



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

August 2008 Issue

www.whitebirch.org

Members volume #1

CLUBHOUSE HOURS

Monday	8:00 am	9:00 pm
Tuesday	8:00 am	4:00 pm
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday	8:00 am	9:00 pm
Friday	8:00 am	9:00 pm
Saturday	8:00 am	9:00 pm
Sunday	10:00 am	5:00 pm

POOL HOURS JUNE – JULY

Monday	4:00 pm	8:30 pm
Tuesday	Closed	
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday	4:00 pm	8:30 pm
Friday	4:00 pm	8:30 pm
Saturday	10:00 am	8:30 pm
Sunday	1:00 pm	5:00 pm

OFFICE HOURS

Monday	9:00 am	4:00 pm
Tuesday	9:00 am	4:00 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am	4:00 pm
Thursday	9:00 am	8:00 pm
Friday	9:00 am	4:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am	12:00 pm
Sunday	Closed	

COMMUNITY EVENTS & MEETING SCHEDULE

08/21/08	EPC committee meeting	7:00 pm
08/30/08	Member Picnic	2:00 pm Campground Pavilion
09/06/08	Monthly Board Meeting	10:00 am
10/04/08	Budget Review	9:00 am
10/04/08	Monthly Board Meeting	10:00 am

LABOR DAY

PICNIC

AUG 30, 2008

2:00PM

CAMPGROUND PAVILLION

Please note that the regular monthly Board of Directors Meetings for the months of September and October have both been moved forward to the first Saturday of the month.

All other meetings will be on the regular schedule of the second Saturday unless other wise noted.

4th of July was a Great time
lets make this one even better
bring a dish to pass



**JOIN US FOR SOME
GOOD FOOD
and
GOOD FAMILY FUN**

**Yard Games
Face Painting**

The Birch Bark

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Steve Bryant
1st Vice President	Marty Perkins
2nd Vice President	Brian Kozlowski
Director	Linda McNeil
Director	Brian Heiden
Director	Sharon Bridges
Director	Al Isaac
Treasurer	Priscilla Moore
Secretary / Assist. Treasurer	Elaine Carrasco

STAFF AND COMMITTEES

Just Community and Activities	Kevin Dombrowski	
Communications	Mary Cox-Perkins	588-3338
Financial Advisory	TBA	
By-Laws	Ken Passage	588-2483
E.P.C.	Dennis Karlson Jim Neal	588-3346
Manager	Gail White	588-2853
Maintenance	Doug Lake	588-2853
Security	Bob Pelfrey	588-7066

PRESIDENT'S NOTE:

On behalf of myself and the other new Board Members, I would like to thank the membership for showing their support by electing us to the WBLRA Board of Directors. I am confident to say we will work very hard to keep your trust and support. The Board and I realize, the membership has serious concerns relating to the association's business practices. As a Board, we will address those concerns. If after thorough investigation, action is warranted, we will act swiftly to rectify the situation and will inform the membership of any actions taken.

The Board depends on open communication in order to address the wants and needs of the membership. This is your association and without your input, we would be operating only by assumption. My personal preference is to know specifically what our membership wants and expects from us as we act as your representatives. Your continued support is encouraged as we move ahead and it is my sincerest hope members will continue to attend the monthly Board Meetings to voice concerns and opinions.

There is still opportunity for members to sign up for committees. If you are interested in participating, please either sign up at the clubhouse or contact Marty Perkins or myself.

As you all know, Labor Day weekend marks the winding down of summer. With that in mind, I hope to see everyone at the WBLRA picnic scheduled for Saturday, August 30, 2008. Come for fun, food and a visit with friends.

Stephen F. Bryant
President – CEO



COMMUNITY CORNER

A HUGE Congratulations to Christina Van Pelt for earning her Nursing License!

Hugs to you,
Terry & David Obrecht

Do you have an announcement you would like to post?

E-mail Kathy Lutz at
mlutz33@sbcglobal.net

AUGUST 9, 2008

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Board President Steve Bryant calls the meeting to order at 10.04 a.m. Board members present: President Steve Bryant, 1st Vice President Marty Perkins, 2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski, Director Al Isaac, Director Brian Heiden and Director Linda McNeil. Also present were Manager Gail White, Treasurer Priscilla Moore, and Secretary Elaine Carrasco.

- Invocation led by Director Al Isaac
- Pledge of Allegiance led by President Steve Bryant.

II. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA :

1st Vice President Marty Perkins adds to the agenda, Webmaster, Great Lakes and Committees. Director Linda McNeil adds Board Packets and Director Al Isaac adds Budget Review.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Director Linda McNeil moves to accept the June 14, 2008 minutes with one correction. Brian Heiden title to be changed from Board Member to Director.

Director Sharon Bridges seconds. All in favor, motion carried.

IV. INCOME STATEMENT:

Treasurer Priscilla reports income for the month of July as \$23,056.83. Total expenses as \$42,584.45 and total cash on hand as of July 31, 2008, \$187,041.11. Motion by Director Al Isaac to approve the cash statement, second by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins, all in favor, motion carried.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Steve Bryant first of all thanks the membership for their support in the election. The three new Board Chairs President Steve Bryant, 1st Vice President Marty Perkins and Director Linda McNeil want to be sure the by-laws, covenants and restrictions are followed and expresses that the members have the "right to know " what is going on with our finances now and in the future. All disciplinary action and social security numbers are of employees will be held confidential.

You, the people, elected 7 board members and it is my intent that all board members will be informed and have all the information and materials available to them to do the job you entrusted to them. Steve names the executive committee as Himself, 1st Vice President Marty Perkins and Director Al Isaac. Steve states that the committee will only make decisions in emergency situations and shall report the contents to all members of the board. Issues in the financial record keeping that need corrected, separate access codes are needed for the three people with access to financial records to identify who is entering or changing, this is not sound business practice and not fair to the employees who share that responsibility. The membership list is inaccurate and needs to be updated, so if you're not receiving mailings please notify the manager or the treasurer with your address. Seven people were elected to the Board by the people, for the people and all will have all information provided to them in order to make sound decisions. Having lived here for 33 years and seeing many changes, I have to say I still love this place, I love the amenities package and the natural surroundings, and it beauty, it's the way the original developer intended it is the way I would like to keep it as a recreational community. One more thing to add to that, I think it is everyone's desire on this board to create harmony, in order to do that we have to instill trust in one another.

VI. MANAGER'S REPORT: Gail congratulates the new board members on their election. Up to this point we have been keeping up on the mowing. Road brining will be completed by the end of the month. The campground is almost completed; we added a railing in front of the shower house. The campground is full this weekend due to an annual family reunion. Gail reminds members and board members that I welcome any and all questions, I am always available to you and I will give you all the back-up you need. You just need to ask me.

VII. PAYABLES:

1st Vice President Marty Perkins moves to approve the payables, a second by Linda McNeil. All in favor, motion carried. Director Sharon Bridges likes the way the payables were broken down. Director Linda McNeil inquires about the office camera, what it is used for. Gail explains it is for recording meetings, not all meetings are recorded.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chick Witchell reports the EPC meets every two weeks. We inform members on the website and in the Birch Bark as to when we meet so as to give members enough time to submit their paperwork. The next meeting is August 21st. Chick reports two driveways, two campsites, three tree removal permits, misc., one patio and one assessor building, Lot #275 driveway on Elm being fixed. Paperwork was turned in for an illegal shed, finally after two months. Mr. Racine refuses to turn any paper on his garage; we have been working on this problem for over a month. We are going to contact the owners, his parents, because Ryan is leaving the state. We have had many complaints from the neighbors. Steve asks how Ryan was able to get a permit from the township without submitting one from White Birch first. Chick said she didn't know why, they just did.

Fred Witchell reports on campground and storage. Campgrounds have been slim this year. We are way behind this year on winter storage, not many storage cards have been returned as of this date. Fred reminds the board that storage takes 120 hours of volunteer work; if anyone volunteers they should know the hours involved. Fred has sent out fifteen letters to abandoned trailer owners in storage. The board fills the letters should be sent registered. Fred explains that the trailer still in the campground has paid his storage fees but due to health issues he hasn't been up to use it this year.

Bobby Pelfrey asks that people slow down and obey the stop signs in the association. Everyone knows that the speed limit is 25 mph, slow down!!! Have courtesy for other people in the association.

COMMENT'S (AGENDA ITEM'S):

Jim Neal #1094 asks, pertaining to people being behind on fees and assessments in the campground, shouldn't they have to pay in advance? You don't park your rig in storage unless it is paid for. After a certain date, they should be removed.

Tom Smith #318 comments that the flag at the gate doesn't have a light; it should be flown by itself, boldly and asks if anyone is taking it down nightly.

Unapproved Meeting Minutes Continued

Ken Passage #163 comments on the large expenditure listed under communications in the financial report.

Chuck Lutz #225 suggests a specific forum for questions member may have.

OLDBUSINESS:

Falls to the floor.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1st Vice President Marty Perkins moves for ratification of the bank resolution from the phone vote taken July 21, 2008, seconded by Linda McNeil, motion carried.

- Lot sales owned by the association. 1st Vice President Marty Perkins makes a motion that all lots listed with Reiss be put up for sale along with #363 #364 and #361. Director Linda McNeil seconds with a comment. Motion rescinded.

- Director Brian Heiden motions to get three bids for the association for the purpose of soliciting properties, seconded by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins. All in favor, motion carried.

- Executive committee: President Steve Bryant appointed himself, 1st Vice President Marty Perkins and Director Al Isaac as the executive committee.

- 1st Vice President Marty Perkins makes a motion to ratify that the executive committee partake in business of the membership in between regular meetings but not to make any decisions without the ratification of the whole board, seconded by Director Brian Heiden. All in favor, motion carried.

- Carlton Company: Motion by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins to relieve Carlton Company from the business of the association, second by Director Brian Heiden for purpose of discussion. After much discussion 1st Vice President Marty Perkins withdraws his motion to relieve The Carlton Company from White Birch Business. Motion by Director Brian Heiden to get three bids from collection agencies, seconded by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins. Motion carries.

- Propane Bids: Director Brian Kozlowski motions that we accept the proposal from Zeihm Propane, seconded by Director Al Isaac for purpose of discussion. After much discussion, motion carries.

- Labor Day Picnic: A motion for a members Labor Day Picnic on Saturday August 30, 2008 at 2 p.m. at a cost to the association of \$200.00 made by Director Brian Heiden, seconded by Director Linda McNeil, motion carries.

- Lincoln Township to conduct WBLRA elections: 1st Vice President Marty Perkins rescinds motion to have Carol Majewski, Lincoln Township Clerk conduct WBRLA's election. They are a third party and cannot conduct our election.

Unapproved Meeting Minutes Continued

1st Vice President Marty Perkins moves to table motion for Carol Majewski to oversee WBLRA's election, seconded by Director Sharon Bridges, motion carried. Director Brian Kozlowski moves to meet with Carol Majewski to discuss WBRLA's election procedures, seconded by Director Linda McNeil, motion carried.

Future Board Meeting Dates: Director Brian Hieden moves to change the September and October meeting dates, seconded by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins, all in favor, motion carried. The September 13th meeting is now moved up a week to September 6th, 2008 and the October 11th meeting moved up a week to October 4, 2008.

- Webmaster: 1st Vice President Marty Perkins moves to have Terry Obrecht as the WBRLA webmaster, seconded by Director Al Isaac, motion carried.

- Great Lakes Internet: Motion by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins to drop Great Lakes Internet, seconded by Director McNeil. After much discussion a motion by Director Brian Kozlowski, to table dropping Great Lakes Internet Hosting Service, seconded by Director Sharon Bridges. Motion by Director Brian Heiden to get three bids, seconded by Director Sharon Bridges. Motion carried.

- EPC Appointments:

1. Dennis Karlson (co-chair)
2. Jim Neal (co-chair)
3. Mary Perkins
4. Dan Holzer
5. Mike Woodcock

- Communications appointments:

Mary Perkins (chair)
Tom Smith
Kathy Lutz
Pat Graham

Director Brian Heiden (Liasion)

- Just Community and Activities appointments:

Debby Gerish
Chris Van Pelt
Tammy Mitchell
Kevin Dombrowski
Pat Nalepa
Kathy Lutz

Director Linda McNeil (Liasion)

The Birch Bark

Unapproved Meeting Minutes Continued

- By-Laws Committee Appointments:
Ken Passage (chair)
Carol Neal
Chuck Lutz
Judy Gute
Marsha Thomas
Jerry Bridges

Mike Graham

1st Vice President Marty Perkins (Liasion)

- Budget Advisory Committee Appointments:
 1. Dennis Karlson
 2. Dorothy Napela
 3. Arnie Van Overbeke
 4. Mary Perkins

Motion by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins to confirm committee picks, seconded by Director Brian Heiden, motion carried.

- Board Packets: Motion by Director Linda McNeil to deliver board packets to board members by the Thursday before the meeting, seconded by 1st Vice President, motion carried.
- Budget Review: A motion by Director Al Isaac for a complete budget review at 9 a.m. on October 4, 2008 seconded by Director Brian Kozlowski, motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Comments from the floor are available at the clubhouse.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins, seconded by Director Sharon Bridges, all in favor, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:06 PM

Respectfully Yours,
Elaine Carrasco
Secretary

The Birch Bark

CONDENSED MONTHLY INCOME STATEMENT July 1 - July 31, 2008

MEMBERS CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads for items and services are "FREE" and can be posted by members only.

Your ad will be posted here and on our website. Just go to www.whitebirch.org members area and post. No Internet? Call 989-588-3338 we will post it for you.

(Sorry, no real estate ads accepted at this time)

**Traveling? Can't take your pet with you?
Don't lock them up in a strange kennel!!!
Call me – I will come to your home and care for your pets while you are away. I'm open to caring for any type of pet!
I live right in White Birch.**

Please call Sharayah at 989-588-9192

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## ADVERTISE IN THE BIRCHBARK

If you are interested in advertising in the Birch Bark, please call 989-588-3338. Please note that ads are not automatically renewed and payment must be made prior to listing.

### Advertising Rate

Business Card Size                      \$15.00 per month

Fees and Ads must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month preceding the next issue. Business cards must be "copy-ready" or clear enough for clean scanning. Please make checks payable to White Birch Lakes Recreational Association and the attention of **The Birch Bark** for accounting purposes.

4730 Lake Road  
Farwell, MI 48622

|                         | <u>July 1<br/>-July 31,<br/>2008</u> | <u>Year To<br/>Date</u> | <u>2008/2009<br/>BUDGET</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>     | <b>23,056.83</b>                     | <b>320,753.21</b>       | <b>446,300.00</b>           |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>         |                                      |                         |                             |
| Bad Debt Expense        | 00.0                                 | 1,555.77                |                             |
| Exec. Payroll           | 12,301.16                            | 65,773.63               | 100,000.00                  |
| Office Expense          | 1,420.95                             | 8,288.03                | 23,025.00                   |
| Roads                   | 6,764.09                             | 24,030.30               | 47,000.00                   |
| Clubhouse Maintenance   | 7,784.74                             | 34,444.78               | 61,700.00                   |
| Campground Maintenance  | 2,211.26                             | 1158.27                 | 25,350.00                   |
| Entrance Costs          | 1,075.92                             | 4,214.65                | 6,300.00                    |
| Capital Improvements    | 2,166.28                             | 2,166.28                | 15,575.00                   |
| Gen. Assoc. Maintenance | 3,575.30                             | 1,413.99                | 38,400.00                   |
| Maintenance Bldg.       | 30.64                                | 2,324.87                | 5,000                       |
| Goods for Resale        | 1,537.77                             | 2,637.02                | 5,000                       |
| Special Events          | 0.00                                 | 513.45                  | 1,000.00                    |
| Professional Costs      | 0.00                                 | 2,599.50                | 10,000.00                   |
| Bd. & Committees        | 244.59                               | 340.33                  | 600.00                      |
| Security                | 3,717.48                             | 9,454.59                | 17,100.00                   |
| Lake Costs              | 339.27                               | 13,932.18               | 26,450.00                   |
| Taxes & Insurance       | -329.00                              | 15,689.80               | 23,000.00                   |
| <b>TOTALS</b>           | <b>-19,527.62</b>                    | <b>105,543.77</b>       | <b>445,300.00</b>           |

### CASH BALANCE BY FUND

|                   | <u>07/31/08</u>   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| General           | 30,658.97         |
| Reserve           | 125,484.28        |
| Petty Cash        | 125.00            |
| Dev. Fund         | 28,835.00         |
| Spa Fund          | 945.86            |
| Furniture Fund    | 203.94            |
| Playground        | 688.06            |
| Whale Fund        | 100.00            |
| <b>TOTAL CASH</b> | <b>187,041.11</b> |



**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 on the website as soon as they are received from the person or group responsible for providing the answer.

**ASK THE BOARD - EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Steve Bryant, President      [sfbryant1@yahoo.com](mailto:sfbryant1@yahoo.com)

Marty Perkins, 1<sup>st</sup> V.P.  
Liaison/By-Laws      [floorpup@yahoo.com](mailto:floorpup@yahoo.com)

Brian Kozlowski, 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.  
Liaison/      [kozkat@peoplepc.com](mailto:kozkat@peoplepc.com)

Brian Heiden, Director  
Liaison/Communications      [yohimbe34@yahoo.com](mailto:yohimbe34@yahoo.com)

Linda McNeil, Director  
Liaison/Just Community  
and Activities      [lucymcn79@hotmail.com](mailto:lucymcn79@hotmail.com)

Sharon Bridges, Director  
Liaison/      [sbridges@toast2.net](mailto:sbridges@toast2.net)

Al Isaac, Director  
Liaison/      [ajjisaac@toast.net](mailto:ajjisaac@toast.net)

**Meet Your Neighbor**

Do you know someone with a special hobby or interest? Maybe just someone you find interesting. If so please contact Kathy Lutz at [mlutz33@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mlutz33@sbcglobal.net) or 989-588-4627. Every month a new neighbor will be featured here.

**Change is Good!**

**New Website Coming Soon**

First, I'd like to thank the Board for the appointment of Webmaster and giving me the opportunity once again to serve the community. Secondly, I'd like to thank the volunteers who took care of the website the last two years. Immediately after being assigned the task, I ran into huge technical problems from the server/provider side of things. If this is an indication of what the volunteers have had to deal with all along, my hat goes off to them.

New technologies can be a great thing, especially when all goes as planned. But...the same technology can be a real bugger when it's arguing with you the whole way. With that said, I thank the members in advance for their support and patience while the bugs are worked out.

Well anyway, the server mess appears to be somewhat straightened out so it's time to get cracking. There'll be a whole new look to the site which I hope not only appeals to current members but to potential new members as well. I'll do my best to keep everyone informed of what's going on during the transformation. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at [opets2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:opets2@sbcglobal.net).

Terry Obrecht

The Birch Bark is your paper. For some their only link during the winter months. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact us.

The Communication Committee will be meeting the second Wednesday following the BOD Meeting starting in Sept.

The meeting will be combined with the mailing of the News Letter.

# 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.

## Propane Prices to Members

Stanley @ \$2.40  
Zeihm @ \$2.49

You must mention you live in WBLRA



For those who plan on storing their trailers in the storage area or campground. You need to fill out an information card with your current contact information and return it to the office.

# HAPPY LABOR DAY!

## **Planning a Party or Reunion?**

Why not have it at the Clubhouse or Pavilion. Contact our Manager Gail White at 989-588-2853 for rental arrangements.

All articles for the "Birch Bark" are due no later than 5:00 pm the Wednesday 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: [funk49pt@yahoo.com](mailto:funk49pt@yahoo.com)