

# Westbrook-Gorham Rotary Board Meeting Minutes

## October 10, 2023

**Present:** President Crystal Brown, Treasurer Karen Arnold, Immediate Past President & Secretary Christine Johnson, PE Phil Spiller, Foundation Chair Steve Rand. Absent: Dave Rolfe, Judith Reidman

Meeting called to order about 10:05 AM by Crystal

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the September 13 meeting were Moved/Approved

**New Members:** No applications for membership. At least one is due soon. Crystal Card has taken a new job in the Brunswick area. Christine will work with Crystal if she wishes to transfer to a club in that area before the end of the year.

**Corporate Memberships:** No update with Crystal C leaving. President Crystal plans to move forward with this.

**Festival of Trees:** We will send a check for \$250 for trees for the Festival of Trees. Both GHS and WHS Interact to decorate trees for this community event.

**2024-2025 District Grant:** Equipment has arrived. The unit will be placed near the Public Safety building off Main St, near various fields and recreational facilities. Public Works will manage installation due to the weight and size of the equipment and the need for a pad. Our need from GSB is \$1400. Dan has been in touch with them. We should ask for that now to be proactive for expected spending. Need to understand timing for ordering of banners and other branding items. Need a timeline from GPS so we can determine timeline for planning a ribbon cutting.

**Golf:** Gross \$28,710 . Pending payments \$3920. We are expecting most will pay within the next couple of weeks. Christine will mail a link to the committee for the file that shows which sponsors have not paid.

**Wreaths & Trees:** Brian Fox [brianroyfox@gmail.com](mailto:brianroyfox@gmail.com) We have not placed a firm order yet. The size of trees now available is limited for the #1 balsam (only 6.5-8'). They do have some premium trees in the smaller tree size. Steve doesn't think we are positioned well to do this fundraiser with the membership we have today. Steve suggested that we might want to start in June/July next year and try to find a partner who can work with us. Karen moved that we do not pursue Christmas Trees for 2023, seconded by Christine. Approved. Wreaths: Need to firm up with Brian Fox that he can provide the 300 we asked. Email has been sent to start bow ordering process. Christine will follow up. She will also send out the inquiry to our past large customers.

**Interact Relationship:** We are still working on a date in November for GHS to join us by Zoom – RYLA attendees and club leadership with Neile. WHS would like to wait to meet with us until after Christmas.

**House:** Crystal is working on a potential article for Rotary magazine with Brenda Pollack. She has asked for any historical information we have. Foundation excavating will be starting soon, with the plan for the foundation contractor will be able to start his work around November 1. Christine will create a Google drive with any content she has about the house project history.

**Road Race:** Owens has expressed interest in continuing the race and maybe expanding it. He has suggested adding a small number of paid entrants or a small number of sponsors to help cover costs – trophies, t-shirts for students, public safety road closure, etc. Crystal and Karen stated that we should encourage him to come to the Club Assembly next week and speak on this topic. Steve will reach out to him and tell him we have given the green light to moving forward. Steve will suggest to Owens that he create a small committee to help.

**Holiday Cards:** We have had one donation so far. Will encourage more. Will set a meeting date to write the cards once we firm up the GHS Interact date.

**Pizza Challenge:** Locked in Community Center for 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in April. Limit to 2 hours, 4:30-6:30. Phil has engaged Jack Kivus and Deb McPhail for their help and support again this year. He is planning first meeting for right after the new year.

**Food Drive:** We did not get a food drive off the ground this year for either Westbrook or Gorham. If another organization is already planning one, like an Interact Club or a school, we could support that effort rather than creating one of our own.

**Budget** – Karen sent out a summary of accounts prior to the meeting. We still have two members who have not paid dues. Christine will follow up with Andy again. Steve has followed Aaron who says he wants to continue. We discussed payment deadlines prior to the next invoice date. In this case November 15. In principle, the board agreed that if someone is 6 months in arrears, we need to consider terminating their membership. We also discussed providing the option for the next Rotary year to pay for the full year (July-June) rather than semi-annual. Procedure for scholarships and payments needs to be finalized and approved. The House Project budget was reviewed recently with the House/WRVC joint committee, and they are moving forward. \$315,412 is the estimated cost of the build, but we understand this will be fluid over the length of the project. This information will be shared with the club.

**2022-23 Unallocated Funds:** Revised list was sent to the board. We reviewed the list quickly at the meeting. The line items were all approved, with the exception of Elementary School Books. This line item was agreed in principle pending details worked with the schools.

**Information/Announcements:**

Meeting Adjourned at 11:40AM

Next Board Meeting Wednesday November 8, 2023 at 10AM via Zoom