



# 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

May Issue

[www.whitebirch.org](http://www.whitebirch.org)

Volume 5

## CLUBHOUSE HOURS

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

## POOL HOURS JUNE – JULY

Monday	1:00 pm	8:30 pm
Tuesday	1:00 pm	8:30 pm
Wednesday	<b>Closed</b>	
Thursday	1:00 pm	8:30 pm
Friday	1:00 pm	8:30 pm
Saturday	10:00 am	8:30 pm
Sunday	10:00 am	5:00 pm

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday	8:00 am	4:00 pm
Tuesday	8:00 am	4:00 pm
Wednesday	<b>Closed</b>	
Thursday	8:00 am	8:00 pm
Friday	8:00 am	4:00 pm
Saturday	8:00 am	12:00 pm
Sunday	<b>Closed</b>	

## COMMUNITY EVENTS & MEETING SCHEDULE

06/02/06	Blood Drive	1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
06/10/06	Board Meeting	9:00 am
06/10/06	Conservation Speaker Series	12:00 pm Campground Pavilion
06/10/06	Kids Scavenger Hunt	1:00 pm -3:00 pm
06/17/06	4-H Club Camping Weekend	9:00 am Campgrounds
06/18/06	Fathers Day Breakfast	8:00 am - 11:00 am
06/19/06	Swim Classes Start	Between 8:30 am – 9:00 am
06/19/06	Conservation Meeting	6:30 pm
06/26/06	Communications Meeting	7:00 pm
07/03/06	4 <sup>th</sup> of July Parade	12:30 pm
07/03/06	Member Party	1:00 pm -9:00 pm
07/15/06	Annual Meeting – Election of Officers	9:00 am Campgrounds



**From Left to Right:** WBLRA Board Member's Dan Holzer, Marty Perkins, Dave Conley, Al Isaac and Ken Passage all helped with the cleanup.

## *Timber Beach Progress*

Timber Beach Cleanup began on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> and was a huge success. It's absolutely amazing what a little TLC and a lot of hard working members can do in only one day!

Clean up started about 9:00am and continued until well after 6:00pm. Twenty-three members, five of which were WBLRA Board Members, were there to make it happen.

Over 220 volunteered man-hours were donated in the effort to make the Timber Beach commons something that all WBLRA members can be proud to call their own.

To see more great photos go to the 'Highlights' page in the Members Area at [www.whitebirch.org](http://www.whitebirch.org)!

# The Birch Bark

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President</b>	Marty Perkins
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	Ken Passage
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	Al Isaac
<b>Director</b>	Dave Conley
<b>Director</b>	Marvin Frayer
<b>Director</b>	Scott Hayer
<b>Director</b>	Dan Holzer
<b>Treasurer</b>	Priscilla Moore
<b>Secretary / Assist. Treasurer</b>	Carrie Forfinski

## STAFF AND COMMITTEES

<b>Activities</b>	Christina Van Pelt	588-3338
<b>Campgrounds</b>	Fred Witchell	588-6797
<b>Communications</b>	Terry Obrecht	588-0347
<b>Conservation</b>	Mike Turner	588-6496
<b>Entrance</b>	Theresa Turner	588-6496
<b>E.P.C.</b>	Chick Witchell	588-6797
<b>Future Planning</b>	Tom Crook	588-0202
<b>Manager</b>	Gail White	588-2853
<b>Security</b>	Bruce Rouston	588-7066
<b>Seedlings &amp;</b>	Tina Hayer	588-0496
<b>Saplings</b>	Joe Romine	588-3155

## MAY 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, **Absent:** Secretary Carrie Forfinski.

### **Manager Present:** Gail White

### **Board of Directors - Actions Taken:**

Approved April meeting minutes with one word correction in Campground Report.

Board heard treasurer's report and accepted Income Statement with correction of \$60 to April ad sale income, \$1,000 discrepancy in the total budgeted expenses to come out of utilities.

Heard manager's report.

Approved payables but tabled paying auditor bill until explanation of charges is received.

Tabled purchase of gravel for Timber Beach until review of project costs thus far.

Tabled shed issue on ballot until further investigation.

Accepted Teller Committee process recommendations.

\*\*\*\*\*

## PRESIDENTS CORNER

Hello White Birch Members,

I am trying to figure out what time of the year I like the best, Christmas Holidays or the spring time when

everyone comes back to Whitebirch. The campfires, the get togethers, cookouts and the meeting of old friends, I believe this is what makes WBLRA so special.

This Board has taken a lot of care to be involved with its committees to improve the parks and the commons for all members. I would like to say we ALL own these parks and commons so let's take care and try and help to keep them clean.

I would like to think everyone will treat their neighbors like they themselves would like to be treated. Last year we did have some problems with people riding their ATV'S on the pipeline in back of Pine Run. This is private property, like the property you own. Some think the pipeline is owned by the power company. It isn't. Individuals just like you and I own that property and should be shown the same respect for their private property as we expect for ours.

Let's have fun this year, cruise on the roads and enjoy this great place we are blessed to have.

The Election is coming up quick, if you want a say in how your WBLRA is run, voting is a very important part. This is the last newsletter that will have the Application for Absentee Ballot. If you can make the election on the 15th of July at the camp grounds great, but if not you can still vote by absentee ballot for each lot you pay assessments on.

I hope we all have a safe and fun spring & summer.

Hope to see you all soon,  
Marty Perkins  
President of Directors





**COMMUNITY CORNER**

- Our sympathy goes out to Marilyn Glass in the passing of her husband and long time resident Henry.
- Thank you to Fred and Chick Witchell for their generous donation of the Flowering Crab that has been planted in the clubhouse courtyard in memory of Shirley Ferrell.
- We would like to thank the Conley's, Tom Dorcey, the Engleman's, Gary Farnham, Kitty Garant, Bill Hammon, the Holzer's, Al Isaac, Matt Lucas, the Obrecht's, the Passage's, the Perkins, Ron Perkins and the whole Turner family for donating the time, effort, heavy equipment, fuel, vehicles, brush hog, mowers, chain saws, misc. yard equipment, food and all the fixings.
- Thanks to Doug Lake for doing such a great job raking and grading the beach at Timber Lake.
- We would like to thank Ryan Racine for donating and placing the cedar mulching in the center flower bed at the clubhouse.

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**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)

American Turquoise Unlimited is here...We are custom Turquoise artists that create whatever you like in Turquoise that we saw, cut and polish ourselves. Nothing imported, machined or stamped, only hand made, wholesale pricing for quantities. Pendants, bracelets, earrings, rings, etc. Contact Mark Connelly at (314) 581-1673 or via email at skidmark@earthlink.net.

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**LETTERS FOR CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR THE BOARD DUE JUNE 1st**

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](mailto:ajjisaac@toast.net).

The nomination period will end on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

It is the intent of the committee to publish the names and letters in the June Birch Bark 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

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**BOARD SEATS TO BE FILLED**

This year four seats on the board will be voted on at the annual election. Of the four highest vote getters, three will receive three year terms and the fourth will receive a one year term.



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## The Birch Bark

### CONDENSED MONTHLY INCOME STATEMENT Apr. 1 - Apr. 30, 2006

	<u>Apr. 1 – Apr. 30, 2006</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>2006/2007 BUDGET</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>35,314.62</b>	<b>258,137.99</b>	<b>442,000.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Exec. Payroll	10,807.04	20,810.33	135,300.00
Office Expense	1,894.26	3,890.58	17,250.00
Roads	0.00	219.75	37,900.00
Clubhouse Maintenance	7,011.98	10,583.96	63,700.00
Campground Maintenance	2,216.04	2,780.15	24,350.00
Entrance Costs	377.51	933.83	6,800.00
Capital Improvements	7,304.16	7,304.16	23,000.00
Gen. Assoc. Maint.	1,528.81	3,313.05	32,100.00
Maintenance Bldg.	65.97	261.63	3,750.00
Goods for Resale	161.21	252.93	5,000.00
Special Events	12.57	150.78	1,000.00
Professional Costs	503.85	5,559.85	10,000.00
Bd. & Committees	15.20	29.24	600.00
Security	679.91	1,186.45	13,800.00
EPC Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lake Costs	7,315.37	7,661.54	21,450.00
Taxes & Insurance	17,032.10	17,032.10	23,000.00
Debt Retirement	2,492.39	4,984.78	24,000.00
Lot Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>59,418.37</b>	<b>86,955.11</b>	<b>442,000.00</b>

<b>CASH BALANCE BY FUND</b>	
	<b>04/30/06</b>
General	52,173.63
Reserve	174,064.96
Petty Cash	125.00
Dev. Fund	26,500.00
Spa Fund	943.26
Furniture Fund	3,397.19
Playground	1,460.12
<b>TOTAL CASH</b>	<b>258,664.16</b>



WBLRA and Michigan Community Blood Centers will be hosting a blood drive on Friday, June 2, 2006.

**1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse**

If you wish to participate, please call the office at (989) 588-2853 as soon as possible and schedule your appointment so you don't have to wait in line.

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### CONSERVATION SPEAKER SERIES

Article by: Mike Turner

#### A "Walk in the Woods" with Forester, Gary Bucklin

The next Conservation Speaker Series will be: "A Walk in the Woods" featuring Clare Conservation District Forester, Gary Bucklin. It will be held Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at noon at the WBLRA Campground Pavilion.

Gary is a professional forester with over 20 years experience assisting landowners. Gary is available to answer forestry related questions for all Clare County landowners.

Come out and enjoy a couple hours "in the woods" as Gary answers questions and provides insight into forestry issues within WBLRA.

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FAX. 989-539-3114



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JIM REINKE

**NEWSLETTER CORRECTION**

The correct telephone number for Clare County Animal Control is 989-539-3221.

We apologize for any inconvenience that the error may have caused the member's.

**FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES PLEASE DIAL - 911**



**SALUTE TO OUR TROOPS PARADE AND MEMBERS PARTY**

**Monday, July 3, 2006 12:30pm to 9:00pm**

We will be celebrating the 4th of July on July 3rd this year. We will begin the day with a **Salute to our Troops Parade** followed by the member's party.

The parade will start at 12:30 pm at the corners of Squirrel Run and White Birch Lane and proceed to the campgrounds where the member's party will begin. So please have your golf carts, bikes, ATV's or vehicles you will be riding on in the parade decorated, and there by at least 12:15 so we can get everyone organized and ready to go on time.

We will be providing the meat, condiments, and punch for the party. All we ask is that you please bring your favorite side dish to pass.

There will be games and fun activities for all and we will also be having a live DJ later in the afternoon.

If anyone is interested in helping with anything during the day, please contact me at 989 588-3338 and let me know. We would appreciate any help that you can give.

Thank You,  
Christina Van Pelt, Chairman-Activities Committee

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**SEEDLINGS & SAPLINGS**

Article by: Tina Hayer

Summer is almost here. The children will be out of school soon. We hope all the kids will get out and enjoying our wonderful lakes, pool, parks, and beaches this summer.

Our group has a few summer activities already planned. The hot dog/lemonade stand on May 27, the Children's Fishing Contest is May 28 and the Seedlings and Saplings scavenger hunt will be June 10. We may be planning a teen bonfire, frog jumping contest, and another carnival, etc.

We welcome anyone's suggestions to make this summer filled with fun for all the children. Lets all get out and enjoy the outdoors.



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**GLADWIN COUNTY 4-H CLUB  
TO INSTALL BIRDHOUSES & WOOD-DUCK  
NESTING BOXES**

Article by: Mike Turner

The weekend of June 17<sup>th</sup>, the Gladwin County FISH 4-H Club will coming to WBLRA to install the Bluebird houses and Wood-duck nesting boxes that they built courtesy of a \$125 donation by WBLRA Member Tom Dorcey.

The youth (and their parents) will be installing the houses and nesting boxes on WBLRA Commons Areas such as: at the campground, Holiday Lake, White Birch Lake, Timber Lake and Teal Lake. So, if you see these folks, take the time to visit with them and say thanks for improving bird habitat (and reducing mosquito populations) for the future. Or better yet, offer them a cold drink as they improve bird habitat at WBLRA.



## ASK THE BOARD

If members have a question they would like to ask the board, board member 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 **150** 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:

Hi Marty,

There seems to be some confusion among a few members with the differences between the "Financial" audit just completed and the "Procedural" audits performed for WBLRA in the past. In August 2004, the tax preparer writes in regards to his review of the financial statements for the period ended February 29, 2004, "It is substantially less in scope than an audit or examination in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards". The statement was also made at the 2005 Annual Meeting by the representative of the company that prepared the 2004/2005 procedural audit that the service performed "Was Not" a financial audit.

Could you please explain the benefits gained by WBLRA in contracting a firm to provide a complete financial audit?

Terry Obrecht, Lot #251

### ANSWER:

Hello Terry,

By having an auditing company come in and perform a financial audit;

- 1) We would be following the by-laws from which we are governed.
- 2) We would then have a principle number that we can audit from in the future and have checks & balances in place to hold the Board and Management accountable.
- 3) We would insure the good folks of WBLRA that we as a Board have tried to control their money in the most responsible way.

We did sign a contract with McMahan & Thompson to perform financials audits for the years 2004/05, 2005/2006 and 2006/2007. When this contract is near completion the association should look to see if it makes sense to amend the By-laws to contract this service once every 3-5 years instead of yearly.

The contract was awarded by the Board on 12/10/05, was voted on by all Board members and passed by a 7-0 vote.

Marty Perkins

## ASK THE BOARD - EMAIL ADDRESSES

Marty Perkins, President	martyperkins@sbcglobal.net
Ken Passage, 1 <sup>st</sup> V.P. Liaison/Communications	kpassage@hotmail.com
Al Isaac, 2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P. Liaison/Future Planning	ajjisaac@toast.net
Dave Conley, Director Liaison/Activities	manager@whitebirch.org
Marv Frayer, Director Liaison/Campgrounds and Security	manager@whitebirch.org
Scott Hayer, Director Liaison/E.P.C.	lakesidescott@yahoo.com
Dan Holzer, Director Liaison/Conservation	manager@whitebirch.org



## FUTURE PLANNERS WANTED

Anyone interested in serving on the Futures Committee should contact either the office, at 989-588-2853 or Joe Romine at 989-588-3155, pm81@toast.net. Please leave your name and phone number and/or email address and you will be contacted.

Thank you,  
Joe Romine



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### TIMBER BEACH PROJECT BEGINS

Article by: Mike Turner

On Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, twenty-three neighbors including WBLRA Board Members: Dave Conley, Dan Holzer, Al Isaac, Ken Passage, and Marty Perkins joined forces to rake and load leaves, install posts, dig post holes, remove three trees and stumps and grade parking areas at Timber Lake Beach Club.

Seven truck loads and six trailer loads of leaves were raked up along with four truck loads of brush and hauled to the compost pile. Five truck and six Mule loads of wood were hauled to the campground for campers' use.

Board member-Dave Conley brought his Case skid steer with several attachments and donated their use to assist with improving the parking areas and road; several members brought hand tools and put them to good use.

Volunteers enjoyed a picnic lunch donated by Marty Perkins.

The Saturday before, three members planted over fifty trees and shrubs to enhance the beauty of the park. Several members came out to assist with cutting and hauling away wood that had been cut down this winter by Doug. Doug also brought in a load of compost that was spread out. A member donated 1/2 pound of wildflower seeds that were planted in the compost.

The beach sand was delivered on May 13. Braving the rainy weather, Doug used the WBLRA loader tractor to move the sand onto the beach area as three other members raked and hauled away two more trailer loads of leaves and one truck load of brush. The sand will need to be shoveled into the lake, so if anyone has some spare time, grab a shovel and shovel some sand into the lake.

The garbage cans, grills, swimming buoys and porta-potty will be in place before Memorial Weekend. If you haven't been by Timber Lake Beach Club, take a minute to see what members can accomplish "working together."

### GREAT MOTHERS DAY BREAKFAST

Article by: Fred Witchell

A Mothers Day breakfast was enjoyed by many (92) on a beautiful Sunday morning. This year's menu included pancakes, sausages, fruit cup and eggs a new item which went over big with all the guests.

Thanks go out to the following gentlemen for this wonderful breakfast, Bill Ferrell, Joe Romine, Marvin Frayer, Greg Hernden, Al Willoughby and Fred Witchell.

Also some wanted to donate for this great breakfast, so now the playground fund has \$ 23.00 extra dollars.

Don't forget the Fathers Day Breakfast on June 18<sup>th</sup>.

### ONE VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nomination Committee is looking for one additional member to volunteer their services. The election committee recommendation was for a committee of at least 5 members.

The committee members thus far are:

Al Isaac (committee chair)  
Joe Romine  
Toni Passage  
Bob Adair

There is a sign up sheet at the clubhouse for anyone wishing to be a member of this committee.

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

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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, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President WBLRA at (989) 588-2483.

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## Office Use Only

Membership Status Verified: \_\_\_\_\_ Ballot Number(s) Issued \_\_\_\_\_  
(initials)

Not Verified: \_\_\_\_\_  
(initials)

# The Birch Bark

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## APRIL 8, 2006 – APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

Pledge and prayer were given.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** Additions to New Business: Dave Conley requests a closed session for current litigations. Ken Passage adds 2006 election ballot and also the proper procedure for boat storage and campgrounds and campers also added to agenda.

Motion to accept Agenda by Dave Conley and seconded by Dan Holzer. Motion carried.

Motion to accept March Minutes by Ken Passage and seconded by Scott Hayer. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Priscilla Moore stated that for the month of March the total income was \$221,516.38 and total expenses were \$27,536.74 with a cash balance of \$281,535.79. Discussion on how to handle the Super Bowl money so that it remains in the donation fund for the Fourth of July is delayed for later discussion. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Dave Conley and supported by Al Isaac. Motion carried.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Marty Perkins comments on the current litigation and states that it is with the attorney at this time. Stated that controlled burns are fine and in the case of Dan Holzer, he had a permit, extinguishers and people present. The fire department was called and deemed it under control and proper. However, there have been cases of people starting a fire and going into their homes and not watching it. This is not controlled and also reminded everyone that permits are necessary from the DNR at 539-1212. Also reminded everyone that any costs incurred from a controlled burn that gets out of control that the fire department has to put it out will be the obligation of the person responsible whether a permit was issued or not.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** (Letters available at office) A letter from Kathleen Kozlowski #688 stated concerns about the recent audit and expenses incurred from it and expressed that due to the similarities in findings from the first audit and recent one that it was a waste of money. Another letter from Gary Cheadle #1010 asked what the purpose of the audit was and why no one has been charged with anything if that was the purpose. A letter from Marv Richardson #551 was read that expressed concern about an advertisement in the Birch Bark extending privileges to a member that is in current litigation. (Marty Perkins stated that advertisements are not limited to members of the association but are rather a paid space.)

**MANAGER'S REPORT:** List of those that are facing foreclosures has gone to the attorney, David Dreyer, and letters will be sent out from their office this week which is the first step. Also wanted to clarify the interpretation of the Covenants and Restrictions. Stated that past practice of amending these Covenants and Restrictions has been to have the majority of the Board vote but others feel it should be the majority of the members available to vote. Therefore this has been forwarded to David Dreyer for a legal opinion. Summer clubhouse and pool hours are starting next month. Construction is beginning the week after the meeting to the clubhouse. Also there were broken pipes at the campground but an adjuster is coming to review the damage due to the damage being a product of the propane not being filled on a timely manner and it is expected that White Birch will not be responsible for this cost. Gravel is arriving the 24<sup>th</sup> of April. Also, Gail clarifies that it is accurate that four Board members are up for reelection, two will be elected for 1 year and two will receive 3 years. A notification from Mid Michigan Blood centers was received and there will be a blood drive on Friday, June 2, 2006 from 1-6:00 in White Birch. Also provided a list of those going up for tax sale. Provided information about the riding lawnmower and requests a motion to approve the expenditure. (Follow-up determined). Also discussed a bill from McMahan and Thomson which was over and above the stated cost due to the software and a follow-up appointment that they were not aware they'd be charged for.

**PAYABLES APPROVAL:** Marty Perkins asks about the insurance bill to Schofield insurance. Gail explains that this bill is a lump sum for everything including all buildings and so forth. Scott Hayer asks if White Birch was aware of the follow-up charge. Gail explains that it was in the contract and Marty Perkins explains that she came in at an additional time. Also Priscilla asked if the \$5,000 has been approved yet. Marty explains that after the discussion under New Business this can be paid. Motion by Dave Conley and seconded by Dan Holzer to pay payables. Motion carried.

**SECURITY:** Bruce Rouston stated that there were a few trailers left open and he contacted the owners who stated that they left them open and so he locked them. Also, a few homes were left open and the realtors were contacted. One was intentional by the owner but the realtor came and locked it as well.

### COMMITTEE REPORT:

**Activities:** Mary Perkins stated that there is no new business.

**Entrance:** No report at this time.

# The Birch Bark

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APRIL 8, 2006 – APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES continued ...

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**EPC:** Chick Witchell stated that there was one shed and one high tree approval. There is a cover sheet and some welcome letters going out. Spring clean up is here. Camping begins May 12<sup>th</sup>. The results for the shed poll have been tallied as well. Sheds on property: 92-Yes and 33-No and Rental Storage Space is 30-Yes and 69-No.

**Futures:** Tom Crook absent. Currently reviewing the future lake and budget plan and are requesting anyone that is interested in joining the committee to help with this should see Gail White.

**Seedlings:** Tina Hayer stated that the Easter Egg Hunt is occurring later that day and on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May there will be a hotdog and lemonade stand at the clubhouse that the kids do to generate funds for their group. May 28<sup>th</sup> will be a fishing contest and June 10<sup>th</sup> will be a Scavenger hunt for the kids. She needs more adult drivers for this event. Asked if there was a parade this year and if there is a theme for the carts.

**Communications:** Terry Obrecht stated that \$345 in ads has been sold. Some members have opted out of receiving the Birch Bark through the mail and will rather get it online or pick it up at the clubhouse and this will save some money as well. The process for getting information and issues for the Birch Bark or online are brought to the committee and are approved by the majority of the committee. The original deadline of the Friday following the Board meeting has resumed. Redundant articles may be eliminated, spelling or poor word usage may be corrected by the editor or herself. Also stated that any personal agendas and articles would cause White Birch a much higher cost for the Birch Bark. Suggested that the Board discuss this issue and that perhaps these can be included on the website due to the ability to include an endless amount of information without causing any additional charges to White Birch.

**Conservation:** Mike Turner stated that Mike Jenkins will be coming to speak about deer resistant plants. Believes that if there is any cutting of trees there should also be planting and replacement of the trees. The Timber Lake project may have about five trees that will need to be cut down but more than that should be planted in there to replace these. He also suggested that trees be planted in the park area such as Norway Spruce, White Spruce, the common Lilac or Rose of Sharon and this will replace trees that have been or will be removed. DEQ permit has been received. Eleven requests for proposals for what has been suggested to improve the lake were sent out. Three met with him, three sent in proposals. May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 is the next meeting. He also explained that Timber Lake was chosen over Holiday after input from others about its central location and already available advantages that can be added to. The funds are available for the trees as well and still remain considerably under budget. There will not be any trees that will be planted that block the view of the lake.

**Nominating:** Al Isaac stated that on April 22<sup>nd</sup> they will be doing a clean up of the nature trail. For the Nominating Committee, the notice went into the Birch Bark and into next month's as well. Has not received any formal considerations yet but had one person e-mail interest.

**Teller:** Ken Passage stated there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Marty Perkins stated that the selection of the committee will be done through a drawing in order to prevent any discrimination.

**Campground:** Fred Witchell sent out cards for campground storage to be scheduled for next year. Tires are being dropped off at the dumpsters and this costs additional money. The garbage service does not offer this service and it costs us \$10 or more for removal which is becoming expensive for the Association. There is a place in Coleman that will take them if you have some to dispose of. Contact White Birch if you see any illegal dumping.

## COMMENTS FROM FLOOR:

Mark Connelly #277, stated that Ferrellgas sent out a contract for \$.30 more a gallon and stated that he will not be signing it because the Board will be going out for bid after June and prices may change but if you sign it now it will lock you in no matter what changes. Ron Waligore #357, asked how White Birch handles the discharge of lien. (Gail explains that a form of release of lien is sent in. Tax sales are sent from the state or notification is given by the person who bought it.) Asks for clarification on who pays for back assessments on these tax sales (Priscilla explains that these are written off after notification of the sale is given). Then inquires about the status of one of these lots and wants to know about the Right of Refusal. Marv Richardson #551 stated that Mr. Brandt has been in White Birch since the beginning and could offer White Birch a historical perspective with his writings and memoirs on issues. Also asked if a person owes the Association money, can they still advertise in the paper? (Marty Perkins stated that as long as the advertisement is paid for). (Letter available at the office). Arnold VanOverbeke #1111, has been seeing trees being cut down and was told he couldn't cut trees down without permission. He wanted to know what the punishment is for cutting trees without permission. (Scott Hayer suggested letting Chick Witchell know) Joe Romine #542, asked about the earmarked money from the Super Bowl for the Fourth of July. He has other items he would like to earmark as well in the general fund. Also the signs need to be taken down on the highway clean up or start having people do it because it hasn't been done lately. Would also like to see motion detectors with cameras at the clubhouse to prevent vandals. Also stated that he would like to know the status of the Future Committee's chairperson. (Marty Perkins stated that the chairperson told them he would stay on

# The Birch Bark

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**APRIL 8, 2006 – APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES continued ...**

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until someone else volunteered.) Also asked about where the free firewood would be coming from. (Marty Perkins stated from anyone who volunteers to bring it over) Also stated that he would like to volunteer along with Mary Alice Harrington as the Activities chairperson due to the amount of time he has been involved with White Birch. Brian Kozlowski #688 stated that he has concerns about the absentee ballot on the website and there is no way of knowing who is on the other end of the computer regardless of safe guards and feels that it was adequately covered by mailing them out first class mail. Mary Perkins #1095, stated that since some people have opted out then they won't receive it through the mail.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Marv Frayer made motion and seconded by Dave Conley to accept the audit report now that it is final. Discussion opened to Board. Marv Frayer does not agree with the cost incurred and Scott Hayer comments that many changes have been made due to the suggestions. Motion carried.

Application for Emergency siren was suggested by Dan Holzer because the siren in town cannot be heard. Stated that White Birch may be eligible to receive the siren for no cost to the Association. Would like to file an application for this and also put something in the paper to ensure people make the necessary preparations to have a safe place to go with all of the campers and so forth. Motion made by Dan Holzer and seconded by Al Isaac to file for the emergency siren. Motion carried.

Ken Passage stated that it doesn't matter if others see the application to obtain an absentee ballot on the website because it will still need to be verified for the ballot to count. Motion made by Ken Passage and seconded by Dan Holzer to allow the application for the absentee ballot on the website. Marty Perkins reminded everyone that there are safeguards and that it would be in the best interest of White Birch to get it out to as many people as possible. Scott Hayer expresses his concern that the safeguards may not be completely safe and therefore the committee recommended that this not be placed on the website. Motion carried.

4-H Club proposal: Youth will build the bluebird and wood duck houses for White Birch which will involve the youth. This is good for mosquito control, youth involvement, and advertisement and so forth. Mike Turner requests \$125. Tom Dorcey offered to donate the funds for the project. Scott Hayer makes a motion and seconded by Al Isaac to accept the proposal of the 4-H club and accept Tom Dorcey's donation. Motion carried.

Marty Perkins named Christina Van Pelt as the chairperson for the Activities Committee. She expressed interest in this position prior to the meeting. Ken Passage made a motion to ratify and seconded by Dan Holzer to make Christina Van Pelt the chairperson. Carried.

Ken Passage stated that the Board all received the proposed procedures for absentee ballot handling. After reviewing the recommendations he put together a packet that would cover any of the gaps that may be problems in the future. The only departure from the committee's recommendation was that it was stated that the applications would be immediately opened and verified. However, since they need to all be verified before mailing the ballots he suggested leaving them unopened and verifying the status of membership at one time. Ken Passage made the motion to accept the proposal and seconded by Al Isaac. Scott Hayer expressed his concern for changing the Election Committee's recommendations due to a Board member's recommendation. Ken Passage is concerned that with the Election Committee's recommendation that the member's status could change from the time it is received and the time the ballot is sent out that by verifying them all at once when the ballot is going to be sent it would prevent this. Al Isaac stated that if this is the only change could this change be incorporated into the committee's recommendation so that the proposal already reviewed can be used with the amendment in order to take advantage of Ken's suggestion. Motion withdrawn from Ken Passage.

Motion withdrawn by Ken Passage for addition to Agenda for the proper procedure for boat storage and campgrounds and campers.

Motion to go into closed session by Dave Conley and seconded by Al Isaac. Motion carried.

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.



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## Fathers Day Breakfast

WBLRA with the help of the local Red Hat Society will be hosting the annual Fathers Day Breakfast at the clubhouse.

Sunday, June 18 2006, 8:00 am to 11:00 am

**APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE  
BALLOT  
INSIDE THIS EDITION  
SEE PAGE #8**



- To advertise in the Birch Bark call 588-3338, fees and ads must be submitted before the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Advertising rate is \$15.00 per month for one (2" x 3 1/2") business card ad. One ad per business please.
- Never leave fires to burn unattended and remember to always have a water source and/or fire extinguisher close by.
- Please do not dispose of old tires at the campground dumpster. Tires **WILL NOT** be removed by the trash collector.
- Don't forget to mail in your Application for Absentee Ballot before June 5<sup>th</sup> if you are unable to attend the annual meeting to vote in person.



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All committee articles for the "Birch Bark" are due no later than the 5:00 pm, Friday 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 or emailed to: [kpassage@hotmail.com](mailto:kpassage@hotmail.com) or [tmobrecht@ejourney.com](mailto:tmobrecht@ejourney.com)