



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

October 2008 Issue

www.whitebirch.org

Members volume III

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	4:00 pm
Saturday	8:00 am	9:00 pm
Sunday	10:00 am	5:00 pm

NOV POOL HOURS

Monday	4:00 pm	8:30 pm
Tuesday	Closed	
Wednesday	Closed	
Thursday	4:00 pm	8:30 pm
Friday	Closed	
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

10-18-08	By-Laws	10:00am
10-18-08	Clare Spook-tacular	10:00am
10-31-08	EPC	7:00pm
11-01-08	Hayride	1:00 to 4:00pm
11-08-08	Board Meeting	10:00am
11-15-08	By-Laws	10:00am
11-19-08	Communications	Noon

The Board has addressed the Security Radio problem we inherited based on legal counsel recommendations. The Chair will be entertaining a resolution at the next meeting to ensure this type of impropriety never happens again.

We are working on taking care of the obvious but the Board wants and needs Member feedback. We are providing time at Board Meetings for Members to speak their minds. We want to know what you think. Do you want your Board to address any particular issues? If you cannot make it to meetings to voice your opinions, please send us a letter, email or place a comment on the new Member Forum. With your help, we can make White Birch Lakes Recreational Association a place we can all be proud of.

We still have time before the snow flies for a few more ATV/ORV cruises and I am sure the little ones are looking forward to the Activities and Hayride. Please watch the WBLRA calendar for upcoming events. Events will be listed in the Birch Bark and on the Event Calendar at www.whitebirch.org.

If Members are worried correspondences will be overlooked, comments can be sent to my home address: 4941 White Birch Lane, Farwell MI 48622 or to my email: sfbryant1@yahoo.com

Steve Bryant

President's Note:

It seems like only yesterday we were gearing up for spring. Now here it is October already, the deer have put on their winter coats, the leaves are turning and it is beginning to smell like fall. The kids are back in school, the summer activities are winding down and the camping season is almost over.

Everything changes and not unlike the seasons, White Birch is going through changes too. I believe when we are through, the change will be for the better. The Board is working towards getting our budget under control, trimming the fat and establishing greater employee accountability.

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 Communications	Debbie Gerish Mary Cox-Perkins	588-3647 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

FISH STORIES

Drew McNeil caught this 17 inch large mouth bass in White Birch Lake!



Note from the Manager
No Hunting in White Birch Lakes

Hunting (firearm or bow and arrow), trapping or discharging of firearms is prohibited in all sections of WBLRA. Persons who insist on hunting or using arms on their own property or within the boundaries of WBLRA will be reported to the proper authorities and legal action will be taken.

Thank you for protecting our safety and natural wildlife

McNeil's -vs-Ambrose Beetle

After having several dead trees fall on our property, we contacted a tree service and when he came out and saw that the dead trees were infested with bugs he had us contact the Department of Agriculture. When I contacted them, I talked to a Larry Peroe and as I explained what was going on he felt the need to come out immediately.

He came out that day and took numerous samples and said he would get back to us as soon as possible. A few weeks later, he called us back and told us that the dead trees were infested with the Ambrose Beetle. They are common to Aspen and Cottonwood trees. Our concern is that they would spread to our Oaks and Maples when they killed off all the Aspen's. Peroe indicated these particular beetles only like the soft wood and that there is really nothing you can do to kill off the beetles but I thought you all might like to know what we found out.

Sincerely, Brian and Linda McNeil



Stump Grinding

Insured *Free Estimates*

989-240-6414 800-897-0299

We'll beat Your Best Deal

Meet Your Neighbor

Kathy,

Larry Burns your part time neighbor from across the street.

I would like to see mention of Dave Obrecht. Since I met him early this year, whenever I see him he has a smile and a warm greeting. He definitely is a busy guy always on the move in his Yamaha, waving and smiling to all he sees. In conversation with him I find him to be level headed and definitely concerned about the well being of WBL.. After he cut and split the pine tree from behind your place I think, he went aound asking folks if they wanted some campfire wood....we said yes and he insisted upon helping us stack it.

Two weeks ago when josh and I were building the decks on the house, Dave drove by, saw us and stopped., he stayed the rest of the day and helped in the hot sun. You can also see his artwork and creative side all around WBL with his lot and homeowner signs.

Cathy and I find him to be someone we are very glad to know and call neighbor and friend!!!!

Larry Burns Lot 332

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 will be featured here.

PLANNING A PARTY?

Why not have it at the Clubhouse or Pavilion. We've had everything from Birthdays and Reunions to Weddings.

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

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

ADVERTISE IN THE BIRCHBARK

If you are interested in advertising in the Birch Bark, please call Mary at 989-588-3338 or e-mail funk49pt@yahoo.com.

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. Please make checks payable to White Birch Lakes Recreational Association and address to the attention of **The Birch Bark** 4730 Lake Road Farwell, MI 48622

Unapproved October Board Meeting Minutes

OCTOBER 4, 2008
PROPOSED BOARD MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Board President Steve Bryant called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Board members present: President Steve Bryant, 2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski, Director Sharon Bridges, Director Al Isaac and Director Linda McNeil. Also present, Manager Gail White, Treasurer Priscilla Moore and Secretary Elaine Carrasco. Absent was 1st Vice President Marty Perkins, due to being hospitalized. Also absent, Director Brian Heiden.

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

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

No additions to the agenda.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

(1) Motion to approve the September 6th minutes with a typo error correction by 2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski, with a second by Director Sharon Bridges, all in favor, motion carries.

IV. INCOME STATEMENT-TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Priscilla Moore reports income for September at \$18,690.19, expenses at \$35546.35 and cash balance at the months end at \$156,327.50. **(2) Motion to approve treasurer's report by Director Sharon Bridges, a second by Director Al Isaac, motion carried.**

V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Steve Bryant reports we had a brief budget meeting this morning, because of the timeline in which the quarter ended and the date of this meeting, Priscilla was unable to get the reports completed until late. Not a great deal of time to go over it. We have a budget committee established who will look into our budget, to some extent. Steve says we will get back to you with a report on our findings.

The colors are changing; the cold has come, let's look forward to having some fun in the fall.

VI. MANAGER'S REPORT:

Manager Gail White reports they did sentence the two who broke into the trailers in the storage area. One year in the county jail, 3 years probation, and \$560.00 in court cost to the perpetrators and restitution is being held open at no less than \$36,685.95.

Gail would like to bring out what happened with the lot issue from the last meeting involving a board member thinking she was selling a lot without permission, this issue was dismissed after the executive session in September.

About the defibrillator, Kevin Dombrowski contacted Gail and told her that the figures she had given at the September meeting were the lowest he could find, if the board is willing she will order the parts needed at a cost to the general fund of less than \$50.

Unapproved Meeting Minutes Continued

Director Linda McNeil asks if she received this in writing from Kevin, Gail states they all received e-mails. Director McNeil and Director Bridges state they did not receive this e-mail.

Gail asks for permission to block off illegal access to White Birch property.

VII. PAYABLES APPROVAL:

2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski inquires about a \$1088 bill from the lawyer. President Steve Bryant explains that he and 1st Vice President Marty Perkins met with the lawyer for legal opinions and that he would share those with the other board members later in the meeting.

(3) A motion to pay the bills by Director Linda McNeil, seconded by Director Al Isaac, all in favor, motion carried.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EPC Jim Neal reports applications included three tree removals, three garages, and one house addition. Director Al Isaac asks if the EPC has a liaison, finding out there was not, he volunteers and is appointed by President Steve Bryant liaison to EPC. Director Linda McNeil reports trees in her yard were infested with ambrosia beetles; they attack soft woods and will not attack maples and oaks. There is no precautions that can be taken, and this may happen else where.

By Laws Committee reports they are working hard on the by-laws and making progress, asks if the board is considering a review committee for the C&R's. He suggests we get that started. Think about it and decide whether or not they want one. All membership is invited to attend meetings and meeting times and dates are posted on the web site.

Safety committee reports loose dogs, some trailers have been vandalized on their lots. These people crawl underneath the trailers and are cutting sections of copper off. People need to slow down and obey the stop signs. Lock was cut off at the emergency gate. One child was lost, we got him home safely. No hunting on pipeline or riding of ORV's on energy property, this was a pamphlet included with you bill.

Director Al Isaac mentions that future consideration should be made to put a sticker in member's windshields for identification purposes. Bobby Pelfrey agrees we need to be able to identify members and visitors need to obtain a pass while they are here. Director Sharon Bridges states we need to have a workshop before the meeting to finalize the agenda a week before the monthly meeting.

IX. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR, AGENDA ITEMS:

These comments are available at the clubhouse.

X. OLDBUSINESS:

- **Collection Agencies. (4) Motion to continue with The Carlton Company by 2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski, seconded by Director Al Isaac, all ayes, except Director Linda McNeil with a nay. Motion carries.** Director Al Isaac suggests policy be put in place at the next workshop for the collection of association fees.
- **Real Estate companies bids: (5) A motion by 2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski to go with the lowest bidder as our real estate, Reiss Real**

Estate. President Steve Bryant because of his involvement in real estate withdraws and passes the gavel to 2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski. **2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski then withdraws his motion because of having been passed the gavel. (6) Director Sharon Bridges motions to go with lowest bidder as our realtor, Reiss. A second for purpose of discussion by Director Al Isaac. Motion Fails. (7) Director Al Isaac motions for White Birch Realty as our realtor, seconded by Director Linda McNeil. (8) A motion is made by director Linda McNeil to rescind the previous failure of the motion for White Birch as our realtor in favor were 2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski, Director Linda McNeil and Director Al Isaac, opposed, Director Sharon Bridges feeling it's a conflict of interest, motion carries.**

- Time Clock: **(9) 2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski moves to rescind the previous motion for a time clock, seconded by Director Sharon Bridges, all ayes, but for Director Linda McNeil with a nay, motion carries.**
- Radio Issue: **(10) Director Linda McNeil motions for an executive session on the radio issue, with a second by Director Al Isaac, motions carried. (11) Director Al Isaac motions to consider radios as payment on accounts; Russ Abney agrees this would constitute payment in full of his accounts with nothing else owing. Director Sharon Bridges seconds the motion, all in favor, motion carried.**
- Update on defibrillator: **(12) Director Sharon Bridges motions to update the defibrillator, a second by Director Linda McNeil, motion carried.**

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

EPC proposal: 2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski moves to table the EPC proposal, seconded by Director Sharon Bridges, motion carried.

(13) 2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski moves to go into executive session after the comments from the floor, seconded by Director Al Isaac, motion carried.

XII. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR:

Comments from the floor are available at the clubhouse.

The board moves to executive session on a previous motion.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

2nd Vice President Brian Kozlowski moves to adjourn, seconded by Director Al Isaac, all in favor, motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 1:56 P.M.

New WBLRA Website and “How to” access the Member Forum

The new WBLRA website's running and the Member Forum is ready for use! The main site is now more of a sales tool for attracting public interest in the Association, whereas the “Member Forum” is for facilitating communication between members and storing standard WBLRA documents. The forum is a great way for Members to stay current, in touch, ask questions and discuss what's going on in and around WBLRA.

The Member Forum is different from the old "Member Area". Members are not only free to review standard information such as Board Meeting Minutes, financial statements and Association policies but they can also participate by posting topics or by commenting on active discussions. Members can also post their own “Classified Ads” and “For Sale by Owner” real estate listings. Please start a new topic for each item when posting ads. This will make sure the ad has it's own heading and will make it easier for potential buyers to find. Please be sure to delete items, services or real estate listings that are no longer available. The only areas of the forum open to the public viewing are the Classified Ads, “For Sale by Owner” Real Estate Listings and WBLRA Employment Opportunities.

To access the forum, please click the “Member Forum” tab on main website then click the link at the bottom of the page. Member's can also type <http://whitebirch.org/wblra> in the web browser address bar, then clicking the go button.

Since usernames and passwords were not transferable from the old “Member Area”, Member's will need to register to the new forum. It's real easy and will only take a minute. All WBLRA members 18-years or older, wishing to view private sections and post comments to the site need to register to the forum. New passwords can be anything the Member chooses but usernames must be the Members first name, last name and main lot number with a space between each (ex. John Doe 0000). Usernames and lot numbers are checked against the current Member List provided by the front office. That's why aliases, screen names or incomplete usernames are not permitted.

Please be advised that accounts without first name, last name or lot number shown, will be deleted and an email requesting re-registration will be sent to the Member.

Once the Member completes the registration process, a confirmation email is sent to the address the Member used to register. If the email doesn't get delivered to the Members "Inbox", we ask Members to check their bulk box just in case the email is thought to be spam. The Member needs to click the link in the confirmation email. Clicking the link verifies the users email and IP address, then re-directs the user to the forum login. Members can then login with their new username and password. These new requirements help ensure current members are only using the forum and adds a measure of accountability since those who actively participate by posting topics and comments are responsible for what they post.

Once logged in, Members can roam around the site. The software is easy to use and has a ton of capabilities. Members can create and edit their own posts, upload images and create links to other sites on the web. PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL IMAGES ARE W320 x H240 and 75kb OR LESS IN SIZE AND ALL UPLOADED DOCUMENTS ARE VIRUS FREE. Also, if the site remains inactive for too long, the software will prompt the user to login again.

Everyone including individual Board members, the manager, employees and committees will be responsible for posting and updating their own information and/or notices. This is a pretty cool feature since no one will have to wait for a Webmaster/Forum Administrator to be available. The only thing we ask is that Member's post to correct categories. This will make it easier for everyone to stay on topic and to find subjects of interest.

We ask that all Members please read the "Terms of Use" and "Privacy Statement" before registering. By continuing with the registration process, the Member agrees to these terms.

Member's can recommend additional categories by emailing the Webmaster/Forum Administrator at: wblraforum@whitebirch.org

**CONDENSED MONTHLY INCOME STATEMENT Sept
1 - Sept 30, 2008**

	<u>Sept 1</u> <u>-Sept 30,</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>Year To</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>2008/2009</u> <u>BUDGET</u>
TOTAL INCOME	16,690.19	352,821.59	446,300.00
EXPENSES			
Bad Debt Expense	1,581.25	3,137.02	
Executive	13,617.25	91,566.02	140,000.00
Office Expense	1,829.85	11,947.20	23,025.00
Roads	2,076.91	26,107.41	47,000.00
Clubhouse Maintenance	4,998.21	43,654.48	61,700.00
Campground Maintenance	2,386.52	16,921.10	25,350.00
Entrance Costs	977.29	5,586.30	6,300.00
Capital Improvements	0	2,190.03	15,575.00
Gen. Assoc. Maintenance	4,705.29	19,619.33	38,366.09
Maintenance Bldg.	43.68	2,417.19	5,000
Goods for Resale	82.92	2,894.30	5,000
Special Events	205.40	718.85	1,000.00
Professional Costs	0.00	4,650.78	10,000.00
Bd. & Committees	106.71	716.47	600.00
Security	1,849.45	12,394.26	17,100.00
Lake Costs	995.12	16,168.67	26,450.00
Taxes & Insurance	154.50	17,540.29	23,000.00
TOTAL expense	35,546.35	278,645.70	445,300.00
Total income	-16,856.16	74,175/89	
CASH BALANCE BY FUND			
	09/30/08		
General	21,247.37		
Reserve	102,933.30		
Petty Cash	125.00		
Dev. Fund	29,835.00		
Spa Fund	945.86		
Furniture Fund	452.91		
Playground	688.06		
Whale Fund	100.00		
TOTAL CASH	\$156,327.50		

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)

Panasonic PV-SD4090 SuperDisk - Palm Calm Digital Camera.

Still have original box. Comes complete with original hardware, software and manual. 1.3 Mega Pixel, 2.5" color LCD monitor, Motion Rec/Audio, 3x optical/2x zoom, USB port, up to 1500 shot storage. Rechargeable 1X Li-ion 1250 battery, charger included. Excellent condition, works great!

\$50 or best offer, plus USPS shipping charges if mailing outside WBLRA. Will accept cash, postal money order, cashiers check or Paypal.

For questions or additional information, please email Terry Obrecht at opets2@sbcglobal.net

Traveling and 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 have owned a wide variety and am open to caring for any type of pets. I live right here in White Birch Lakes, Please call for more information. Sharayah 989-588-9192

If you are like me your moving things around to store your summer toys. Post some of your unwanted items here. It's free, give it a try.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



With Halloween falling on a Friday they decided not to even try to compete with the “Trick or Treat” call from Farwell and Clare.

Instead we will keep you posted on the website Calender of the local happenings and follow up on Saturday Nov 1st 1:00pm with a Hayride and Activities for the kids at the Clubhouse. Color the picture and bring it with you Sat or even draw your own to share.

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.**

Where does the time go? The end of the Summer is here and it feels like it just began. The campers will be leaving at the end of the month and the Snow Birds will soon follow after them. Lets try for one more last ride before they go.

We could go early and look at all the changing trees and fall colors here in White Birch.



Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.
- Albert Camus

All articles for the "Birch Bark" are due no later than 5:00 pm the Wednesday following the monthly board meeting. Articles can be addressed to the Communications Committee and dropped at the clubhouse or e-mailed to: funk49pt@yahoo.com