

The Birch Bark

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August 2002

Proud of our People,

Frequently comments are made about the disparity in outlook that can be so different among people that seem to be in similar circumstances. Some of my friends live in a "Wonderful World" while others, obviously living in the same world, can't find anything good about it.

Sometimes it seems that the negative individuals are louder, demand more time and are bent on making sure the others find out how bad their world really is. I would like to say that I am always one of the "positive" ones, focused on the good things and good people around me but sometimes I find myself joining the ranks of the negative.

However, I want to forget about negative people and take just a minute to "sing the praises" of the band of great people here at WBL. I have witnessed: wonderful attitudes, willingness to help neighbors, volunteerism, self-sacrifice, support of the common good and even blindness to bad in the pursuit of the good.

I am proud to call many of you "my friends". I am proud of the individuals that serve on our Board and various committees. I am proud when I talk to individuals outside of our organization and hear their praise of what is happening here at WBL.

You should be proud. Give yourself a hand. White Birch is alive and well because of you, our wonderful people.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Unapproved Board Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2002

CALL TO ORDER President Todd Graham called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Present were 1st Vice President Tom Dorcey, 2nd Vice President Marv Richardson, Directors Bob Adair, Chuck Bailey and Scott Hayer and Manager Tim Fall. Larry Franklin was excused.

The meeting opened with a salute to the flag and a prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Marv Richardson moved to approve the June minutes as written. Seconded by Tom Dorcey. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT For the month of July the Treasurer reported income of \$14,593.62 and expenses of \$34,266.92. Cash on hand at July 31, 2002 was \$138,640.76. Marv Richardson moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Bob Adair. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Todd Graham thanks the Board Members for supporting him as the new President.

CORRESPONDENCE One letter was received regarding a request for handicapped accessibility to the clubhouse.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE - Chairman Chick Witchell reported there were lot improvement applications for a split barrel fence, 3 tree removals, 3 campsite driveways, a new garage and 1 new residence. A sample letter pertaining to camping units stored on residential lots was presented and discussed. Clarification of the information will be presented at the next meeting. Discussion followed concerning signs displayed on lots. The rules provide there should be no signs displayed without prior written approval of the EPC. A letter will be developed regarding unsightly placement of utility items stored on a resident's property.

CAMPGROUND COMMITTEE - Fred Witchell reminded the meeting attendees of the upcoming fun day at the pavilion on the 31st of August. There will be food and music from 6PM to 10PM for all the members and their families. Sand has been added to the volleyball field so it can be used to play volleyball. An area has been mowed behind the volleyball field with the hopes of a future softball and soccer field. The Committee is still pursuing the possibility of a helipad.

FUTURE PLANNING COMMITTEE - Chairman Bob Vonderheid is getting organized and there will be a meeting of

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WBL Board of Directors

December 14, 9:00 AM

Future Planning Committee

December 14, 10:00 AM

Carol Rouston Benefit Dinner

Sat, September 14th. 5 -7 pm

Continued on page 2

June WBL Board Meeting

Unapproved Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2002

CALL TO ORDER President Gail White called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Present were 1st Vice President Tom Dorcey, 2nd Vice President Todd Graham, Directors Bob Adair, Don Kuester and Marv Richardson and Manager Tim Fall. Director Larry Franklin was excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Bob Adair moved to approve the May minutes. Seconded by Marv Richardson. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT For the month of May the Treasurer reported income of \$31,053.23 and expenses of \$40,689.28. Cash on hand at May 31, 2002 was \$184,672.41. Bob Adair moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Seconded by Marv Richardson. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE Copies of correspondence and emails have been circulated and discussed. Bob Vonderheid, Lot 1127, Chairman of the Future Planning Committee, has submitted a draft of a demographics survey to be reviewed by the Board of Directors.

FUTURE PLANNING COMMITTEE – Bob Vonderheid, Chairman, reported the results of the three previous meetings. The responsibilities of the Committee are not to make decisions but to present recommendations to the Board for action. The scope of their activities is future planning; that is, project recommendations three to five years down the road. The Committee is very open to ideas from everyone and plans to send out a survey asking for input from members. He can be contacted by telephone or email.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL COMMITTEE – Chick Witchell reported on the activity for the month. Property Improvement Applications have been received for 2 new residences, a new deck at an existing residence, a shed, several new camping drives and a new septic system. Samples of the Building Packets have been distributed to the Board for review. Guidelines have been established for tree cutting. Guidance is requested concerning use of portable toilets. Barb Adair, Lot 60, presented sample signs which may be placed at the entrance to heighten potential buyers’ awareness of White Birch deed restrictions. Todd Graham reported that the Committee recommended that there not be a ban on leaf burning, because there are no viable alternatives, but to better enforce the DNR regulations and to hold the owner responsible by billing for the cost of extinguishing any fires left unattended. Fred Witchell provided a copy of a layout for a helipad at the campground.

MANAGER’S REPORT Since this is our President’s last Monthly Board Meeting, the Manager expressed his appreciation for her being such a fine President to work with and her commitment and years of service to the members of White Birch Lakes. This sentiment was expressed by all present at

the Committee after the next Board Director’s meeting.

MANAGER’S REPORT Tim updated the Board on the status of the entry system which had been hit by lightning. New components have been installed and the phone company is expected to fix the phone lines. The water heater and the sewage lift station, which malfunctioned over the 4th of July weekend, have been repaired or replaced. Road costs have increased as more fuel is being used for additional maintenance of roads. There will be one more brine application and possibly two on the main roads depending upon the weather. He expresses his appreciation to both the old board and the new board and to the membership for the spirit of cooperation. A great lot of thanks to all the volunteers who have given so much time and effort doing improvements and making activities happen here at White Birch. Please give consideration to attending the benefit dinner and/or a donation for the Rouston’s to help defray medical costs. Donations may be made at the office. **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE** - Payables were reviewed. Bob Adair moved to approve payment. Seconded by Marv Richardson. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR Ron Tagg, lot 246, asked if the tennis court could be used as a helipad. Marv Frayer, Lot 682 and Fred Witchell advised there are too many trees. In view of the rule regarding no signs, Anne Hobart, Lot 454, asked about the status of political signs. State, County and Township rules will be checked out. Barb Adair, Lot 60, stated her concerns about the young people who are running ORV’s in White Birch, whose families are not members and how they are getting access. David McColl, Lot 1368, requested that the boat access at White Birch Lake be widened to permit a pontoon boat entry. Fred Witchell advised that it is scheduled. Bob Pelfrey, Lot 527, stated his concerns about excessive speed and disregard for stop signs by contractors and other vehicles. Discussion followed and the Manager has asked that he be contacted so incidents can be recorded. Claudia Pelfrey, Lot 527, verbalized the disrespectful actions or comments received when a member tries to correct a quad-runner’s violations. All are advised, if possible, to find out who are the violators and to advise the office. Don Papesch, Lot 857, suggested that the required stickers could be made larger so that the violators could be more easily identified. Discussion followed about ways to improve the ability to identify, to report violators and to educate operators.

NEW BUSINESS

Several plans for a handicapped ramp have been presented. Tom Dorcey made a motion to approve the ramp constructed of concrete. Seconded by Bob Adair. Motion carried. Labor, again, will be provided by volunteers. Scheduled completion is about 1 month. The Manager thanked Fred Witchell and Marv Frayer for their work on the boat storage rack. He suggested a small charge to be assessed the users who could identify a space and store their boats permanently. Bob Adair made a motion that a charge of \$10 per year be charged to store boats in the new rack. Tom Dorcey seconded the motion. Motion carried. Assessments from the boat rack will be used to maintain and build more racks in the future both at White Birch and other Assoc. lakes. Marv Richardson suggested that plans for a security committee be developed. Directors have been assigned as liaison for the following committees: Bob Adair, Future Planning Committee; Scott Hayer, Activities; Larry Franklin, Environmental Protection Committee; Tom Dorcey, Campground and Storage; Marv Richardson, Nominating Committee and possibly the new Security Committee. The President thanked Marv Richardson for his handling of the voting at the annual meeting. New posts will be installed to protect the outgoing gates. Bob Adair asked about policy on alcoholic beverages at member meetings in White Birch. Members attending this meeting were given an Action Plan developed by Lincoln Township. Attention is directed to the trail called multi-purpose. Some discussion followed concerning the impact on White Birch Lakes should this multi-purpose trail be designated a quad trail. Very important that everyone attend the planning meeting scheduled for August 20, at 7:00 PM at the Lincoln Township Hall in Lake George.

ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn made by Tom Dorcey. Seconded by Bob Adair. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted
Priscilla Moore
Secretary Treasurer

Continued on page 3

this meeting. Attention was called to the receipt of the income portion of the Profit and Loss Statement. Memorial Day weekend was extremely busy. The facilities could not keep up with the demand but the problems are being addressed. Due to a misunderstanding, an incident prohibiting registered campers' ORV's at the campground has been addressed. There will be an apology in the Birch Bark.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – Payables were reviewed and discussed. Todd Graham moved to approve payment. Seconded by Don Kuester. Motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS Todd Graham reminded that the annual parade is next Saturday and there will be a meeting at the clubhouse tonight at 6:00 PM for anyone willing to help.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR Marvin Frayer, Lot 682, a member of the Lincoln Township Planning Commission, announced that there is a meeting on June 18, 6:00 PM at the Township Hall. The question and answer meeting is to develop a master plan for the recreational community and they would like comments from as many as can attend. Anne Hobart, Lot 454, expressed her appreciation that enough R & C ballots have been returned so that all the hard work of the Restrictions and Covenants Committee has come to fruition. She commented about her displeasure that an outside toilet has appeared on a lot near her home. Discussion followed as to whether they are allowable. Fran Lombardo, Lot 658, expressed her disappointment with the recent brine application.

NEW BUSINESS Status of Ballot Returns – Sufficient numbers of ballots have been received to file restrictions as amended. Motion was made by Bob Adair that Restrictions as amended apply to White Birch Lakes. Seconded by Todd Graham. Motion carried. The President compliments Anne Hobart and her Committee for all the time and hard work they put into the document. Bob Adair initiated a discussion pertaining to the nature trail and the allowability of ORV's on the trail. Discussion accelerated to include ORV and other off-road vehicle activity throughout White Birch. This item is to be discussed in the future. The proposed Demographic Survey is reviewed. A motion was made by Todd Graham to offer a \$100 gift certificate and a \$50 gift certificate for White Birch merchandise for two winners of a drawing of those members whose response is postmarked or faxed in by June 30,2002. Seconded by Marv Richardson. Motion carried. Sample ECC building requirements is to be reviewed and any questions discussed with the Manager and/or ECC. Tom Dorcey moved that Port-a-Johns not be allowed on lots except during construction. Seconded by Bob Adair. Motion carried. Sample informational signs are discussed. Tom Dorcey made the motion that the Welcome Sign be revised, purchased and installed at the entrance. Seconded by Todd Graham. Motion carried. Don Kuester moved to ban leaf burning in White Birch. The motion died for lack of support. It was the consensus of the Board that DNR regulations should be actively enforced. Fred Witchell requested the Board's support to move ahead with a proposal for a helipad. Marv Richardson made a motion to move ahead with the proposal. Seconded by Bob Adair. Motion carried. Don Kuester made a motion to pursue alternatives at the front entranceway. Seconded by Tom Dorcey. Motion carried. The Presidents thanks all who regularly attend the meetings- your input is appreciated- and a thanks to the Board for their commitment and for the progress, even though sometimes slowly, that has been made.

ADJOURNMENT Motion made by Marv Richardson to adjourn. Seconded by Todd Graham. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Priscilla Moore, Secretary-Treasurer

Camper Storage on Residential Lots

- Only one unit per residence
- Must be owned by the lot owner (not friends or family members)
- May not be stored closer to the road than the residence.
- Camping unit must be in operational condition.
- Must display a current WBL sticker

Your cooperation with these guidelines will help protect the ability to store a camping unit on a lot with a residence. Thank you!

White Birch Lakes Board of Directors

TODD GRAHAM, PRESIDENT

TOM DORCEY, 1ST VP

MARVIN RICHARDSON, 2ND VP

LARRY FRANKLIN, DIRECTOR

SCOTT HAYER, DIRECTOR

CHUCK BAILEY, DIRECTOR

ROBERT ADAIR, DIRECTOR

White Birch Lakes
4730 Lake Road
Farwell MI 48622-9618

Office: 989-588-2853 Fax: 989-588-4924

Tim Fall, General Manager

Email: manager@whitebirch.org

Clubhouse library can still use DVD's and VHS Movies

Thank you, for the many books and movies that have been donated.

We cannot use movies that are copied or recorded from TV.

WHITE BIRCH LAKES
4730 LAKE ROAD
FARWELL MI 48622-9618

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 11 FARWELL
MI 48622

**Boat Racks completed at White Birch Lake
Holiday and Timber lakes soon to follow**

You may reserve a boat storage space for a \$10.00 annual fee.

Please remember - **Boats without current WBL stickers** that are left at our lakes
and **Camper Units stored in the storage area** that do not have current stickers
will be
removed before winter.

Thanks again for a great summer. We appreciate the cooperation you have given.

Campers, thanks for a great season. One of our best ever.

Please remember camping units are to be removed from lots by October 31st.

If you have reservations for winter storage in the campground you may start placing
units on your sites October 11th.

All sites have been reserved for both the storage area and campground. If you did not receive an invoice and confirmation
letter you probably do not have a reservation.