

Westbrook-Gorham Rotary Board Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2024

Present: President Crystal Brown, Treasurer Karen Arnold, Immediate Past President & Secretary Christine Johnson, Youth Services Kathi Perkins, Service Judith Reidman, and PE Phil Spiller. **Absent:** Dave Rolfe, Steve Rand

Meeting called to order about 10:03 AM by Crystal

Proxies: Our bylaws don't provide for proxy votes during board meetings. Something to consider in future updates. Although if something is discussed during a board meeting, Judith stated that we can hold an email vote afterwards on that subject.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the February 14th meeting Moved/Approved

New Members: No new member applications

2024-2025 District Grant: Interim report was due February 1. It was sent February 21. Final report will be sent after the May 21 event and prior to the May 30 deadline. Christine still needs to follow up with M&H Signs re banners. GSB has agreed to that date. Still need to hire a food vendor (hot dogs?) and be sure media is invited. Possible radio station WLOB, Phil has the contacts there. Christine will reach out to Gorham Times. Crystal has proposed using Millside Creations, the vendor we used in Westbrook last year. Crystal will reach out as Club President to invite Town officials.

Pizza Challenge: Walk through completed at WCC on March 12. Changes from last year were reviewed. Phil has secured 2 face painters, 1 balloon animal, 1 caricature artist, DJ (on the stage), and the massage therapist. All 12 pizza places know about it. Phil needs to follow up to confirm participation. Looking at two work shifts 2-5pm and 5-7pm. We will need support from Interact students as we did last year. Bounce house and other play items will remain in their usual room at WCC vs moved into the gym, and will be free that night. Christine will post a save the date again on Monday March 18. After that, we'll have an updated poster promoting the event to use. We have 4 judges – Ray Richardson, Kevin Joyce, Marion Cheney, and Jason Nappi. Crystal has secured brownies and rice crispy treats from Subway and is working on cookies. Hannaford has committed to water. Greg Post from WCC has purchased more tables and chairs. Sponsors may set up a table in the hallway. Karen is preparing to take payments.

2024-2025 District Grant Proposal: Phil is proposing a Brown St Community Park project in existing space on Brown St near the Cumberland St end. Some basic cleanup of the land has been done over the years and canoe rentals happen here during the summer. A landscape architect was brought in to design this several years ago. Phil has spoken to Cornelia Warren Community Assoc who are interested. Public Services and City Engineer are aware. But the City now has plans with DOT for a boardwalk project and there may be plans to rehab the sewer pumping station across the street. Phil will meet with Dan to better understand how this could impact any plans for the park. We may need a plan B Project.

Global Grant Guatemala: Kathi has been researching the grant status and past reports. She has been trying to make direct personal contact with Brenda Vasquez, a member of the Los Amatos club. From the receipts and photos, it appears that this project is done, or nearly done. Kathi has spoken with Dave Underhill who has offered some advice which Kathi is following. Karen suggested that Jeremy Gould, a

member of Freeport club who speaks Spanish fluently, may be able to assist with personal communications, if needed. Kathi has offered to write the report, if necessary, but we will still need signatures from the Guatemala club.

Hal Thomas Memorial Donations: \$800 has been received. Thank you notes have been sent. Hal took an active interest in RYLA, and he was our club historian for years. He was an electrical engineer. We discussed scholarships and possibly supporting the WRVC electrical program with something specific. Judith will investigate ideas.

VP for 2023-2023: We discussed candidates to appoint VP this year. Moved, seconded, and approved to appoint Kim Carignan if she agrees.

Corporate Memberships: Proposed bylaw changes have been inserted and a copy of the bylaws sent to all members. Twice. We will hold final discussion and club vote on March 19 during club assembly. The membership application form has been updated in anticipation of approval.

Golf: \$1000 remains outstanding, but we will write off \$100. Christine still needs to retrieve the \$1000 uncashed check from Sue Joyce of HUB (\$500 for 2023, \$500 for 2024). Christine has still not re invoiced the missing payments agreed upon during our discussions last month. She will do that this week.

Wreaths & Trees: We still have three outstanding invoices with Maine Properties. Karen provided additional details to Marie Johnson on January 11, but we have not seen a response. Christine will contact her to try and reconcile.

Youth Services: Interact – one student helped at the Community Dinner and did an awesome job. Kathi will send info to Neile asking for students to support DTA and Pizza Challenge. No update on the WHS advisor. RYLA Applications: GHS 5, WHS 2 done, one partial, and a fourth we expect. Interviews will be Monday March 18. Dave Rolfe is helping with Westbrook. Kathi is working on getting a partner for GHS interviews. We have short term exchange student from GHS who has all paperwork in order, pending passport. She is interested in several countries. A short-term coordinator at Essex will work on a match.

House: Foundation hole is filling with water faster than it can be pumped. The water must be removed before we can move forward. The original foundation contractor pulled out and a new contractor was secured. Cost to remove water was estimated at \$6000. Work must be coordinated so we don't have the water issue again. Once the foundation liner is in, we should not have to worry about water again.

Road Race: No update.

Free Community Meal – Final cost was about \$273, well under budget.

Budget – Status of accounts was provided by Karen via email prior to our meeting. There are two outstanding unpaid memberships. Collections continue for wreaths and golf. Goal is to close all items by end of April or write them off.

Information/Announcements:

Meeting Adjourned at 11:40AM

Next Board Meeting Wednesday April 10, 2023 at 10AM via Zoom