

Westbrook-Gorham Rotary

Board Meeting Minutes: April 12, 2022

Present: President Andy Turcotte, Immediate Past President Kathi Perkins, Secretary & PE Christine Johnson, VP Crystal Brown, Vocational Chair Judith Reidman, Interact & Club Protection Dave Rolfe, Treasurer Karen Arnold, Foundation Chair Steve Rand, and Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Fandell

Absent: None *Quorum present?* Yes *Others Present:* Scott Linscott

Proceedings:

- *Meeting called to order* at 10:02 AM by Andy
- *Secretary's Report:* March 8, 2022 meeting minutes were approved and will be posted on our website.
- *President's Update:* Omicron variant B.2 – New variant, very contagious, more so than previous variants and there are now cases in Maine. Andy encourages folks to get boosted if they have not done so already.
- *Treasurer's Report:* We reviewed Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet and open invoices. We still have \$960 in dues owed – 4 from most recent dues bills plus 1 with older past due. Discussed releasing budgeted charity funds to be paid soon. It was suggested that we plan to present checks in person to some of the recipients. Details to be worked out (Karen, Andy, others?). Crystal recommended that Rotary branded clothing be worn. Moved and approved to pay for 8 members to attend DTA on April 16.

Committee Reports

- *International Committee:* Romania – expecting pictures and a final accounting in the next couple of weeks from the current district grant.
- *House:* Judith said we are still having some City approval issues. WRVC is planning to order material to start construction of components inside (walls). An updated drainage plan was received today from the engineer based on notes from City Engineer Eric Dudley. Steve is hopeful it will be finalized and approved within a week or so. The plan will likely be to have the foundation installed this summer so kids can start the build in the fall – 13 West Pleasant St. Kathi suggested that we try to get a monthly update on the house, with pictures, to use with the local newspaper and on social media. She also mentioned that we agreed to have a house committee, which hasn't met since August. However, the slow progress with the drainage permit has not led to a need for meetings. We expect that to change as the project moves forward. With finalization of site plan close and the house plan selected, Kurt is working towards the goal of creating a budget.
- *Golf:* Valhalla \$42 per golfer with cart Monday Sept 19 only available date, Gray \$65 for golfer & cart (have not been able to confirm available dates). Other courses contacted were either more expensive or didn't have September openings for tournaments. The board agrees that we will move ahead and book Valhalla. Christine will contact Nick Plummer, the Pro at Valhalla.
- *Trees:* South Portland/Cape Elizabeth is still trying to confirm if they can add our trees under their umbrella. They want 2100, we want 400, Portsmouth wants 500. They have not been able to confirm if the supplier can provide that larger number of trees. We hope to know in the next couple of weeks. Christine has been in contact with FoxBrands regarding obtaining wreaths from them again – they can provide if we want them.

New Business/Announcements

- *2022-23 Budget:* Draft budget will be sent to the board by April 17. Christine will send out an email with proposed days/times next week for a roughly one-hour (maybe 90 minutes) discussion to take our first group look at a budget for the new Rotary year.
- *District Grant:* Discussed options for a new District Grant. Three different ideas: Recovery Initiative, Veterans Services or solar charger for Riverbank Park. We will have speakers from RI and VS during April. Scott presented information on a Sunbolt model solar charger as an option.
- *Training:* 8 members are signed up for the DTS on April 16. The board voted to pay fully for the attendees. Total \$240 from club funds.

- Craft Fair Fundraiser: Andy has made contact with Dave Rolfe's cousin who is involved with running craft fairs. More details to follow, potential to raise \$2-3K. We would need to consider location, time of year, marketing, etc.
- RYLA – The final number of students that we are sending this year is 8 – 7 from Gorham and 1 from Westbrook. We had budgeted for 10. With some of these “excess funds”, Christine proposed we donate \$200 each to the GHS & WHS Interact Club Relay for Life events in May. This motion was seconded and approved. Treasurer will arrange payment.
- 2022 Environmental projects: Christine suggested we consider an e-waste & shredding event as a fundraiser at some point in the next Rotary year. This would require sponsors to help pay for cost of companies to be on site to collect – to increase net. Since we don't want to jeopardize golf sponsorships, this requires additional consideration. Karen pointed us to the April 23rd Westbrook Riverwalk Cleanup event. She has been in touch with the event sponsors and is encouraging members to participate as they can. We are also looking at holding a Rotary sponsored event on Saturday May 21 – in partnership with folks who were involved last fall. Karen and Mike are working the details on the May project.
- Summer Meetings/Lunches: We will set up a small committee to explore options and organize lunches over the summer. Scott and Andy agreed to do some investigation. Note: Andy confirmed just after the meeting that we can use the WRVC dining room this summer.
- Chef Limoggio: Chef is retiring at the end of this school year. Christine proposed that we make a donation in his honor to Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 Maine. From the RT website about their Mission: “To educate the public that many American Prisoners of War were left behind after all previous wars and to help correct the past and to protect future veterans from being left behind should they become Prisoners of War or Missing in Action. We are also committed to helping American veterans from all wars”. The Board agreed to a guaranteed minimum contribution of \$250 and will ask members if they would like to personally make a donation to defray this cost and increase the amount.
- Sea Dogs: Andy suggested a club outing to the Sea Dogs. A social event, not a fundraiser. He will pursue date options with the Sea Dogs and we will poll the club for interest around the available dates.

Meeting adjourned following completion of business at 11:15 AM.

Minutes submitted by Christine Johnson Club Secretary

Next scheduled Board meeting is May 10, 2022 at 10:00AM via hybrid.