

THE BIRCH BARK

White Birch Lakes Recreational Association
4730 Lake Road Farwell, MI 48622
Office: (989)588-7169 Clubhouse: (989)588-2853
Web: www.whitebirch.org

April 2026

2024-2025 Board of Directors

President Tim Boos timboos@yahoo.com
1st VP Dawn Holzer muleman2318@gmail.com
2nd VP Donnie Stanley Donovan.Stanley@gmail.com
Director Marie Sherry marie4wblra@gmail.com
Director Eric Olson eolson13@yahoo.com
Director David Muniez Maniezrepair@gmail.com
Director Kevin Dombrowski kd460@sbcglobal.net

WBL Staff

Manager	Michelle Waters	admin@whitebirch.org
Secretary/Treasurer	Lisa Trojanowski	ecoffice@whitebirch.org
Clubhouse	Georgia Romine	Kathy Jerred
Maintenance	Mark Mozak	
Maintenance	Bob Mitchell	
Maintenance	Joe Worrall	
Campground	Claudia Pelfery	
Safety	Bob Pelfery	



AFTER HOURS MAINTENANCE/SAFETY (989) 588-7066 IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR ANY REASON OTHER THAN AN EMERGENCY, THE MAIN TELEPHONE NUMBER IS, 989-539-7166



Per WBLRA policies, Members must be "In Good Standing" (current on assessments) before using any of the amenities. If a Member is NOT in "good standing," our employees with direction from the Board will turn them away. If a Clubhouse Attendant turns a Member away, it is based upon a list which is updated Every Friday afternoon before 4pm.

HOURS OF OPERATION SUMMER CLUBHOUSE HOURS Starting May 21, 2026

8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
Closed Wednesday
8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. Friday & Saturday
10:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Sunday

SECRETARY-TREASURER OFFICE HOURS

8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
Closed Wednesday
8:00 A.M. to 9:45 A.M. the 2nd Saturday of the month
Closed Sunday

MANAGER HOURS

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

SWIMMING POOL HOURS

9:00 AM TO 7:30 PM Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
Closed Wednesday
9:00 AM to 8:30 PM Friday & Saturday
10:00 P.M. to 3:30 PM Sunday

POOL ALWAYS CLOSSES ½ HOUR BEFORE THE CLUBHOUSE CLOSSES

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

**COFFEE
TALK
Every
Friday
In the
Clubhouse
9am to
11:00am
Donuts
\$1.00**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Board Meeting	May 9	10:00 am Clubhouse
Yard Sale	May 23	9 am—3 pm
Bingo	May 16	1 pm-3 pm Clubhouse



Campfire and Seasonal Wood
 If you see any downed trees or limbs on the side of the roads, they can be taken by the Members for campfires or seasonal firewood. Please do NOT enter other Members lots unless you have permission from the owner.

Fire Danger
 Please use extreme caution and follow the Danger Rating system posted by Smokey at the Entrance/Exit

Recreation

A current copy of the DNR ORV handbook is available in the office. Let's all have a great time and enjoy ourselves, safely. Slow down at stop signs and watch for others. Remember children 15 and under must have adult supervision. Please refer to Michigan.gov/DNR.



"Slow down you move to fast, you gotta make the moment last."



What should you do if you see injured wildlife within WBLRA?
 Call the Clare County Sheriff Department at their non-emergency line at 989-539-7166 and **THEY** will provide assistance.



Trespassing
 Please be aware that, by leaving WBLRA by any other means other than the Entrance/Exit, you are trespassing on private property. Please be aware that by opening trail, you are encouraging others who do not own property to come in 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 our Association. We encourage all Members to use the gates exclusively, as intended. Please DO

ATTENTION MEMBERS
 Please mark your lots with the lot number to help other Members and/or potential Members to locate lots or in case of emergency such as fire or medical. If you need further information, please contact the office.

Information Station

"Your Destination for Information"

This link should be good for all meetings! Also, because video takes too much data and we would like you to hear the meeting, our meetings are audio only.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/335630101>

Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:

<https://meet.goto.com/install>

When Donating food items for the Food Pantry please make sure that the items have not expired.

With the ever-changing weather, maintenance may be working out on the roads. Remember these machines are large and do not stop immediately. If you don't see them, they don't see you. Let's be respectful, as they have a job to do.

*Drop your speed to match road conditions. Please give the appropriate space. For those in the back...
SLOW DOWN!!*

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- **Brine is scheduled for May 18, weather permitting.**
 - **Porta Jons will be placed the first week of May.**
 - **The dumpsters in the campground will be back in use on May 1st. Please put your trash inside the dumpsters, not on the ground nor on the closed dumpster lid. Thank you for your cooperation!**
 - **Return to Camping can begin Friday May 8th, 2026**
 - **Campers should be out of storage no later than May 18th**
 - **Reminder if your fees are not paid / or non-compliance of rules will result in storage not being available for the following year**
-

A friendly reminder, we all live and work here and we have noticed an increase in litter. Let's work together to keep our community clean!

A recording of the meeting minutes are available to listen to by appt with Sec/Treasurer in the office.

**2026 Application for Absentee Ballot
White Birch Lakes Recreational Association Election**

1. White Birch Lakes Recreational Association (WBLRA) By-Laws provide that Members may vote by Absentee Ballot by requesting a ballot in writing.
2. If you choose to vote by Absentee Ballot in the **2026 WBLRA election**, you must **complete this application** and **return to the address listed below or deposit it in the locked Election box located in the Secretary/Treasurer's office during business hours.**
3. Absentee ballots will be sent out *AFTER* Friday, June 16, 2026. *To receive an Absentee Ballot, this application must be received OFFICE or be deposited in the locked Election box located in the Secretary/Treasurer's office during business hours BEFORE Tuesday June 30, 2026. No other application will be accepted.*

4. **FIRST AND LAST NAME OF VOTER** _____

MAILING STREET ADDRESS AND/OR P.O. BOX # _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP CODE _____

5. **LOT NUMBER(S)** _____ You may only vote for lots upon which you pay assessments-**NOT CONTIGUOUS LOTS.**

6. **MEMBER'S SIGNATURE** _____

MUST BE SIGNED

7. Member's Signature: (By signing this application, this certifies that they are an owner of the listed lot(s), that they are a member in Good Standing, that they intend to submit an Absentee Ballot for the lot(s) listed, and they will not permit a non-member, or member not in Good Standing to vote using the Absentee Ballot(s) they will be issued.)

8. **RETURN THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION BY U.S. MAIL TO:**

White Birch Lakes Election
4730 Lake Rd
Farwell, Michigan 48622

(or the locked Election box located in the Secretary/Treasurer's
office during office business hours)

9. *Applications for Absentee Ballots MUST BE received BEFORE Tuesday June 30, 2026 to receive a voting ballot(s) by mail.*

10. ***ABSENTEE BALLOTS MUST BE MAILED AND RECEIVED BY 4 PM, FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026 TO BE COUNTED.***

11. If you do not receive an Absentee ballot *by Friday, July 10, 2026*, please contact the Election Committee Chairperson, Marnie Frank- 248-320-1089

Office Use Only

Membership Status Verified _____ (initials)

Not Verified _____ (initials)



Community

Yard

Sale

Saturday

May 23, 2026

9 am-3 pm

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

April Word Search

P B C X I F G U D G L S W D I
U M B R E L L A P Y S J P G P
I I S R E W O L F H P B E N S
W E R M E A S T E R R W T J L
T M U L U E U B S P I C E V A
Q Y Y O S I Z R Y D N I W S X
G H U J Q B G E S B G Z A W M
H A V R P L L A B E S A B G F
E W K A Y O N K A A L F F S Z
W R E I L O R R J U G D F O N
L G I N H M O D H T M W D T E
I Z M P S H W E N Y V Y A U V
M Z L V S V A P R I L T J M P
U N L N Y N K O X N A T J N M
Y G C W F Q I T L H L R T J J

April

Umbrella

Flowers

Raindrop

Breeze

Bloom

Inspire

Windy

Puddles

Easter

Beauty

Rain

Break

Spring

Baseball



White Birch Lakes
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 11,2026
Meeting conducted through GoToMeeting.com and at the Clubhouse)

I. Call to Order:

Vice President Holzer called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Board Members Present: Director Sherry, Director Holzer, Director Stanley, and Director Maniez also, Secretary/Treasurer Lisa Trojanowski and Manager Michelle Waters

Board Members Attending by Teleconference/GoToMeeting: Director Dombrowski

Board Members/Others Absent: President Boos and Director Olson,

Note: There were approximately 1 Members listening to the meeting through GoToMeeting and approximately 2 Members in Attendance at the Clubhouse.

The Invocation was given by Director Holzer

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present and listening.

II. Additions to the Agenda:

- a. Bathhouse Approach
- b. Epoxy Treatment for the Campground Approach

III. Approval of Minutes:

1) Director Sherry moves to approve the minutes from the March Board Meeting, 2nd by Director Stanley. All Ayes, motion carried.

IV. Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Lisa reported the following:

- 2) Director Sherry moves to approve the financial reports for March as presented, subject to the Auditor's approval, 2nd by Director Holzer. All Ayes, motion carried.*

President's Report: Given by Director Stanley

President's Report April 11, 2026

In a couple of weeks campers will be returning and our staff is busy preparing for their return.

With the weather improving, lot cleanup will begin. Please keep fires under control and attended.

Today is the Lexington Stakes, the last race of the Road to the Kentucky Derby. The run for the Roses is May 2nd,

Manager Report: Michelle reported the following:

April 20-23 the Clubhouse and pool will be closed for the flooring upgrade. Members will be able to access the business offices.

The dumpsters in the campground will be back in use on May 1st. Please put your trash inside the dumpsters, not on the ground nor on the closed dumpster lid. Thank you for your cooperation!

Porta Jons will be placed the first week of May.

Brine is scheduled for May 18, weather permitting.

If anyone would like to volunteer to take care of the Smokey the Bear fire danger sign let me know.

For those Members cleaning their lots of leaves and brush, remember we have a compost area but please put limbs in the burn pit and leaves in the compost area. Please DO NOT bring stumps or building materials to this area. A new sign has been made for this area – reminding members what can be disposed of there.

VII. Committee Reports:

Election Committee: Lisa Trojanowski reported the following:

Applications for Absentee Ballots are available in the office and will be in Birch Bark starting this month. The deadline for letters of interest is June 1, 2026.

Campground Committee: Steve Brandle reported the following:

“The DNR has updated their burn permit page to where you can check when you are allowed to burn and it is a little bit user friendly so if you just google Michigan DNR permit you will get to the site.”

EPC Committee: Director Holzer reported the following:

Dan & I have had 5 tree removal requests, 2 septic, 1 Dock, and 1 driveway with culvert.

I want to make the annual reminder that it would be really great if you could have your lots marked with your lot #. It would be helpful to EPC committee when we go out to look at your EPC request and more importantly, for emergency situations where outside help may be needed, such as an ambulance, fire or police assistance.

Also, now that we are getting into the season where people are cleaning up their property, just keep in mind Oak Wilt will never go away. We have been very fortunate here. We will be watching cutting trees between April 15th to July 15th. If you have trees that need to come out during that time period, we will come out and take a look, but we will be very selective during that time frame.

Just to keep our forest in good health because it is spread by a beetle and once it gets into the Oak, it can spread into the roots and there may be no way of no stopping it. It can wipe out a whole forest within a couple of years. So, please be mindful that is what we are trying to do here.”

You can just google “Oak Wilt “and you will see many articles about this dreadful disease and there is information also here in the clubhouse. If you would like to talk to a forester, Mike Dittenber is Clare and Gladwin County Forester at Clare County Conservation office. The phone # is 989-539-6401. Now this is a field office so call ahead to make sure someone is in the office.

Finance Committee: Director Holzer reported the following:

“The year end reports are in the packets for final review of the budget.”

Safety Committee: Steve Biechele sent in the following as he was unable to attend and was read by Lisa Trojanowski.

“Clare County Sheriff Incident reports, 36- Ambulance & Rescue, 7- Animal Control, 9-General Assistance, 92- Property Check, 2-Suspicious Persons, 64- Traffic Patrol and 30- Traffic Stop.”

Lakes and Watershed Committee: Steve Brandle reported the following:

Our committee has been discussing cleaning up the creek or waterway that goes under the trail out to Holiday Lake. We're trying to organize a workday, I'm thinking in June sometimes, once everybody gets back on their lots and gets more people around, and the weather will be a little nicer.

The biggest thing is we want to try to get the, there's trees that's fallen into the water. There's a bunch of leaves that are clogging up. I don't know that culvert might even be getting clogged up a little bit.

Try to get the obstructions to make the water flow better. So, I'll post up when we get a date, a firm date when we're going to do that. I'm thinking about mid-June. We're also looking into having a person come out with a drone and flying upstream from the trail and see if there's possibly a beaver dam or some kind of an obstruction.

IX. Comments from the Floor:

X. Unfinished Business:

In regards to Agenda item, “White Birch Taxation Discussion” So we appealed the assessments for all of the properties in question to the Board of Review. The Board of Review denied all the petitions. So, the next step is Tax Tribunal.

3) *Director Sherry moves to approve the filing of the appeals of the Board of Review decision for all parcels and contact the Attorney as needed, 2nd Director Stanley. All Ayes, motion carried.*

In regards to Agenda item, “EPC Policy Review,” Director Holzer discusses and presented the changes discussed last month on the EPC policy.

4) *Director Holzer moves to approve the establishment of a member “not in good standing” status other than non-payment assessments policy effective May 1st, 2026, 2nd Director Dombrowski. All Ayes, motion carried.*

In regards to Agenda item, “EPC Form Review”

5) *Director Holzer moves to approve the update of the Application/Exemption /Contingency Lot per discussed items, 2nd Director Maniez. All Ayes, motion carried.*

In regards to agenda item “Timber Lake Updates”

6) *Director Stanley moves to approve \$4000.00 for tree removal and trimming for Timber Lake project for Hillbilly Tree Service to come out of Capital Improvement/Contingency fund, 2nd Director Holzer. All Ayes, motion carried.*

7) *Director Stanley moves to approve \$15,750.00 for 100 ft new retaining and take out existing steps and replace with concrete steps for Bauer Construction to come out of Capital Improvement/Contingency fund, 2nd Director Holzer. All Ayes, motion carried.*

8) *Director Stanley moves to approve \$10,225.00 for gravel excavation for Timber Lake project for Tommi Bauer Excavating to come out of Capital Improvement/Contingency fund, 2nd Director Dombrowski. All Ayes, motion carried/*

XI. New Business:

In regards to Added Agenda item “Bathroom Approach”

9) *Director Maniez moves to approve \$8,543.00 for a 51 x 22 concrete approach by the Campground Bathhouse to Shuff Concrete to come out of Capital Improvement/Contingency fund, 2nd Director Sherry. All Ayes, motion carried.*

In regards to Added Agenda item, “Epoxy Treatment for Campground Approach.”

10) *Director Dombrowski moves to approve \$7,650.00 for Epoxy treatment in the Fireside room and walkway at Campground Bathhouse to come out of Capital Improvement/Contingency fund, 2nd Director Stanley. All Ayes, motion carried.*

In regards to Agenda item “Spring Garage Sale”

11) *Director Holzer moves to approve the Spring Garage Sales to be Saturday May 23, 2026(Memorial Day Weekend) from 9 am – 3pm, 2nd Director Stanley. All Ayes, motion carried.*

In regards to Agenda item, “Return Campers Blanket Permit”

12) *Director Holzer moves to allow campers to move onto their property to begin Friday May 8th, 2026,. 2nd Director Sherry. All Ayes, motion carried.*

In regards to Agenda item “Approve Summer Hours”

13) *Director Dombrowski moves to approve the 2026 summer hours to begin May 21 Director Stanley. All Ayes, motion carried.*

In regards to Agenda item” Septic Cleaning Quotes”

14) *Director Sherry moves to approve Johnson Septic \$1512.50 for septic cleaning. 2nd Director Holzer. All Ayes, motion carried.*

In regards to Agenda item, “Gravel Pricing” Michelle stated that the price hasn’t changed from last year \$17.50 a ton for 50 tons at Fisher.

In regards to Agenda item, “Porta Potty Pricing”

15) *Director Holzer moves to approve Johnson Septic quote for 2025 port a potty for \$2400 for 6 months. 2nd Director Stanley. All Ayes, motion carried.*

In regards to Agenda item, “Annual Meeting Discussion”, There was a discussion if we are going to have food or not and will get quotes and come back with the information.

XII

Additional Comments from the Floor

1. Lisa Trojanowski, Lot# 925, "As a member I have a concern that there is talk that we do not want to align with Lincoln Township. I feel as though we are giving the membership mixed signals because on some subjects we want to align with Lincoln Township but on other topics, we do not. I would like to see as a board that there is a little bit more consistency on saying if there is a violation we don't want to be involved but if it beneficial we want to align with them."

2. Kevin Cope, Lot# 640, "My wife and I have been members for 2 years. I really appreciate the board members and the service to the community. We are starting to feel like we belong here, and it is really interesting to hear all the comments. I am really in favor of the improvements, thank you for that. Specifically, at Timber Lake because we are across on the north side of Timber Lake. The improvements there will be very welcome. I know they are making them mainly for safety and accessibility, that is great. I think Dave made a comment about colorant in the concrete steps and I know what new concrete looks like and it is really bright and not only we but many of the members would appreciate it if you put some color in it. I never knew that this was going to come up today, but I think Bauer's is going to get a lot of work over this whole project. I think that if we suggest that they put some colorant in for no charge and make it a nice brown it will blend in and still accomplish what you want to do. So, thank you for that.

3. Steve Brandle, Lot# 1369, "On the tax tribunal issue, are we going to get a private assessment or something? That was kind of a stumbling block last time. The judge wanted an evaluation. If we do go back to the assessor and try to negotiate them, it is still going to have to go back to the Board of Reviews.

4. Kevin Dombrowski, Lot# 1209, "Maybe we could get Dave to wheel and deal with Bauer Construction to add tinting to the concrete steps. Maybe we should make a motion for extra dollars.

16) *Director Stanley moves to approve adding tint to the concrete steps at Timber Lake for no more than \$500 to come out of the Capital Improvement/Contingency fund, 2nd Director Sherry. All Ayes, motion carried.*

17) *Director Stanley moves to adjourn the meeting, 2nd Director Maniez. All Ayes, motion carried.*

Meeting adjourned 11:40 am

Submitted by,

Lisa Trojanowski Secretary/Treasurer

Recordings of Meeting Minutes are available to listen to by appointment with Secretary/Treasurer.