



The Birch Bark

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association

4730 Lake Road, Farwell, MI 48622

Office: (989) 588-2853 Fax: (989) 588-4924 Security: (989) 588-7066

September 2008 Issue

www.whitebirch.org

Members volume II

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

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	10:00 am	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

09/18/08	EPC committee	7:00 pm
09/20/08	By-Law committee	7:00 pm
09/27/08	Board Workshop	10:00am
10/04/08	Budget Review	9:00 am
10/04/08	Monthly Board Meeting	10:00 am



WBLRA Approach Signs

With heavy equipment donated by Dave Conley, most the man-power being provided by Pete Norlander and many Lincoln Township volunteers supervising, the WBLRA approach signs were finally installed. You may recall, Lincoln Township Officers and WBLRA members voted on the actual design back in 2007. The sign maker did an absolutely wonderful job in re-creating the winning entry. The signs are on county easement and mark the approach of the WBLRA entrance from the north and south on Old State Road. These signs as well as others in our surrounding communities were made available though a beautification grant obtained by the Township.

Special thanks go to the WBLRA Member who donated the funds for the posts, cement and hardware to install both signs.

Family in Need

Longtime WBLRA member, Sal Scozzari has suffered from a recent stroke. We're so sorry to hear this and wish him a speedy and full recovery. For those who don't know, Sal and his wife Phyllis are an elderly couple who heat their home with wood. Unfortunately, because of the stroke Sal wasn't able to gather and cut enough firewood to get them through the winter. If any members would like to donate some split firewood to Sal and Phyllis, your generosity would be greatly appreciated. Firewood can be delivered to 4451 Teaberry Lane and stacked on their front porch so Phyllis won't have to go too far in the cold to get the wood.

We'd like to thank Peggy Ellis for making us aware of the situation.

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	Debbie Gerish	588-3647
Communications	Mary Cox-Perkins	588-3338
Financial Advisory	Dorothy Nalepa	
By-Laws	Ken Passage	588-2483
E.P.C.	Jim Neal, Dennis Karlson	588-3346
Manager	Gail White	588-2853
Maintenance	Doug Lake	588-3338
Security	Bob Pelfrey	588-7066



As the band of merry members continued down winding roads and wooded trails, more and more quads, ORV's and golf carts packed with smiling, waving people joined in for the ride on a picture perfect summer evening. Once the tour ended, they all rested at a Member's home around a roaring campfire.

That's what it's all about and what makes WBLRA special, good friends (old and new) and simple recreational pleasures. So, if you see a group driving by that looks like they're just having way too much fun, feel free to join in!

Everyone is Welcome!

To see all the photo's in a [YouTube®](#) slide show, look for the Labor Day Cruise 2008 on the "Video Gallery" page at www.whitebirch.org

CRUISING ALONG

The Member Picnic was a great success with lots of food for everyone. Thanks to everyone who came and brought a dish to pass. There was horseshoes, Euchre tournaments and Kathy Lutz even brought a Piñata stuffed with candy for the kids!

It was a beautiful day and we all walked away stuffed to the gills and happy!

But the picnic was just the beginning. Later on, it started out small but within a few short miles; it soon turned into a large caravan of giggling, laughing WBLRA Members just having fun cruising.



The Birch Bark

President's Note:

The newly elected Board Members pledged to restore compliance with our By-Laws and C&R's by the Board of Directors and Management. We also pledged to establish sound business practices to protect the Membership and improve the Association's financial standing. Restoring our By-laws and C&R's as governing documents and establishing better business practices, will ensure fair and equitable treatment of the Members and will help protect the Association's future.

As President and CEO with general powers and duties of supervision and management of the Association and with the help of the 1st Vice President, I have begun to make necessary changes.

In order to set up a check and balance system for work performed by the front office, separation of duties between office personnel has been established to eliminate conflict of interest.

As appointed Officers of the Association, both the Treasurer and Secretary/Assistant Treasurer now answer directly to the Board as intended and are responsible for the duties spelled out in our By-Laws under ARTICLE VIII OFFICERS, Sections 3, 4 and 5.

Responsibility for income accounting, bill payment, all forms of financial record keeping including the Member List, and assessment records, has been returned to the Treasurer. This positive change will result in less confusion and more consistent bookkeeping. The change will provide the Manager with less distraction and more opportunity to concentrate efforts on managing employees, maintenance schedules and ensuring the upkeep of all common amenities, facilities and association equipment.

Realizing we are accountable to the Membership, the Board has begun looking at every aspect of our operations. They are presenting recommendations and voting on changes that will cut costs and make our management efforts more effective. Where possible and practical, less expensive services are being sought that provide equal or better value for the money spent. The simple act of changing web hosting saved \$626.75. I have reason to believe more can be saved once the Budget/Finance Committee starts evaluating the rest of our purchased items and services.

A time clock is going to be re-installed for employee accountability and employee wages and earnings will be released to the Membership.

Over the years, a large number of lots have been returned to the Association for past assessments. The longer the lots go unsold, the more costly they become to the entire Membership. We are in the process of investigating what is required to sell them as quickly as possible, while trying to maintain property values and recover as much of our losses as possible.

We also voted on putting the old maintenance truck up "For Sale – As Is", for \$3,600 or Best Offer since it will cost more to repair.

We are still working on resolving the issue of the security radios and it will be addressed at the next Board Meeting. Members will be informed of our decision once the issue is resolved.

It has been a hectic two months and Board meetings have been long, but it has been worthwhile and refreshing to see the Board work toward a common goal of providing better service to the Members and the Association. All these actions are helping Board Members fulfill their promises made to the Membership.

I appreciate all comments, concerns and questions expressed during discussion of "Agenda Items". As long as comments are kept at a business level and done without resorting to mud slinging, the meetings will continue to be productive to all concerned.

On the lighter side, I am happy to report there was a great turnout at the Labor Day Member Picnic. It is nice to see so many Members socializing and having themselves a good ole time! The "Labor Day Cruise" was a blast and I hope many more will get the opportunity to participate. I sincerely wish those who could not make it to this picnic, would be able to make the next.

Steve Bryant
President, WBLRA Board of Directors

The Birch Bark

Surviving the Flu - Free Class

Thursday, **Sept. 25, 2008** - 1 pm
at the Clubhouse
taught by Anne Hobart,
Naturopathic Educator and Therapist

Be Prepared! We hear a lot today about how bad the flu is. Will we have a world wide pandemic? What about the "bird Flu"? Don't live in fear. Come and find out what's going on and how you can protect you and your family.

- *Just what is the Flu anyway?
 - * The best ways to avoid the Flu
 - *Should you get a Flu shot? When?
 - *Alternatives to a Flu shot.
 - *What to do if you get the Flu?
 - *Inexpensive remedies
- And More.

The class will take 1 1/2 to 2 hours and there will be time to ask questions.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Happy September Birthdays to Louise Bryant and Jessica Van Pelt

Do you have an announcement you would like posted?

E-mail Kathy Lutz at
mlutz33@sbcglobal.net

Planning a Party or Reunion?

Why not have it at the Clubhouse or Pavilion?

Contact our Manager Gail White
at 989-588-2853 for arrangements.

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 15th of each month preceding the next issue. Business cards must be "copy-ready" or clear enough for clean scanning. In the absence of a card a facsimile may be e-mailed to funk49pt@yahoo.com

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

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, Sharayah.

I will come to your home and care for your pets while you are away. I am open to caring for any type of pet, and I live right here in White Birch. For more info call or go to www.whitebirch.org website classifieds or Please call 989-588-9192

FREE! 50 gallon rotating com poster on stand.

Please call Marty at 588-3338.

The Birch Bark

UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2008 PROPOSED BOARD MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Board President Steve Bryant calls the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. Board members present: President Steve Bryant, 1st Vice President Marty Perkins, 2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski, Director Sharon Bridges, Director Al Isaac, Director Brian Heiden and Director Linda McNeil. Also present were General 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 THE AGENDA:

1st Vice President Marty Perkins adds to the agenda, health insurance plans, White Birch's white truck and the radios.

Director Sharon Bridges adds EPC information and correspondence.

Director Linda Mc Neil adds to the agenda employee wages and time clock.

III. APPROVAL OF AUGUST MINUTES

(1). Motion by Al Isaac to approve the August Minutes, seconded by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins. All in favor, motion carries

IV. INCOME STATEMENT-TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Priscilla Moore reports income for August was \$13,336.40, expenses \$30,761.61 and cash balance at months end \$169,680.35.

(2). Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins, second by 2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski. All in favor, motion carries.

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Steve Bryant thanks all past members who served on committees, also thanks Marty, Mary and Dan Holzer for cleaning the beach area at Timber and Holiday Lakes. He comments on the big turnout at the Labor Day Picnic and thanks all who participated. He says there was a large number of ATV's and golf carts that toured the property and beach areas. Fellowship and good times were had by many. Please join in! Changes will be made to safeguard our finances. Record keeping will be increased for adequate records. The property owner's list will be updated, we need your help to do this, please contact the office if you are not receiving correspondence from WBL and give your correct address.

VI. MANAGER'S REPORT:

Reports that maintenance has the campground and beaches ready and looking good. Lot's of compliments on the bathhouse and the mowing job being done in the campground. The only thing is the toilet paper use, it's extreme. Talked to a cement company about replacement in front of the clubhouse, he gave an estimate of just under \$2000.00, if this board is interested. Gail brings to the board's attention that she got a confidential offer on a piece of property owned by WBL's and asks for direction in handling it. Gail asks what time the board would like the auditor at the next meeting, as she will be attending. They asked that she be present by 9:30 a.m. on October at 9:30 a.m. Gail reports that she spoke to Charter Communications and was told they were still working on it. She reports we had a CPR class and it was discover we need some maintenance on our difibulator. We have a fund for it and can use that for the maintenance costs. The cost will be \$512.00. What would they like to do?

The Birch Bark

UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES cont.

(3). 2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski motions to purchase the equipment as stated by the manager, with a second part of the motion being to ask Kevin Dombrowski to do research on this, seconded by Director Al Isaac. Motion carried.

VII. PAYABLES APPROVAL:

(4). Motion to approve the payables by Director Al Isaac, seconded by Director Linda McNeil. Motion carries.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Co Chairman Jim Neal of the EPC reports 3 tree removal applications and one for a boat port. We have submitted things for the board to approve or disapprove. We still need members for the committee. Jim recommends an incident report.

(5). 2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski motions to adopt an incident report with a 60 day trial, seconded by Director Bridges. Motion is amended to include that it be put before the board for finalization at the November meeting. All in favor, motion carries.

Campground committee: Fred says he is way behind in cards for storage compared to last year. He states he must have a card sent to him by the end of the month, please put this information in the Birch Bark.

Ken Passage by-laws committee states we have a nice mix on this committee, but is hard to arrange meetings. Currently meeting on Tuesday at 10:00 A.M. membership can observe. They have an ambitious goal of getting through all by February 1, 2009. Will be working with web master and communications to get the information out to members.

Bobby Pelfrey security watch for kids, school started. When dropping off you kids park to the right side, not the left or by the newspaper stand, it is dangerous.

Mary Perkins reports that the picnic was a success. Director Brian Heiden suggests we have a suggestion page on the board to get a feel of what the members want to do for activities.

EPC also reports that their meetings will be changed from Thursday to Friday nights at 7PM, one week before the board meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Available at the clubhouse.

NEW BUSINESS:

Quote review and Website Service placement:

(6). Motion by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins to elect GO DADDY as our server, second by Director Linda McNeil, secretary calls the roll, Director Linda McNeil (yes), Director Sharon Bridges (abstain), 1st Vice President Marty Perkins (yes), Director Brian Kozlowski (no), Director Al Isaac (yes), Director Brian Heiden (yes). Motion carries.

Collection companies:

(7). 1st Vice President Marty Perkins moves to table the collection company bids, with a second by Director Sharon Bridges. Motion carries.

(8). 1st Vice President Marty Perkins motions to get bids from Michigan businesses for collection agencies, second by Director Brian Heiden. Motion carries.

The Birch Bark

UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES cont.

Real estate bids:

(9). Motion to go into closed session made by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins , seconded by Director Linda McNeil. Carries.

Board commences executive session.

(10). 2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski motions to contract Reiss Realty, second by Director Sharon Bridges, failed.

(11). Motion to contract White Birch Realty for WBL property sales by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins, a second by Director Brian Heiden. Motion fails.

(12). Motion by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins to table real estate contract, second by Director Linda McNeil. All in favor, motion carried.

(13) 1st Vice President Marty Perkins motions for a workshop this month on September 27th, 2008 at 10:00a.m. seconded by Director Sharon Bridges. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

Activities committee:

- Kevin Dombrowski, taken off.
- Debby Gerish, Chairperson
- Chris Van Pelt
- Tammy Mitchell
- Kathy Lutz
- Rick Kasprzak
- Liz Kasprzak
- Cheryl Constantino
- Director Linda Mc Neil (Liaison)
-

Campground Committee Appointments:

- Fred Witchell
- Pat Nalepa
- Kevin Dombrowski

Budget Advisory Committee Apointments:

- Dorothy Napela (chair)

Health insurance:

(14). Motion by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins for bids on health insurance both in and out of group/network through Blue Cross, second by Director Brian Heiden, carried.

Associations White Truck:

Truck is to be brought back to the Association and put on the Web Site for sale per Board request.

EPC and Correspondence:

(15).A motion to table EPC and Correspondence by 2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski, second by Director Sharon Bridges. Motion carried.

Return of Real Property:

(16).1st Vice President Marty Perkins motions to accept real property for back assessments, seconded by Director Linda McNeil, motion carried, with the exception of Director Brian Kozlowski, who opposed on principal.

The Birch Bark

UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES cont.

Employee wages and time clock

(17). Director Linda McNeil motions for the release, to the membership, the employee payroll summary the board received on August 22, seconded by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins. All ayes with the exception of 2nd Vice President Brian Koslowski and Director Sharon Bridges who voted Nay.

(18). Motion by Director Linda McNeil to install a time clock for the employees, seconded by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins, call of the roll, 1st Vice President Marty Perkins (aye, Director Linda McNeil (aye), Director Sharon Bridges (nay), 2nd Vice President Brian Koslowski (nay), Director Brian Heiden (aye), motion carries.

Offer to purchase on lot #1254

(19). Director Sharon Bridges moves to reject an offer for lot #1254, second by Linda McNeil, all in favor, motion carried.

(20) Motion to move to closed session by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins, second by Director Linda McNeil, all ayes, except Director Brian Koslowski (nay).

Offer to purchase on lot #1040

(21). Motion by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins not to accept offer on lot #1040, second by Director Linda McNeil, motion carried.

(22). A motion to discuss the “radio issue” by director Linda McNeil, second by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins, still open for discussion at the October meeting.

(23). Motion to adjourn by 1st Vice President Marty Perkins, seconded by Vice President Brian Koslowski, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned...2:48p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Carrasco, Secretary

WBLRA EMPLOYEE WAGES – FIGURES REPRESENT A TWO-WEEK PAY PERIOD

EMPLOYEE	Title	Hourly Wages	Hours Paid	** Special Wages	Special Hours	Gross Pay	Mileage
Carrasco, Elaine J.	Administrative	10.00	52.75			527.50	
Cheadle, Carolyn	Clubhouse Maintenance	9.73	29	11.59	5	340.12	
Helm, Richard C.	Security	8.00	16			128.00	76.19
Lake, Doug	* Administrative Salary	20.06	80			1604.73	
Langley, Brian E.	General Assoc Maintenance	10.00	80			800.00	68.87
Moore, Priscilla	Administrative	12.64	36.50			461.36	
Pelfery, Bobbie	Security	8.00	21			168.00	135.80
Reha, Jerry J.	General Assoc Maintenance	13.17	72			948.24	61.60
Romine, Georgia L.	Clubhouse Maintenance	8.96	37	11.59	4.75	386.75	
White, Gail L.	* Administrative Salary	20.91	80			1673.81	
Two-Week Total			514.25		9.75	7038.33	342.46
TOTAL TO DATE						***108120.10	4154.91

* Wages shown do not represent additional costs for Administrative Salary medical, dental and life insurance or bonuses.

** Special Wages are paid to Clubhouse Attendants when cleaning the clubhouse and restrooms.

*** Equals total wages and benefits paid to date.

The Birch Bark

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
Marty Perkins, 1 st V.P. Liaison/By-Laws	floorpup@yahoo.com
Brian Kozlowski, 2 nd V.P. Liaison/	kozkat@peoplepc.com
Brian Heiden, Director Liaison/Communications	yohimbe34@yahoo.com
Linda McNeil, Director Liaison/Just Community and Activities	lucymcn79@hotmail.com
Sharon Bridges, Director Liaison/	sbridges@toast2.net
Al Isaac, Director Liaison/	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 or 989-588-4627.

Every month a new neighbor could be featured here.



Stump Grinding

Insured *Free Estimates*

989-240-6414 **800-897-0299**

We'll beat Your Best Deal

CONDENSED INCOME STATEMENT

AUGUST 2008

	<u>Aug 1 - Aug 31, 2008</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>2008/2009 BUDGET</u>
TOTAL INCOME	13,336.40	334,131.40	446,300.00
EXPENSES			
Bad Debt Expense	00.0	1,555.77	
Exec. Payroll	12,175.14	77,948.77	100,000.00
Office Expense	1,769.91	10,117.35	23,025.00
Roads	00.00	24,030.30	47,000.00
Clubhouse Maintenance	4,211/69	38,656.27	61,700.00
Campground Maintenance	2,958.81	14,534.58	25,350.00
Entrance Costs	394.36	4,609.01	6,300.00
Capital Improvements	23.75	2,190.03	15,575.00
Gen. Assoc. Maintenance	3,431.16	17,845.15	38,400.00
Maintenance Bldg.	48.64	2,373.51	5,000
Goods for Resale	174.36	2,811.38	5,000
Special Events	0.00	513.45	1,000.00
Professional Costs	2,051.28	4,650.78	10,000.00
Bd. & Committees	269.43	609.76	600.00
Security	1,090.22	10,544.81	17,100.00
Lake Costs	658.87	15,173.55	26,450.00
Taxes & Insurance	1,695.99	17,385.79	23,000.00
TOTALS	30,761.61	246,030.26	445,300.00

CASH

BALANCE BY FUND

08/31/08

General	36,445.27
Reserve	101,217.32
Petty Cash	125.00
Dev. Fund	29,835.00
Spa Fund	945.86
Furniture Fund	203.94
Playground	688.06
Whale Fund	100.00
TOTAL CASH	187,041.11

The Birch Bark

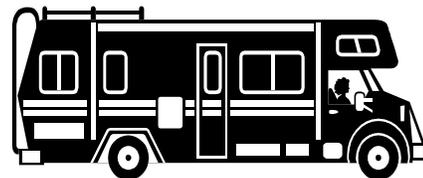
White Birch Lakes Recreational Association
4730 Lake Road, Farwell, Michigan 48622

**White Birch Lakes Recreational Association
does not endorse and is not responsible for products and/or services advertised in the newsletter.**

IF ANYONE HAS A WBL STORY OR AN
IDEA FEEL FREE TO CONTRIBUTE.
IN THE MEAN TIME WATCH FOR THE
NEXT CRUISE AND JOIN IN. MAYBE WE
CAN FIND A STORY ON THE WAY!

BUS STOP

Just a reminder school is back in session and the children are back at the bus stop. Please keep an extra eye out for the little ones, and parents please do not park and wait on White Birch Lane use the bus stop parking. It gets a little busy and confusing with the traffic and the bus. We don't want to see any of the kids get hurt.



CAMPGROUND STORAGE

If you are planning on storing your camper in the campground or storage area this year you need to fill out a card with your current contact information and return it to the office by Sept 27th.

Even if you had a spot last year it will not be reserved past the Sept 27th cut off date without a new registration card.

There are still a few members who are waiting for spots and they will be assigned to others after that date.

Thank You

All articles for the "Birch Bark" are due no later than 5:00pm Wednesday following the monthly Board meeting. They may be left at the Office or e-mailed to funk49pt@yahoo.com