

# Westbrook-Gorham Rotary Board Meeting Minutes

## April 9 , 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, Eli Small. Member: Deb McPhail. Absent: Foundation Chair Steve Rand, Immediate Past President Crystal Brown.

Meeting called to order about 9:01 AM by Phil

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the March 12, 2025 meeting. Approved with revision from Karen.

**New Members:** Membership application from Mike Robinson to transfer from Portland Rotary. Moved to approve conditional upon a good report from the Portland Club. Seconded and approved.

### Club Items

**Club Master Calendar:** The “master calendar” is available on our shared drive [Master Calendar](#) and Phil shared the month of April in the Agenda. We have completed most items for April. A key item remaining is for the new board to meet and start the budget for 2025-2026. Budget must be approved by June 30.

**Speakers:** Next week Robyn Saunders and several folks are coming from City of Westbrook. We have also invited folks from Gorham Town government. Following week is the Pizza Challenge, no regular meeting. On April 29 there will be presentation on the Map Project.

**Dues status:** Two remaining – Sarah and Wayne have not paid second half. New members will be charged dues with the new Rotary year.

**BOD Elections Report:** Voting by the club was held on March 18. Eli Small VP; Directors Kathi Perkins, Steve Rand, Deb McPhail, and Judith Reidman; Christine Johnson Secretary; Karen Arnold Treasure. Kim needs to set up a meeting to start discussion on the 2025-26 budget for approval at the May Club Assembly in that time frame.

### Projects/Fundraisers

**Wreaths & Trees:** We can obtain wreaths and trees from Fox Brands, the Canadian company we have been obtaining wreaths from. Our previous supplier is confirmed to be a no-go. We are just too small for them. Lucas Anderson has been working his contacts to see if he can find an option in Maine. City of Westbrook says we cannot use the previous location in the park due to the holiday light display. They have offered the Dog Park parking lot off Hannaford Dr. However, it doesn't look like there is any electricity at that location. If we use the dog park, we will need to resolve how to power the trailer including the lights, heat, and payment terminal. Kathi recently inspected the trailer and reviewed the trailer issues: flat tire, low tire, broken window, it could use a coat of paint, it is in okay shape on the inside, all the tree lot items are in the trailer. There is also the issue of internet access for the payment terminal. We also need a confirmed project chair. Moved to defer a final decision to May pending finding a suitable location – Christine, Kim and Kathi will work those issues.

**31<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf Classic:** Database of emails still needs update. New target for save-the-date email is April 21. IDEXX has agreed to be our underwriting sponsor again this year.

**Mini-Golf:** April 26 at Walker Library. Christine is organizing decorations and volunteers.

**Youth Services:** \*Interact: 3 volunteers at the district assembly, advisors have been advised of the scholarships available, 4 or 5 from each school signed up for the pizza challenge. Kathi will write a letter to be included with advisor payments this month. \*RYLA – 11 students will be attending – 5 from Gorham and 6 from Westbrook. \*GATY – the federal grant has been released with applications due May 5. Awardees will be named at the end of August with money available at the end of September. Other activities are being held for the community at various grade levels. It is a very dynamic group. \*Scholarships – Kathi contacted both schools re Most Improved scholarships. \*Skills USA – 2 students from WRVC qualified to represent Maine at a National conference & competition in Atlanta GA this June. Cost for the two students is approx \$5800. Fundraising is planned along with requests to local businesses. Moved, seconded and approved to donate \$1000 towards this trip using \$500 from Interact Conference and \$500 from the Miscellaneous Student Services line items. \*Elementary school nurses in Gorham approached Tom Violette about eye testing. Kids on Maine Health are taken care of. But there are a few students who are not covered by either MH or private insurance. They have asked if we can help fund a student or two – glasses cost \$50-100, exams cost \$150-300. Decision tables to next meeting. \*Hal Thomas \$500 scholarship money – suggestion, either a student selected by the Electrical Instructor or a WHS student who will be studying electrical engineering. Kathi and Judith will work with the schools to select a student.

**House:** Deb Atripaldi has been sending photos now and then. Christine made a visit to the house during the last month and added photos to the album on the shared drive. CMP quandary – they want a copy of the deed before they put in the pole. Discussion at the House committee meeting next week. Karen has put together an informational piece for this meeting that will include both Westbrook and Gorham.

**Foundation:** No update.

**Road Race** – Owens McCullough has plans with the City. We may have a police escort for the runners that day. Sebago Technics will pay the timer again this year. Dolby Blais and Segee are the snack and water sponsors. Rand Family will be the trophy sponsor. Will need several volunteer race martials.

**Pizza Challenge 2025:** Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup> . Phil reported that they are making good progress on the Pizza Challenge. Several sponsors have been secured as have 11 pizza places.

**District Grant:** World Bee Day 2025 is May 20 and will be our day for a celebration/dedication with the school and Town Officials. 2025-2026 Grant ideas: Glasses and exams for both school systems, possible projects with Romania, and Warren Rec area project.

**Epic Day of Service:** On May 17 board agreed that we will assist FBC with the Community Meal that night. Christine to discuss with FBC how we can best support them that day. We will continue to look for a Gorham project that we could support that day or near that date.

**Treasurer's Report:** Reports were provided by Karen prior to the meeting. The house is due to be done by May 2026. We will most certainly be dipping into the line of credit to finish the house. Key point: Progress is being made but Budget Line owners please review and make plans to spend your budget. Several line items are planned for the next month. Other items need a plan to be developed.

**Pop Up Tent/Canopy:** Tabled until next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at about 10:40 AM

Next Board Meeting on May 14, 2025 at 9AM via Zoom