



Birch Bark

Newsletter of **WHITE BIRCH LAKES RECREATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

4730 Lake Rd., Farwell, MI 48622-9618

Ph.(989)588-2853, fax(989)588-4924, **SECURITY ph.(989)588-7066**

Website: www.whitebirch.org Email: manager@whitebirch.org

Kozlowski Volume

May 2008

No. 7

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Brian Kozlowski

Welcome back to our member's who live and camp in WBL through the summer. WBL is alive with activity. As a reminder, let us all be watchful of the increased amount of pedestrians on our roads, especially the young ones.

You will notice the announcement of swimming lessons inside. The longtime coordinator of this service, Louise Bryant, is once again giving Red Cross certified swimming lessons to kids. If only I had that energy.

Another notice posted is for the Annual Meeting. In an effort to keep the meeting from dragging on for hours and hours, there will be no question and answer period for the nominees for the Board election. However, at the end of the June 14 regular Board meeting, time will be allotted for this purpose, and members are invited to question the nominees. Put on your thinking caps.

Speaking of the Annual Meeting, if you can not attend, please vote by absentee ballot. The application is in this Birch Bark. You are sincerely encouraged to vote. Only through your participation can the Board continue its work in holding down costs, improving the amenities, promoting harmony, and preventing assessments from rising. We have not had an assessment increase in over 6 years, and we would like to keep it that way. We have a plan to increase security in the RV storage area; a plan to improve the water quality of our lakes; a plan to reduce our energy costs; and a plan to do this with no increase in your assessments. We can only do this with your support. Use the power of your vote.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the WBLRA will be held on

July 19, 2008 at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon at the Campground Pavilion.

The purpose of the Annual Meeting shall be to hear reports from Officers of the Board of Directors

and to elect three (3) Directors.

REMINDER THAT LETTERS FOR CANDIDATES FOR BOARD POSITION NEED TO BE IN BY JUNE 2.

THEY CAN E-MAIL,
MANAGER@WHITEBIRCH.ORG,
FAX 989-588-4924. OR MAIL TO
WBLRA 4730 LAKE DR., FARWELL, MI 48622.



All Correspondence to the Board of Directors, a Director, a Committee Chairperson and all responses are on file at the office.

<i>Board of Directors and Staff</i>		<i>COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS</i>		
President	Brian Kozlowski	Activities	Joe Romine	588-3155
1st Vice Pres.	Sharon Bridges	By-laws	Mary Alice Harrington	588-2561
2nd Vice Pres.	Marv Frayer	Campground	Sal Scozzari	588-4415
			Fred Witchell	588-6797
			Al Willoughby	588-0749
Director	Al Isaac	Birch Bark		
Director	Brian Heiden	Election		
Director	Pat Graham	EPC	Chick Witchell	588-6797
Director	Darren Bondy		Dennis Karlson	588-3346
		Garden Club		
		Hospitality	Sue Nethaway	
Manager	Gail White	Just Community	Russ Abney	
Secretary	Elaine Carrasco	Maintenance	Jerry Bridges	
Treasurer	Priscilla Moore	Planning	Arnie VanOverbeke	
Security	Bob Pelfrey			
	588-7066	Whitebirch.org	Todd Graham	588-9192

NOTICES FROM COMMITTEES:

The **E.P.C. Committee** meets the first Thursday of each month at 12:00 p.m.

Applications for lot improvements must be submitted to the committee two weeks prior to the meeting for consideration.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Proposed
May 12, 2008

CALL TO ORDER:

Board President Brian Kozlowski called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. Board members present were President Brian Kozlowski, 1st Vice President Sharon Bridges, 2nd Vice President Marvin Frayer, Director Al Isaac and Director Patricia Graham. Board members absent were Director Darren Bondy and Director Brian Heiden. Also present were Association Manager Gail White, Treasurer Priscilla Moore and Secretary Elaine Carrasco. Director Al Isaac led the association in prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance led by President Brian Kozlowski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April minutes were approved , with a correction, with a first motion by 2nd Vice President Marvin Frayer, with a second by 1st Vice President Sharon Bridges, motion approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Priscilla Moore reports income for the month of \$33,190.52. Total expenses \$55,118.18 and a cash balance of \$206,198.24.

Motion for approval of the Treasurer's Report as stated made by Director Patricia Graham and seconded by 1st Vice President Sharon Bridges . All in favor, motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Brian Kozlowski explains to the association that Darren Bondy was unable to attend the meeting, his wife fell ill and was hospitalized. Brian also reports on the hard work of the by-laws committee in amending the by-laws. Their recommendations for amendment are being studied by the board and a package will be presented to the association to vote on, a ballot will be sent to each member much like the C&R's ballot. Members will be able to vote on each individual amendment.

(Board Meeting Minutes May 08 continued on pg. 3)

(Board Meeting Minutes May 08 cont. from pg. 2)

Ballots will be mailed out with enough time to allow for members to read, analyze and ask questions before they vote. A special meeting will be held on June 2 at 7:00 p.m for the purpose of closing the last

of the details of the election one of which will be the certifying of the persons who have submitted lists for nomination, that they are members in good standing. The June meeting will on the 14th at 9a.m. at the clubhouse. At the close of the meeting, during the comments from the floor session we will be inviting all those persons who put themselves forth to running for the board of directors answer questions from the membership.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

EPC reports an increase in April in the amount of improvement requests and he reminds us that the committee meets on the first Thursday of the month. Security asks that people, be aware of people and children on the roads and asks that people driving vehicles slow down.

Campground reports that the bath house is open and painted. New bulletin board is up. Wider turn at the pump station, and is also requesting anyone storing this winter in the campground or storage area get their storage cards filled out with updated information.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Gail White reports that the gate is in operation and we now have extra parts for future repairs. She announces that we have a new employee, Brian Langley, he will work maintenance and the campground bathhouse. Once storage campers are all out we will be enlarging some of the sites for the big rigs. Lake aerators are being repaired, we have had problems with the lines blocking up.

PAYABLES APPROVAL:

Director Patricia Graham motions to approve the payables, 2nd is made by 2nd Vice President Marvin Frayer, motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Available at the clubhouse

OLD BUSINESS:

No new business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion to approve County Wide proposal for porta potty's by 2nd Vice President Marvin Frayer, second by Director Patricia Graham, motion carried.

Motion to approve new front gate lights at a cost of \$1025.00 made by 1st Vice President Sharon Bridges, seconded by 2nd Vice President Marvin Frayer, all in favor, motion carried.

Election procedure approval with amendment to section II ,#3 to read June 1st, motion to amend made by 1st Vice President Sharon Bridges , a second by 2nd Vice President Marvin Frayer, motion carried.

A motion made to approve the application for absentee ballot made by Director Patricia Graham, seconded by 1st Vice President Sharon Bridges. Motion carried.

A motion to move into executive session made by Director Al Isaac, second by 1st Vice President Sharon Bridges. Motion carried, the board moves into executive session at 10:55a.m.

Insulation/roof proposal tabled after much discussion.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Available at the office

ADJOURNMENT:

Director Al Isaac moves to adjourn, seconded by 2nd Vice President Marvin Frayer. Meeting adjourned at 11.25 a.m.

Respectfully,
Elaine Carrasco.
Secretary

All Board of Directors Regular meeting minutes in their entirety will be available at www.whitebirch.org after approval by the Board of Directors

**Application for Absentee Ballot for 2008 White Birch Lakes
Recreational Association Annual Meeting
To be held on July 19, 2008**

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association’s Bylaws provide that members may vote by absentee ballot by requesting a ballot, in writing, by mail or in person at the WBLRA office.

If you choose to vote by absentee ballot in the 2008 election, you must complete this application and return it to the WBLRA office.

THERE WILL BE NO BALLOT IN THE BIRCH BARK

ABSENTEE BALLOTS WILL BE SENT OUT AFTER JUNE 1, 2008. TO RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT, THIS APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE BEFORE MONDAY, JULY 7, 2008 AT 4:00 P.M.

Name _____
Last First

Address _____

Lot Number(s) _____

(Note: You may only vote for lots upon which you pay an assessment. Contiguous status lots do not have voting rights)

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 a member not in good standing to vote using the absentee ballot(s) they will be issued.)

Signature

Please return this application, when completed, to WBLRA, 4730 Lake Dr., Farwell, MI 48622
If you have any questions, or do not receive a ballot, please contact us at 989-588-2853 or e-mail manager@whitebirch.org

Membership status verified _____ Office use only
Initials Ballot Number issued _____
Not verified _____
Initials

Registration:**Register by June 11th to reserve your spot!**

Student NAME _____ age as of June 16 _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ email: _____

Red Cross Certified Swim Classes

Check one ...if in question – leave blank, Louise will contact you.



Level 1 _____

Level 2 _____

Level 3 _____

Level 4 _____

Level 5 _____

Level 6 _____

Level 7 _____

COST: members \$32.00 white birch lot # _____**Do not send money.** White Birch office will invoice you! mail your registration to:

Louise Bryant, 4941 White Birch Lane, Farwell, MI 48622 or drop off at White Birch Office (clubhouse)

Call Louise (989)386-6990 days at office email lab4424@yahoo.com

(989)588-5263 evenings at home

(989)240-5894 cell

8 morning classes	Mon June 16	Mon June 23
	Tue June 17	Tue June 24
	Wed June 18	Wed June 25
	Thu June 19	Thu June 26

You will be notified of class time through email by June 13, 2008. If an email address is not available Louise will contact you by phone.

I hereby acknowledge that participation in this swim program is at the sole discretion and judgement of the parent or guardian and involves an inherent risk of physical injury. I, on behalf of my son / daughter, hereby assume all such risk. I hereby release and agree to hold harmless White Birch Lakes Recreational Association, its Board of Directors, swim instructor / s, swim class coordinator Louise Bryant, White Birch Lakes Recreational Association General Manager Gail White, students and employees from all claims, actions, damages, and liabilities for personal injury or damage relating to or arising out of any swim class activity, or on grounds inside / outside white birch lakes clubhouse.

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association is not responsible for lost or stolen property.

signature (parent or guardian)_____
date

Student's health concerns: _____

I. Nominating Committee

1. As stated in the bylaws, the Nominating Committee shall be named by the Board of Directors. It shall consist of five (5) members, one of whom shall be a Board Member.
2. The duties of the Nominating Committee are:
 - A. To seek out and encourage qualified candidates.
 - B. To accept the names of members who have placed their name in nomination.
 - C. To see that the eligibility of all candidates is verified. This shall be done by the Board member on the committee and the Manager. All nominees shall be members in good standing.
 - D. To report to the Board so that the names can be published in the Birch Bark, on the web site and in any other manner that is an official Association method of communication.
 - E. To report to the members at the annual meeting the names of the qualified candidates.

II. Absentee Ballots

1. Any member in good standing, that is a member who is paid up on all assessments, fines, and fees as of June 1st of the current year, may vote by absentee ballot. An absentee ballot shall not be issued to any member who pays their assessments, fees, or fines after June 1st of the current year.
2. The form of the application for an absentee ballot shall be approved by the Board.
3. An application for an absentee ballot shall be sent to every member by first class mail by June 1st .
4. A member, who is in good standing, who wishes to vote by absentee ballot, shall fill out the application, sign their name, and return the application to the Secretary.
5. Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed to the requesting member shall be received in the Office by the Secretary ten (10) business days prior to the date of the election.
6. If a member in good standing wishes to make application for an absentee ballot after the cut off date for mailed in applications, the member may appear at the Office during regular business hours and complete an application and give it to the Secretary.
7. Applications for absentee ballots shall be checked by the Board member appointed to the Teller Committee, the Treasurer, and/or the Secretary against a master list of members eligible to vote, and they shall clearly mark the list as to a ballot issued or not. In order to be eligible to vote a member shall be in good standing as of June 1st.
8. The master list of members eligible to vote shall be securely retained by the Treasurer and the Secretary for use at the annual meeting.
9. Absentee ballots shall be available as soon as possible after June 1st.
10. The form and content of the absentee ballot shall be approved by the Board.
11. Absentee ballots shall be sequentially numbered and of a different color as to those ballots to be used at the annual meeting.
12. Absentee ballots shall be sent by first class mail to each applicant member in good standing.
13. The absentee ballot shall be sent with an envelope which has on its face a clearly visible location for the member to sign their name and lot number, and is also marked that it is to contain the completed ballot, and is to be enclosed in a mailing envelope.
14. Absentee ballots sent to members shall also contain an information sheet that shall contain instructions as to when, where, and how the ballot is to be returned to the Office.
15. Returned absentee ballots shall be retained in a secure location in the Office.
16. As absentee ballots are received at the Office, the Board member appointed to the Teller Committee, the Secretary, and/or the Treasurer may open the mailing

envelope and check the inner envelope for authenticity against the master list of members eligible to vote. The verified absentee ballots shall then be returned to the secure location in the Office.

17. No absentee ballot shall be received or accepted after 4:00 p.m. of the Friday preceding the annual meeting.

18. After 4:00 pm on the Friday preceding the annual meeting., the Teller Committee, the Secretary, and/or the Treasurer shall meet privately to validate the absentee ballots.

19. The absentee ballots, still in their unopened inner envelope, shall be placed in a secure container and held by Security until the morning of the Annual Meeting.

III Teller Committee

1. The Teller Committee shall consist of one Board member and any number of association members in good standing as may be designated by the Board. The tellers shall be chosen for accuracy and dependability, and should be noted for the confidence the membership has in them. The members of the Teller Committee shall be appointed by the President of the Board, and confirmed by the Board. The Chair of the Teller Committee shall be appointed by the President of the Board.

2. Members of the Teller Committee are encouraged to vote by absentee ballot.

3. At 8:30 am on the day of the Annual Meeting the Teller Committee shall convene and count the absentee ballots.

4. The Teller Committee shall assist, as may be requested, the Secretary and the Treasurer at the annual meeting in the monitoring of the balloting procedure.

5. The Teller Committee shall collect the ballots at the annual meeting and retire to a private location to tally the ballots.

6. The Teller Committee chair shall obtain the absentee ballots and the absentee ballot tally report from security and take them to the private location.

7. The Teller Committee shall count the ballots cast at the annual meeting, and produce a tally sheet which shall state:

- A. Total number of ballots received.
- B. Total number of ballots disqualified.
- C. Total number of ballots cast for each nominee.
- D. Total number of ballots cast in favor of a proposal.
- E. Total number of ballots cast against a proposal.

8. When examining ballots to be counted, either at the annual meeting or absentee ballots, tellers may disqualify a ballot for, but not limited to, these reasons:

- A. Voter failed to clearly indicate candidate(s) voted for.
- B. Too many candidates voted for on the ballot.
- C. The ballot is altered such that the intent of the voter is unclear.
- D. Any ballot that appears to be counterfeit.

9. When the Teller Committee has completed the count of ballots cast at the annual meeting, they shall produce a final tally report that combines the absentee ballot tally report, and the count of the ballots cast at the annual meeting, stating the tally as described above in III, 7.

10. The Chair of the Teller Committee shall present the final tally report to the President of the Board. The Teller Committee chair shall not, nor any member of the Teller Committee report to the membership.

11. The form and substance of the tally sheets used by the Teller Committee shall be approved by the Board.

IV Annual Meeting

1. The annual meeting shall be conducted by the Board of Directors, and chaired by the President of the Board. The meeting shall be chaired by the Board President, unless the president chooses to delegate the chair to another Board director.

2. The agenda for the annual meeting shall be that as confirmed by the Board.

3. The election shall be run by the Board of Directors, who shall make all decisions concerning the election, procedural questions, absentee balloting, and the final results of the vote..

4. After the Nomination Committee report, nominations may be taken from the floor.
5. After the close of the nominations from the floor, each nominee will be given the opportunity to address the membership for a period of time not to exceed three (3) minutes. Nominees shall refrain from uttering any personal comments concerning any other member.
6. A board shall be erected whereupon the nominees' names are clearly printed.
7. Upon the close of the nominees' addresses to the members, the Voting Members, that is those members paid up on all assessments, fines and fees by June 1st of the current year, shall form a line in the designated place to obtain their ballot(s). No regular or provisional ballot shall be issued to any member who pays their assessments, fines or fees after June 1st of the current year.
8. Ballots shall be sequentially numbered and of a different color than the absentee ballots. Eligibility to vote of those members requesting a ballot shall be determined from the same master list used for the absentee ballots.
9. The Teller Committee shall assist the Secretary and/or the Treasurer in verification of eligible voters, distribution of ballots, and monitoring the ballot box.
10. Upon closing of the balloting, the Teller Committee shall retire to a private location to perform their function.
11. Upon receipt of the final tally report, the President of the Board shall read the results, and name the successful nominees to fill the Board vacancies, as well as the result of any ballot proposal. The reading of the results shall be part of the minutes of the annual meeting.
12. If a nominee contests the results, the nominee shall articulate specifically why they are challenging the results. Their challenge shall only be for cause.
13. After hearing the specific challenge of a nominee, the Board shall confer in private as to the merits of the challenge. The Board shall always defer to the good reputations of the Teller Committee and Association Officers.
14. The Board, upon completing its deliberations as to the merits of the challenge, shall reconvene and announce their decision. If the Board finds no cause for the challenge, the issue is closed, and no appeal can be made.
15. If the Board finds there is cause for the challenge, but the cause will not substantially effect the results of the election, the issue is closed.
16. If the Board finds there is cause for the challenge, and the cause may substantially effect the results of the election, the meeting shall be adjourned to another date set by the Board, and the election is not final.
17. The Board shall determine prior to the adjourned date as to what method or measures may be taken to remedy the issue.
18. Upon the completion of the remedy set by the Board, the election is final.
19. The ballots and the Teller Committee's reports and tally sheets shall be securely retained until the next annual meeting, at which time they shall be disposed of or destroyed.

V Poll Watchers

1. Each nominee may appoint one (1) member in good standing, or associate member, to act as their poll watcher during the counting of the ballots at the Annual Meeting.
2. Each nominee is responsible for the conduct of their poll watcher.
3. Poll watchers will observe the following:
 - A. Remain outside the immediate area where the ballots are being counted, or within an area designated by the Teller Committee Chairperson.
 - B. Shall not make verbal comments on the Teller Committee's procedures or actions.
 - C. Shall not make any noises, sounds, gestures or other actions deemed offensive, intended to supply information, or interfering with the Teller Committee.

D. May take notes, but shall not share any notes with any person other than the nominee whom they represent, and then only when the Teller Committee has completed its count and report.
 E. Shall not leave their designated observation area until the Teller Committee has completed its count and produced its report.
 F. After the completion of the Teller Committee's count and report, a poll watcher may discuss their observations with the nominee whom they represent.
 G. Shall not disclose any count, result, or other information to any person, including the nominee who they represent, until the Board Chair has read the Teller's Report to the membership.
 4. Any member of the Teller Committee may request the removal of any poll watcher for any reason.

A. The Teller Committee Chair shall direct any poll watcher requested to be removed to leave the area of the Teller Committee immediately.
 B. There shall be no appeal to the decision of the Teller Committee to dismiss any poll watcher.
 C. The nominee who appointed the dismissed poll watcher shall be responsible to assure that the dismissed poll watcher shares no information with any person, including the nominee who appointed them, until the Teller Committee is complete with their count and report.
 D. The nominee who appointed the dismissed poll watcher may appoint another member in good standing, or associate member, to replace the dismissed poll watcher.



Mailbox

- Tom and Helen Dorcey will celebrate their 50th Anniversary on June 14, 2008.
-
- Thank you to Dick Brandt for his work on the garage sale, it was a big success!

Rates for: Advertising in the Birch Bark: \$15.00
 (Business Card sized ad.)
 Rental of Facilities-Call 588-2853.
 Articles for the Birch Bark addressed to: 4730
 Lake Rd., Farwell, MI 48622-9618

All financial statements in their entirety can be obtained from WBL office or go to www.whitebirch.org income statements.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT – APR. 2008

INCOME	
Membership	\$24,127.25
Delinquent	8,001.26
Interest	247.00
Misc.	37.26
Boat Rack Rental	10.00
Sales	80.50
Campground	607.25
Club Rental	50.00
EPC	40.00
Total Income	\$33,190.52
EXPENSES	
Administration	\$12,696.96
Office Expense	1,543.23
Road Maintenance	137.94
Clubhouse Maintenance	9,259.72
Campground Maintenance	3,403.72
Entrance Costs	561.46
Capital Improvements	0
General Assoc. Maintenance	2,276.24
Maintenance Building	899.72
Goods for Resale	22.98
Special Events/Activities	45.00
Professional Costs	562.00
Boards & Committees	0
Security	1,227.34
Lakes	7,304.70
Taxes and Insurance	15,177.80
Total Expenses	\$55,118.81

White Birch Lakes Recreational Assoc.
4730 Lake Rd.
Farwell, MI 48622-9618

Clubhouse Hours

8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., Mon., Fri.
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Tues., Thurs.
8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Sat.
1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Sun
Closed Wednesday

Office Hours

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Mon., Tues.,
Wed., Thurs., Fri.
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Sat.
Closed Sunday

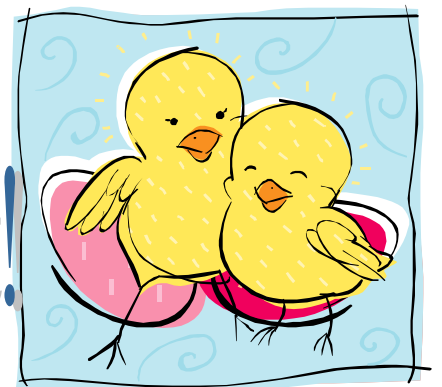
Pool Hours

1:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., Mon., Tues.,
Thurs., Fri.
10:00 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Sat.
1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Sun.
Closed Wednesday

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.whitebirch.org

Summer's
here at last!



Community Calendar

July 7, 2008 - **Deadline** Requests for Absentee Ballots in WBL office 4:00 pm

July 16, 2008 - **Deadline Absentee Ballots received** in WBL office 4:00 pm

July 19, 2008 Annual WBL Members meeting at The pavilion in the WBL Campground 10:00 a.m.