

Westbrook-Gorham Rotary Board Meeting Minutes

February 12 , 2025

Present: President Phil Spiller, PE Kim Carignan, Treasurer Karen Arnold, Secretary Christine Johnson, Youth Services Kathi Perkins, Vocational Service Judith Reidman, VP Jessica Pate, Immediate Past President Crystal Brown, and Foundation Chair Steve Rand. Absent: Eli Small.

Meeting called to order about 9:05 AM by Kim. Phil joined shortly thereafter and took over.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the January 8, 2024 meeting. Approved.

New Members: Lucas Anderson – the board discussed this proposed new member. Based on his application and other factors, it was moved and approved to accept Lucas as a member. Notice of intent will be published in the next weekly email. If there are no objections, his membership will become effective by February 24. We have two or three potential members who have expressed interest but have not submitted applications yet.

Club Items

Club Master Calendar: The “master calendar” is available on our shared drive [Master Calendar](#). We are on track with listed items. Jessica is having trouble accessing. Christine will investigate having a cake for our Feb 25 meeting to celebrate Rotary’s 120th Birthday.

Speakers: We have lined up programs through July with only a couple of exceptions. We need to set a date in May for the Bee Planter Project dedication.

Dues status: Five outstanding for the second half.

BOD Nominations: Nominations were called at the meeting on February 11. Voting by the club will be on March 18 when the slate will be presented.

Projects/Fundraisers

Golf: No outstanding invoices. Website renewal has been purchased. Save the date email for 2025 will go out in March.

Wreaths & Trees: We can obtain wreaths and trees from Fox Brands, the company we have been obtaining wreaths from. This is a Canadian company. The question was raised whether we should look for a source in Maine again. Steve will provide the contact’s name for the previous Maine-based tree company and Christine will ask about availability and pricing from both. We need to find someone to take the lead on the Tree sale should we proceed with it.

Youth Services: *Interact students have been active as usual, at both WHS and GHS. *RYLA interviews were conducted by Kathi and Ethan at GHS on Feb 11. We have 3 applications from WHS and they will be interviewed by Kathi and Jessica after school vacation. * Ted Rogers has a nephew at Mount View HS in Thorndike (D7790) who is interested in RYLA. Kathi has reached out to local Rotary clubs in that district to ask about their support for their district’s RYLA. The board agreed in principle to support Ted’s nephew at our District RYLA if no club steps forward in D7790 and we have not reached our capacity of WHS/GHS students/staff. *GATY will continue to meet and work on a grant proposal, although there are questions on availability of grants in the current climate.

House: The WRVC has been moving right along with the house construction. The trees have not been removed, but the tree company we have engaged wants to do it “after” the house is done. Steve will contact John Wescott again, and discuss taking care of the trees this summer while the kids are not there. Photos have been taken by us of work in progress, but more pictures should be available from Deb Atripaldi, one of the instructors.

Foundation: We have only seven members using Rotary Direct, one of which is not reflected on the report. Steve will reach out to folks to encourage them to participate. This program makes it easy and painless to donate to the Rotary Foundation.

Road Race – Owens McCullough has started the planning process. Last year we had three sponsors – Sebago Technics paid the timer, Aroma Joe’s paid for water snacks, and we also had a trophy sponsor. We should obtain a status update from Owens. We should also pursue sponsors again for these three categories.

Pizza Challenge 2025: Thursday April 24th . Phil is continuing to work on getting pizza places on board for this year's event and will be developing a letter to save in our files - for if/when this event comes back after taking at least next year off. Working on a better way to ensure there are no last-minute issues w/participants, like last year. Phil will write sponsorship request letters as well. DJ is confirmed; emcee is confirmed. Phil will be reaching out to facepainting and balloon-making company shortly. Kim will get in touch w/ caricatures lady from last year. Pizza Pete is working on getting us a VIP guest for this year. Tentative judges for this year: 1. Mayor David Morse 2. Sheriff Kevin Joyce 3. Ray Richardson 4. Rotary DG Bob Mackenzie 5. Ch 13 news anchor? We will set up more tables than last year by eliminating some of the smaller kids’ games. Next committee meeting Feb 25 after the regular meeting

District Grant: Activity with the current grant is taking place with the Bee Club. They are planning which plants to use and the plaque design. Kathi submitted the interim report for February. Training has started for the next grant cycle.

Treasurer’s Report: *Reports were provided by Karen prior to the meeting. *\$316 was raised at the regifting auction and we should decide where to allocate that in the budget. * Chef Maureen being out until mid-March will have an impact on our club budget related to lunch costs and charitable support. *Per Jim Thomas, the Thomas Family \$500 donation can be used for a scholarship or anything we want it to be. Karen has suggested this money be used for a scholarship or toolship to an electrical student. *Moved and approved to make a memorial donation of \$250 from Misc Budget Line UNE.

Playground Map Project: On April 29 our speaker will be Nanette Duncanson from Portland Rotary. She will talk about the requirements and process for the map. We are planning to paint a map at Canal School in mid-July. Principal Vicki Hebert is happy to support this project and has been invited to attend on April 29.

Pop Up Tent/Canopy: Tabled until next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at about 10:40 AM

Next Board Meeting on Mar 12, 2025 at 9AM via Zoom