

Westbrook-Gorham Rotary Board Meeting Minutes

November 11, 2023

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

Meeting called to order about 10:04 AM by Crystal

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the October 11 meeting were Moved/Approved

New Members: Vote to Approve Barbra Esposito. Move/Approved. Vote to Approve Kim Carignon. Moved/Approved. Note: Both Phil Spiller and Judith Reidman offered their proxies to approve these applicants.

Status 22-23 Funds: Expended to date: Coloring books, American Legion Post 62, Gorham Schools Backpack program, Elder Services Gorham, Quality Housing Coalition, Maui Relief, Ukraine Relief, and Camp Susan Curtis (to be paid today). ICC will attend Nov 14 meeting to receive their check. WMS Pantry will attend 11/28 during which we will pack weekend bags with the funds. Vets: \$250 to be spent this month, \$250 in December, with associated deliveries (need shoppers to help). Kathi reported on the elementary school books: high priority for kids to get their own books. One suggestion is to provide funds to support the Scholastic Books Fair in both communities, to help kids who cannot otherwise afford to obtain books during these fairs. \$1500 from these 22-23 funds combined with \$1000 from the current year budget is available for this project. Kathi will work with the school districts to implement a plan.

2024-2025 District Grant: Install date is Monday November 13 at 10AM. We will ask Dan to clarify and be sure some Rotarians can be there to observe and take pictures. Ribbon cutting or similar ceremony should be planned quickly thereafter.

Golf: Outstanding invoices \$3420. Christine will follow up. A list was sent to Steve immediately following the meeting for any action on sponsors he recruited.

Wreaths & Trees: Brian Fox brianroyfox@gmail.com Wreaths will be delivered Tuesday November 21 to the Citgo Station in Scarborough (corner of Rt 114 and Rt1). We will need help to offload the wreaths and transport them to Phil's barn. Exact time TBD and coordinated with Scarborough Rotary. Sandy has offered her truck. Karen has an SUV. Bows are in Phil's Barn. Price will be \$20 w/o and \$23 with bow. We have approx. 200 pre-sold. Christine will work on a detailed spreadsheet. Bow parties: We set times on Friday and Saturday when at least two adults will be present. Kathi will let Interact Advisors know.

Interact Relationship: Gorham Interact and RYLA kids will join us via Zoom on November 14. Janet is not able to continue as Interact Advisor for Westbrook. She is pregnant with twins due in March! She will help identify a replacement. Dave suggested we engage the student body to identify a good candidate. Westbrook has chosen not to decorate a tree for the festival of trees. We have a candidate from Gorham for the summer youth exchange program. Paperwork is in progress.

House: \$11,506 has been spent so far. The property is currently “a big pile of dirt”. Christine still needs to create a Google drive with any content she has about the house project history. Karen has some current photos of the property and will send them along.

Road Race: Crystal will talk to Owens about his needs. Steve has also been in contact.

Holiday Cards: We wrote 72 Thanksgiving cards on November 7. Karen will take care of the delivery. We also started writing holiday cards. We will complete holiday and Christmas cards on December 12.

Food Drive: We are not prepared to lead a larger food drive this year. However, we will participate in the Tips for Charity luncheon on December 8 which will benefit the Westbrook Food Pantry. We will ask members and friends to make/bring donations for the Gorham Food Pantry to our December 12 meeting.

Budget – All member dues are paid. New dues invoices to go out soon. We discussed the cost of luncheon. The chef requires \$195 per week vs the previous per head charge. Since they cook far more food than we need each week to support their program, and because students take home food and instructors and staff also enjoy the extras, we are subsidizing some of the \$195 weekly cost from the charities budget each week that the students cook for us. This subsidy was approved during the process of approving the 23-24 budget – Line-Item Culinary Program Support for \$1300. This assumed \$50 per week for 26 weeks.

Information/Announcements:

Meeting Adjourned at 11:00AM

Next Board Meeting Wednesday December 13, 2023 at 10AM via Zoom