

Westbrook-Gorham Rotary Board Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2024

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

Meeting called to order about 10:05 AM by Crystal

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the March 13th meeting Moved/Approved

New Members: No new member applications (but see notes under Corporate memberships)

House: The lot has drainage problems. Water has been pumped several times from the foundation hole. This continues to delay the foundation work moving forward. Removal of some large pine trees near the lot line are now being discussed. Judith has asked City Manager Jerre Bryant to identify other lots. This will allow us time to review them for potential issues, like drainage.

Hal Thomas Memorial Donations: \$800 has been received. Thank you notes have been sent. Judith had a meeting with Todd. They discussed purchase of a piece of equipment that they otherwise might not be able to afford. No final decision yet. Judith will reach out to Rudy Clark, Electrical Instructor.

Scholarships & Toolships: Scholarship applications will be due sometime after the spring break. WRVC has our online form that we will use again. Kathi and Judith will be our review committee to select recipients. Steve proposed that if the number of applicants is 10 or fewer, that the committee may award as they see fit. If the number of applications exceeds 10, that the board be involved for a budget decision to award more than 10 (for budget reasons).

Youth Services: RYLA – we have been asked if we are willing to support additional attendees or staff with our budget. We currently have seven students between WHS and GHS, with a budget for 10. We moved/approved a motion to fund one staff person. We will continue to pursue opportunities to recruit at least two additional students. Summer Exchange (short term) – GHS Student Lola Vance will be going to Sao Paolo Brazil and a student from Brazil will be coming here. This is a family-to-family exchange, and the families will let us know when the travel times have been agreed.

Interact International Project: Nellie Young from Marshwood HS Interact Club is working on an international project to fund a nursery school in Peru. We will ask her to join us on June 4 (probably via Zoom). Nellie was the first speaker at the District's International Café on April 6. Once the video of that event is available, it was suggested that board members watch her presentation for more information. Deadline for funding is June 30 so a vote will be needed well prior to that date.

2023-2024 District Grant: Millside Creations, the vendor we used in Westbrook last year, has agreed to provide food service this year at our May 21st Ribbon Cutting/Dedication. Signage remains an issue because M&H has not responded to repeated contacts. Christine will pursue and find an alternate, if needed. Phil will be on the Ray Richardson show a couple more times, including post Pizza Challenge. He will mention our “dedication” of the Gorham solar charging pole on May 21 (publicity element).

2024-2025 District Grant Proposal: Phil is very interested in creating a “Rotary Park” area in Westbrook and potential location has been identified on Brown St. Westbrook ED Director Dan Stevenson has

expressed some concern about timing, given plans for riverwalk work/creation on the Brown St side of the river. We will know more after this Friday when Phil meets on site with Dan. Backup plan: Pollinator project – Gorham HS has a Bee Club. We might be able to pull together a quick project involving students and pollinator planters/gardens in Gorham.

Pizza Challenge: Posters have been made, some delivered, more Friday. 10 pizza places are on board. Five judges are lined up and will be contacted with final details by end of week. Two judge categories, one people's choice award. We have a DJ. Check-in will be in the hallway to give more room in the gym. 5 Interact students will be there the whole time. Kim is working on a ballot box. Tuesday AM Phil will be on the Ray Richardson show, later that morning he will be doing a recorded interview with Jeff Peterson Channel 13. Karen asked for a final quick committee meeting – Wednesday April 17 1PM. .

Corporate Memberships: Bylaws were approved by the club at the March 19 meeting. Updated bylaws and membership application form are on the website. Phil is working a couple of prospects.

Global Grant Guatemala: An interim report has been started, but it is not yet finished. Kathi has stayed on top of it and has emailed the contact again. Kathi will ask Carolyn Johnson for assistance to light a fire. The well has been dug and water is flowing. From our perspective, this grant is complete as detailed in the original grant description. The issue seems to be that there was an intention for the municipality to make arrangements for sharing this water with others, but that component is NOT part of our grant.

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.

VP for 2023-2023: Kim has been approached by both Crystal and Phil. Christine has lunch with her on Friday. Sandy has also been approached. Hopefully we'll have an answer this week.

Road Race: We had an update from Owens during the April 3 meeting. Volunteers should report at 9AM to assist with check in and set up. Course monitors needed from about 9:45 to 10:15 to guide racers.

PJs for Nana's House: Coming April 30 rather than April 23. Christine will provide additional direction in the next weekly email.

Golf: \$900 remains outstanding, but we will write off \$100. Follow up will be done after this meeting.

Budget – Financial info was sent to all board members prior to the meeting. Three WRVC scholarships have and two (of four) toolships have not been collected yet. Two of the HS scholarships have also not been claimed (one of these did not attend college this year). The insurance policy to cover the treasurer needs to be reviewed and renewed. We approved \$150 be reallocated from another unspent/underspent line item to Snacks for Vets.

Recognizing WRVC Tech II Seniors: The board moved/approved to “do what we did last year” for the graduating Culinary students. This will be \$50 gift cards in a thank you notes from the club. Crystal will see if some AJs cards can also be included.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:40AM

Next Board Meeting Wednesday May 8, 2024 at 10AM via Zoom