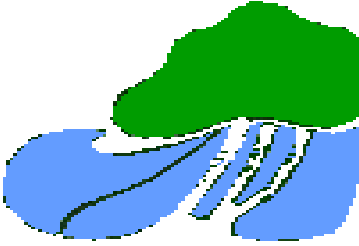


The Birch Bark



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

Office: (989) 588-7169 Clubhouse: (989)588-2853
Fax: (989) 588-4924 Web: www.whitebirch.org

September 2017

2017 – 2018 Board of Directors

President Sharon Bridges skbeuthin@toast2.net

1st Vice Pres. John Pryde johnpryde45@gmail.com

2nd Vice Pres. Kevin Dombrowski kd460@sbcglobal.net

Richard Allen richardallen1208@yahoo.com

Dawn Holzer muleman2318@gmail.com

Frank Getz directorgetz@yahoo.com

Fred Witchell witchellfireman@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

Evening CH/Pool Hours	Oct. 4	4-8 pm
Fall Plant Exchange	Oct. 7	1-4 pm
Board Meeting	Oct. 14	10 am

FALL & WINTER SCHEDULE

Effective 09-05-17

SWIMMING POOL HOURS

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.
Closed Wednesday
Friday & Saturday 9:00 A.M. to 7:30 P.M.
Sunday 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

CLUBHOUSE HOURS

8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
Closed Wednesday
8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Friday & Saturday
12:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. Sunday

SECRETARY-TREASURER OFFICE HOURS

8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday & Tuesday
Closed Wednesday
8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Thursday & Friday
8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. the 2nd Saturday of the month
(Will be occupied with Board Meeting at 10:00 A.M.)
Closed Sunday

SUPERVISOR OFFICE HOURS

8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday & Tuesday
Closed Wednesday
8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Thursday & Friday
Closed Saturday & Sunday

**IF YOU A MEDICAL OR FIRE EMERGENCY PLEASE CALL
911**

OUR STAFF

Secretary/Treasurer - Vicky McClusky
ecoffice@whitebirch.org - (989) 588-7169

Supervisor - Scott Lubs
supervisor@whitebirch.org - (989) 588-2853

Maintenance - Jeff Wheeler, Bob Luster, Mark Hathaway

After Hours Maintenance (989) 588-7066

Clubhouse - Georgia Romine, Steven Jessup

Campground Attendant - Claudia Pelfrey

Safety - Bob Pelfrey

NOTES AND NOTICES

WBLRA FIRE DANGER INFORMATION

We have had an extremely dry spring, with the danger from fires very real. Please use extreme caution with any fire & follow the fire danger rating system, posted on Smokey at the entrance/exit. WBLRA has chosen to adopt the Michigan DNR regulations that follow.

LOW: Fires are not easily started. Campfires & debris burning is allowed (following WBLRA guidelines & restrictions). Campfires are allowed in approved fire pits with a five-gallon pail of water or a water source/hose attached to a faucet readily available that will reach the fire; fires must be attended at all times & kept to a manageable size. Please see our WBLRA Camping & Fire pit Regulations for more details.

MODERATE: Fires start easily & spread at a moderate rate. Again, campfires & debris burning, following WBLRA guidelines & restrictions, are allowed.

HIGH: Fires start easily & spread at a fast rate. Debris burning, including leaves, is NOT allowed. Campfires are allowed following guidelines & restrictions. Extra attention will be needed to watch your campfire & keep it under control.

VERY HIGH: Again, fires start easily & spread rapidly. Leaf & debris burning NOT allowed. Campfires in approved fire pits are allowed, following WBLRA guidelines & restrictions. Your campfire will need to be monitored constantly & carefully to keep it under control.

BURN BAN: Fire danger is explosive, fires spread at a very fast rate & burn intensely. NO fires are allowed at any time for any reason.

TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR BURN PERMITS
866-922-2876

CAMPGROUND ELECTRICITY

If you plan on summer and/or fall camping, please be sure to call the Clubhouse at (989)588-2853 during business hours Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM to arrange to have the power turned on to your particular site. **There is no one on duty evenings or weekends to turn it on.**

We now have a supply of wooden house and tree blocks for Members wishing to take one and decorate for the shelf in the Clubhouse. There is no cost. Our many thanks go out to Carl Buchholz for volunteering his time and materials. Stop in and pick one up today!!

Michele Fennimore is taking up a collection of donated items for the Clare County Animal Shelter. Please bring your items into the Clubhouse and place in the receptacle marked for the donations. September will be items for dogs, October will be items for cats (Per Clare Humane Society canned cat food & plain clay kitty litter please.) and November will be TREATS for both dogs and cats. Any and all items will be greatly appreciated.

If you are receiving your Birch Bark by mail and can help save the Association postage by looking at it on the website, receiving it by email or picking it up in the office or Clubhouse, please give Vicky a call at 989-588-7169. Thank you.

Per a Members request, the approximate amount spent on the entrance gate has been \$78,165.03 to date



NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

CAMPERS AND TRAILERS MUST BE REMOVED FROM LOTS AS OF OCTOBER 31ST AND FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE LEGAL ACTION BY THE ASSOCIATION.

THANK YOU



With the onset of colder weather coming soon the leaves will be falling. Please remember not to blow them out to the road. It causes road destruction when Jeff grades. You can burn them or take them to the old maintenance yard. The township also picks them up certain times of the year if they are bagged in paper or clear bags.

Thank you

WINTER STORAGE

Camper storage spots are filling up fast. A completed & signed storage agreement as well as payment in full is required at the time the reservation is made. The agreement can be e-mailed, faxed, mailed or completed in person; whichever is most convenient for you. We are anticipating campground storage will be extremely limited. Please contact our Supervisor @ (989)588-2853 for more information.

Please do not delay in getting your site reserved. All campers must be removed from your lot to storage by October 31st.

Storage fees remain the same: \$40.00 for the storage area & \$75.00 for the campground. If electricity is wanted for winter camping in the campground, the fee is also the same: \$5.00 per night.

NOTE

When taking brush and leaves to the Old Maintenance Building area, please make sure the cut ends of branches are placed towards the road to help Maintenance handle them more efficiently when chipping. Thank you!!

ATTENTION!!!

THE CLUBHOUSE AND POOL WILL BE OPEN ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH STARTING OCTOBER 4TH FROM 4PM UNTIL 8PM FOR MEMBERS CONVENIENCE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WEEK. THIS IS A SPECIAL TIME FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS TO BREAK UP THE LONG SCHOOL AND OR WORK WEEK!!

TRESPASSING INFORMATION

Please be aware that, by leaving WBLRA by any means other than the entrance/exit gates, you are trespassing on private property. We continue to receive complaints from Members about other Members trespassing on their private property in leaving the Association as well as "outsiders" coming in. Please realize that by opening trails, you are encouraging others who do not own property in our Association to come in themselves on these unauthorized trails. The only lawful means of ingress & egress into our Association is the entrance/exit gates on White Birch Lane at the front of the complex. We encourage all Members to use the gates exclusively, as intended. Thank you.

ACTIVITIES



COFFEE TALK

Every Friday 9:00am – 11:00am
Enjoy a cup of coffee and sweet treat. A great way to meet new neighbors, reconnect with old ones or to just keep up on the latest events.

If you would like to host an activity or event please contact Vicky the Secretary/Treasurer @ (989)588-7169

Did you know you can rent the Clubhouse or the Pavilion? Just call our Supervisor Scott Lubs @ (989) 588-2853

Planning a building project? The office and Clubhouse now have Lincoln Township Building and Zoning Permit applications available for anyone who may not have a computer.



FOOD BASKET

We are also still collecting food for those in need. If you have any non-Perishable goods you would like to donate please drop them into the basket at the Clubhouse. Donated items cannot be expired.



FALL PLANT EXCHANGE

October 7th at 1 p.m. in the Pavilion

Members keep your eye on those neighbors who have plants you'd like to have in your garden. There's a good chance you will be able to pick them up at the exchange. There is always a wide variety to choose from. Everyone is welcome even if you do not have plants to exchange.

*White Birch Lakes
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2017*

I. Call to Order:

President Bridges called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.

Board Members present: President Bridges, Directors Witchell, Dombrowski, Holzer and Allen; also, Secretary/Treasurer McClusky and Supervisor Scott Lubs.

Board Members Attending by Teleconference: Director Pryde

Absent: Director Getz (arrived at 12:04 pm)

The Invocation was given by Director Holzer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

II. Additions to the Agenda:

No additions were added at this time.

III. Approval of Minutes:

(1) Director Holzer moves to approve the August Meeting Minutes as presented, 2nd by Director Allen.

All Ayes, motion carried.

IV. Income Statements-Treasurer Reports:

(2) Director Witchell moves to approve the financial reports for August as presented, subject to the Auditor's approval,

2nd by Director Dombrowski.

All Ayes, motion carried.

(3) Director Witchell moves to approve the September Payables as presented, 2nd by Director Allen.
All Ayes, motion carried.

V. President's Report:

President Bridges reported the following:

"In the Board of Directors Meeting today we will be addressing the letter of complaint received from a Member, as well as numerous complaints made to our Clubhouse Attendant over the holiday weekend. The complaint refers to the ignoring of our ATV rules/policy, as well as respect for others. My suggestion will be to publish, in the Birch Bark, the policy for ATV's as well as the brochure that is more specific as to the rules that has been available to all Members at the Clubhouse. If complaints are made, the office needs to know who is breaking the rules and the lot number. A Member can always make a formal complaint to the Sheriff's Department."

"While we do not discourage Members from enjoying their ATV's, operators must be respectful of others. For all motor vehicles, the speed limit is 25 miles per hour in this subdivision. All stop signs are to be honored. ATV's can be loud and should not be operated after 10 pm. No person under the age of 16 may operate any 3 wheeled ATV, no child under the age of 10 may operate a 4 wheeled ATV. They MUST be under

the visual supervision of a responsible adult and MUST have a valid ATV safety certificate. ATV's not owned by a lot owner in White Birch are prohibited access to all roads and trails within White Birch."

VI. Supervisor's Report:

Scott reported the following:

"Summer is almost over and it is time to plan for the fall. Hours for the swimming pool and Clubhouse are now back to the Winter hours which means we are no longer open past 4 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Our school bus stop is back up and running. We have about 22 kids running around there so we want to ask you to PLEASE SLOW DOWN in that area of Squirrel and Wolf Lanes. For Members waiting at the bus stop, please turn off your headlights as it adds to the distraction for other drivers and Members with homes in that area. Please keep firmly in mind that Georgia Romine is VOLUNTEERING her hours to watch that bus stop for you and that IS NOT a paid position."

"With the mandatory camper removal date looming on the horizon (October 31st), please plan accordingly if you are still in need of a winter storage site. If you did not reserve your previous site from last year by August 1st, it may not be available. Winter storage in the Campground is \$75.00 and in the winter storage and sites without electricity is \$40.00. There is approximately 46 winter storage spots available and 11 campground storage spots remaining. Please note that campers can be stored in Winter Storage at any time but in the Campground, you should try to get your camper in there after October 9th. Additionally, please understand that our Maintenance team needs to clean up leaves and other debris and move picnic tables."

"Our Maintenance team continues to work hard on keeping our roads ready for the upcoming winter months. Please be aware of this as your trees start to drop their leaves that you do not push, pile or blow them into or across our roads. They will act as wing dams and cause water to run in directions that will cause damage to your fellow Member's driveways. The Old Maintenance area has signs to direct you where to place your brush and leaves so PLEASE continue to use this area appropriately. As Members hire a tree service professional to clean up your trees, please remind those folks that only branches go in the burn pit. All chippings and larger materials will have to be disposed of by that company only."

"As you begin or continue winterizing your campers for storage understand that our Campground Dump Station is functioning but PLEASE be mindful of using plenty of water to chase down your camper effluent as you empty them. Please do not discard wipes, paper towels or cotton based products so that we can insure that backups will be limited and that area will continue to be clean for the next Member to use. If you are using a honey pot, please utilize a hose and not directly dump onto the station as others do have to stand and or walk around in that area. Again, please understand that those water towers are extremely sensitive to the cold and we cannot afford to keep those open once freezing night temperatures are upon us. We apologize for this added inconvenience so please plan accordingly."

"Our Association is blessed to have a caring staff of individuals that go beyond what is asked of them on a continuous basis and we would like to recognize Bob and Claudia for the jobs they do. Even though I have pleaded with Bob not to do it, they insist on power washing the restroom floors because they look dingy. It's the construction of that floor and the repeated use that gives it that look. The both of them clean and clean it again. If any Member can find fault in how these restrooms are cleaned and or how they can be better maintained, they need to contact this Supervisor. Otherwise, these individuals along with the other WBLRA staff do a wonderful job keeping these facilities operating and we thank them for that service."

VII. Committee Reports:

EPC Committee: Chairperson Marty Perkins reported that there were 2-contiguous lot status requests, 1-dog kennel, 1-Well/Septic/Electric and 2-tree removal requests approved for August. Marty also asked the Directors to look at the Horseback Riding Policy on the WBLRA website for revisions to comply with Lincoln

Township Ordinances. He explained an issue with a lot on Evergreen in regards to that policy. Vicky will revise the policy per the Board of Directors and submit it for approval to replace the current policy on the website. Also, there was an issue with a possible sale by a Member where the purchaser backed out of the deal due to the fence policy because a person gave misinformation. Marty feels these types of issues should be directed to the EPC Committee for information so the correct information can be given. Dick Hansberger suggested that the current Camping Policy be revised to only state wording that was part of the final court order from the Circuit Court.

Activities: Director Holzer reported that the Labor Day picnic was wonderful and there was around 200 to 250 people there. Dawn also thanked the volunteers that organized the event to include: Sandy Getz, Dan Holzer, Glenda Wells, Donna Heiden and Angela Bendell. The band, Facechord, was awesome and there were probably over 100 people that attended that event as well. The weather was wonderful and about 15 minutes after the band stopped playing it started to rain. President Bridges mentioned that the amount for Special Events is over budget for this year but events were not scheduled for the past couple of years so money was not put into that line item for 2017-18. Now that Members are coming forward and planning events like Carolyn Neal, Sandy Getz, Dawn Holzer and others, next year's budget will have more money for Special Events to cover costs.

Election Committee: Vicky reported for Pat Graham that a fall meeting is being planned for any items that need to be brought to the Board's attention in the spring.

Campground Committee: Director Witchell reported that a 50/50 drawing was held at the Annual Meeting and the money was used to purchase a climbing device for the Campground play area. The Merry-Go-Round was fixed but the bearings need to be repaired so it is at the Maintenance Building until it can be worked on. Fred also mentioned Anne Hobart who just recently passed away was one of the Members who was very instrumental in locating and documenting the wild flowers in White Birch and it has been suggested that the walking path around the Campground be named and dedicated for her. Fred also mentioned that new signs will be up for the Campground and Winter Storage.

Safety: Bob Pelfery stated that Labor Day weekend there were kids driving around in their car that knocked down a mail box which they repaired. There are still a lot of people speeding and not stopping at the stop signs. There were a lot of complaints about ATV's over the weekend in respecting quiet time for other Members. Also respecting quiet time in the Campground for other campers. President Bridges stated she had mentioned those items in her report and it will be discussed more during the meeting. Director Holzer added regarding ATVs which tear up the roads that new people or Members may not know when you have guests and they may be tearing up the roads, shooting fireworks, shooting guns to celebrate holidays, etc. that it is the Members responsibility for their behavior. Everyone wants to have a good time in visiting White Birch Lakes but be respectful of your neighbors. Just for tearing up the roads the following are approximate expenses; brine so far this year about \$28,000.00, gravel so far this year \$7,300.00, trash collections so far this year for May-July about \$5,600.00. These figures are being mentioned so all are aware that we all pay our dues for these expenses and new Members need to be aware of this also.

VIII. Comments from the floor (Agenda Items): Available for viewing in the office.

IX. ManagerPlus Report:

Scott explained the Work Order from last month regarding repairs to the Belly Truck and the Board directed Scott to get it repaired and to stay in touch with the County Road Commission regarding trucks they may be auctioning. Scott also explained the Work Orders for possible Bathhouse repairs which includes new toilets, shower walls, and the need for new mop sinks for the Bathhouse and also the Clubhouse.

*(4) President Bridges moves to replace the mop sinks at the Campground and the Clubhouse Mechanical Room with the cost not to exceed \$1,000.00 per sink, 2nd by Director Allen.
All Ayes, motion carried.*

X. Unfinished Business:

President Bridges appointed the following Members to Committees:

EPC Committee: Christine Bailey

Finance Committee: Dawn Holzer, Chairperson; Frank Getz, Board Liaison; Fred Witchell; Carolyn Neal; Marty Perkins; Bob Fennimore; and John Pryde

Policy Updates: Carolyn Neal – Carolyn stated she will go to the individual Committees for policies that may affect each Committee for their input or the Board for other policies.

Campground Committee: Fred Witchell, Chairperson; Kevin Dombrowski, Board Liaison; Richard Allen, Frank Getz and Mike Morello.

C & R and Bylaw Committee: Dick Hassberger, Chairperson and John Pryde, Board Liaison. (This sheet will be put back on the bulletin board for additional Members to sign up.)

Auto Sticker Committee: Fred Witchell and Dawn Holzer will be Co-Chairpersons along with Kevin Dombrowski, Bob Pelfery, Jim Neal, Bob Fennimore and Supervisor Scott Lubs. Director Witchell stated there will be a meeting on Friday, Sept. 15th at 11 am.

Director Getz arrived at this time and was present for the remainder of the meeting.

In regards to the Agenda item of “Electrical Upgrade to Clubhouse Interior”, Scott explained the 2 sealed bids from Heckman Electric and Mr. Electric which were opened by President Bridges at the August meeting.

*(5) Director Holzer moves to approve the bid from Mr. Electric for the Electrical Upgrade to the Clubhouse Interior with the cost not to exceed \$3,700.00, 2nd by Director Dombrowski.
All Ayes, motion carried.*

XI. New Business:

*(6) Director Holzer moves to ratify the email vote to purchase a new chemical controller for the pool, 2nd by Director Witchell.
All Ayes, motion carried.*

*(7) Director Dombrowski moves to table the Agenda Item of “Playground Sand” until the March 2018 Board of Director Meeting, 2nd by Director Witchell.
Ayes – Directors Witchell, Dombrowski, Pryde, Getz, Allen and President Bridges.
Nays – Director Holzer.
Motion carried.*

The Agenda Item of “Trespassing Solutions” was discussed. The Board directed Scott and the EPC Committee to work on solutions to close off the illegal entrance/exit areas.

The Agenda Item of “Winter Protocol” for snow and ice removal was discussed at great length and it is the Board’s decision that Scott and Jeff will work out the details and the Board will stand behind their decision.

At this time, President Bridges added “Discussion on ATV Rules” under New Business.

The Agenda Item of "Water Well for Maintenance" was discussed and Scott was directed to get 3 bids for a well to be drilled and email the bids to the Board due to time sensitivity.

Vicky discussed the information that was provided to the Board regarding the current Electric Escrow Agreement and bank account. The Board directed Vicky to proceed with getting information from Isabella Bank (with President Bridges) on setting up a new/revised account that will remain specifically for Electric Escrow and for the agreement to be revised with our attorney's advice.

Scott discussed the possibility of having an Open Swim night on Wednesday, October 4th, from 4 pm to 7:30 pm. The Board approved for Scott to proceed and change his hours accordingly.

In regards to the addition of "Discussion on ATV Rules" President Bridges directed Director Witchell to review the ATV Rules and Regulations Brochure for any updates that need to be made in regards to State regulations. This discussion was due to correspondence from a Member that was emailed to the Board.

XII. Comments from the Floor (For the Good of the Order): Available for viewing in the office.

*(8) Director Holzer moves to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 pm, 2nd by Director Witchell.
All Ayes, motion carried.*

NOTE: Closed Session was cancelled due to no new information on a legal matter.

Submitted by,

Vicky McClusky, Secretary/Treasure