and on the mail-in ballots.

The Board positions expiring this year are Jay Farr, Steve Bryant, Pat Zakalowski and Roy Miller.

Linda Brabant
36536 Bagdad
Sterling Hts, MI 48312