

# The Birch Bark

Volume 16, Issue 2

May/April 1999

## From the President

Happy Spring!

Another month has gone by. Looks like our Activities Committee is remaining very active with the spring yard sale and the parade in June. Details will be in another area of the newsletter.

The annual meeting will be here before we realize it. I hope many of you will be able to attend. We are sending this newsletter 1<sup>st</sup> class mail to assure that those of you living in other parts of the State receive it early. We will put together an agenda for the annual meeting so we can conduct business and accomplish what everyone wants without chaos.

Your board is still working on solutions for problem areas. None are avoided. The Campground Committee is coming up with suggestions, also the Future Planning Committee. We hope to have information together for your input by the next newsletter.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Board Meeting

June 12<sup>th</sup> 9 AM at the Clubhouse

July 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Election

### Pride Week – June 13 - 20

June 19<sup>th</sup> **Parade** (11:00am) and **Picnic** at Campground

## May Minutes

Unapproved Minutes of May 8, 1999 Board Meeting

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jay Farr moved to accept the minutes of April's meeting. Seconded by Pat Zakalowski. All in favor. Motion carried.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary/Treasurer Lawson stated that the income for April was \$26,283.02 with a YTD total of \$162,411.02. Expenses were \$21,917.02 with a YTD total of \$51,276.57 leaving a balance of \$126,435.34 at the end of April. Roy Miller moved to accept the report as given. Pat Zakalowski seconded the motion. All in favor. Carried.

### PAYABLES APPROVAL

Steve Bryant moved that we pay the bills submitted for May. Seconded by Pat Zakalowski. All in favor. Motion carried.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

None.

### CORRESPONDENCE

Steve Bryant received a letter from a member concerning the discontinuance of the "Brush Pile". This item was put under "New Business" for discussion today.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### CAMPGROUND COMMITTEE-

Report given by Roy Miller. Discussed the installation of 3 pay phones in White Birch.

#### FUTURE COMMITTEE-

Report given by Joni Farr. Discussed work to be done at campground area, including the building of a barrier at the storage area to limit access off of Old State Rd. The committee also proposed building a dune area for ATV's to use. This item will be put under "New Business" for discussion.

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE-

Report given by Linda Brabant. Need members to apply for board opening.

#### ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE-

Reported by Linda Brabant. Discussed upcoming events.

*Continued on page 2*

As in every issue, I encourage you to let us know your thoughts. Remember this board is trying to do its best for all the members of White Birch. We need your help.

We will be spraying for gypsy moth this month; Probably before you receive this letter. Treatment for the lakes will also start this month, along with the road gravel. Looks like we are well on the way to summer!

See you soon.

Gail White

**Pride Week – June 13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>**

WBL Spring Spruce-Up!

Volunteers needed to clean campground in preparation for the **1<sup>st</sup> Annual “Fun Festival”**

**Parade** starting at 11:00 AM, June 19<sup>th</sup>. Invite Grandparents, Moms and Dads, Aunts and Uncles, Kids and Grandkids.

Dress-up, Dress-down, Wear a costume, build a float, decorate your bike, golf cart, ORV, lawn tractor; **anything for fun!**

**Picnic** at 1:00. Bring a dish-to-pass and your own beverage

**April 1999 Income**

<b>Income</b>	
Assessments	24,754.42
Sales, Permits & Other	1,528.60
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>26,283.02</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>21,917.02</b>
<b>Net Income(loss)</b>	<b>4,366.00</b>
<b>April “EOM” Cash on Hand</b>	<b>126,435.34</b>

Listing of events to be put into newsletter.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE-**

Reported by Gary Farnham. Discussed new homes and trash and blue tarps on lots.

**MANAGER’S REPORT**

Report given by Manager Tim Fall. Refer to written report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Billie Roffe, lot #651, wanted to request that the Gypsy Moth Spraying not be done during the Yard Sales. Manager Fall stated that the spraying should be done before that time.

It was stated that the members who live down state were not receiving the newsletter in a timely fashion. Manager Fall stated that this is something that he has been looking into.

Sue Franklin, lot#909, had concerns about the amount of tree removals taking place in White Birch. She would like to see this more carefully monitored. She also questioned the camping units already placed on lots before the specified time. It was stated that most had gotten “2 weeks permits” and the ones that didn’t were removed. After some discussion about the “2 weeks permits” it was felt that the rules and regulations concerning camping on lots should be published in the newsletter again.

Larry Franklin, lot #909, wanted to address the problem of items left on lots after the camping season ends. A rental storage area was discussed. This item will be put under “New Business” for next month’s meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**BRUSH PILE-**

Steve Bryant moved that we go back to having a brush pile (to be brush only) and to have a supervised burn by the association. Jay Farr seconded the motion. After some discussion Steve moved an amendment to his motion to charge a fee to deposit brush and have it be monitored. Seconded, Jay Farr agreed to the amendment. A vote was taken on the motion with Jay Farr and Steve Bryant voting aye and Don Kuester, Linda Brabant, Pat Zakalowski and Roy Miller voting nay. Motion failed by a 4 to 2 vote. Many board members felt they needed more information about this before making a decision. This will be added to the agenda for next month’s meeting under “Unfinished Business”.

ATV DUNE AREA - Tabled till next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Linda Brabant moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Pat Zakalowski. Meeting adjourned at 11:00am. Next meeting will be Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at the White Birch Clubhouse.

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

# April Minutes

Minutes of April 10, 1999 Board Meeting

## CALL TO ORDER

Vice President, Pat Zakalowski, acting as President for today's meeting, called the meeting to order at 9:00am. President Gail White could not attend the meeting today. Present were 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Steve Bryant, directors Roy Miller, Linda Brabant, Jay Farr and Don Kuester. Also present were Manager Tim Fall and Secretary/Treasurer Margaret Lawson.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Linda Brabant moved to accept the minutes of March's meeting as written. Seconded by Steve Bryant. All in favor. Carried.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary/Treasurer Margaret Lawson stated that income for the month of March was \$136,128.00 and expenses were \$29,359.55 leaving a balance of \$122,069.34 at the end of the month. Linda Brabant moved to accept the report as given. All in favor. Motion carried.

## PAYABLES APPROVAL

The secretary/treasurer presented the bills to be paid for the month of April to the board for approval. Steve Bryant moved that we pay those bills. Seconded by Don Kuester. All in favor. Carried.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Report given by 1<sup>st</sup> VP Pat Zakalowski.

## CORRESPONDENCE

None.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE-

Report given by Chairman, Billie Roffe. Discussed upcoming events.

### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE-

Report given by Chairman Gary Farnham. Discussed various problems including disregard of the speed limits in White Birch. He also discussed the problem we have had lately with outsiders coming into White Birch late at night to hide out and drink on our roads and the litter that they leave behind.

### MANAGER'S REPORT

Report given by Manager Tim Fall. Manager Fall stated

that the pool and the guardhouse will have normal hours starting next week. He also stated that the lights at the entrance should be fixed by Sunday. He will also have the new accounting system finalized soon and will be purchasing a new label printer. Manager Fall stated that he would be addressing the free access to our roads by after hour's drinkers and the unsightly camping spots that are left all winter.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The board discussed the removal of the abandoned trailers at the storage area. After the trailers are identified and the owners notified they will be removed. We already have someone contracted to remove them for us.

## COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Jack Jenkin, lot #104, wanted some information on what White Birch is going to do about the low water level in Holiday Lake. He stated that there is a well there that can be pumped to build up levels. Steve Bryant stated that the level right now is where the lake was originally staked and the levels the previous years' was too high. Manager Fall stated that he is monitoring the lake level situation and will not let it get out of hand.

Gary Farnham, lot #637, asked what the Bertha Lake situation was and if they still wanted to pump their water out through our lakes. Manager Fall stated that there is no new information that would lead us to believe that they will.

Roy Miller, lot #636, asked if the dry hydrants have ever been installed. Manager Fall stated that he is still working on this and should have them in before too long. He will have more information for the board at next month's meeting.

The board and the members attending the meeting had a lengthy discussion about speeding on our roads and what can be done about it. The board will send a letter to the sheriff's department requesting that they patrol our roads and issue tickets to offenders.

## NEW BUSINESS

None.

## ADJOURNMENT

Steve Bryant moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Linda Brabant. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:50am. The next meeting will be Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at the White Birch Clubhouse.

*RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,*

*MARGARET E. LAWSON*

*SEC/TREAS WBLRA*

## Board of Director Elections!

This year there are 4 director positions to be filled at the annual membership meeting July 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup>** 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

White Birch Realty Ad

## Changing, Growing, Getting Better

“Growth always requires change. However, change doesn’t always result in growth.”

For many people change is always uncomfortable. It doesn’t matter whether the change is beneficial or detrimental it is always viewed with distaste; probably because it moves them from their comfort zone. You have friends that probably came to mind as you were reading. They are people you can depend on. You know they will always object to change no matter what it is.

This is certainly a time of change at WBL. It is also a time of growth. However there is a difference in growth as it pertains to the number of homes, or the amount of traffic and growth as it pertains to the integrity and structure of our association. We are experiencing growth both in numbers and the quality of structure. My ambition is to perpetuate and steer this growth in the direction that will be the most advantageous for you as a WBL member. I realize that sometimes that will not be pleasing to everyone. We have to stay focused on our future. Our Restrictions gives is the direction to enhance, protect the value, desirability and attractiveness of our development.

I believe one of our greatest needs is good leadership. For you as members that means you have to look at your responsibilities. Are you a potential candidate for the WBL Board of Directors? Do you have abilities that would benefit one of the committees that will be appointed this year after the Annual Meeting. The time commitment is not that great; probably only 20 – 40 hours in a year of service. You make a difference. Just as your service can make a difference, your lack of availability can have an even greater negative effect. We will build our future on good people. Not people driven by vendettas and special interest but rather by people who believe in the future and in the value of their fellow mankind.

We have some “difference makers” that have made great contributions to WBL. We need more for the future to be built on the right values. I encourage you to make yourself available. Stop by or drop us a note.

Thanks for your support and the suggestions that you keep coming my way. Tim Fall, General Manager

### Committees and positions you might consider:

Environmental Control Committee	Campground Committee
Activities Committee	WBL Board of Directors
Future Planning Committee	Security

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104 East Fourth, Clare MI 48617

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## **Unidentified Travel Trailers to be Removed**

Please make sure that any unit in the WBL Storage area is registered with the office and clearly identified. We will be disposing of travel trailers that are not in compliance with WBL regulations. We do not want to dispose of a unit in error; make sure you are in compliance. We want to improve this area and make it more accessible. There is a copy of the Storage regulations in this issue.

## **White Birch Board of Directors**

GAIL WHITE, PRESIDENT

PAT ZAKALOWSKI, 1<sup>ST</sup> VP

STEVE BRYANT, 2<sup>ND</sup> 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](mailto:manager@whitebirch.org)

**Thanks for your help!** - A number of our members helped clean up the debris that was left by the spring storms. We also enjoy the benefit of a number of volunteers that have served in other areas. We have an excellent activities committee. Many of you have helped them this year. Our Adopt-a-highway program is a great success. We have had a great commitment from our Environmental Control Committee. The campground and security committee as well as a number of other committee members has made substantial contributions this year. Thank you to all the volunteers that help make WBL such a great community.

## **White Birch Lakes**

4730 Lake Road

Farwell MI 48622-9618

