

Westbrook-Gorham Rotary Board Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2025

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

Meeting called to order about 9:11 AM by Phil

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the April 9, 2025 meeting were approved.

New Members:

- Membership application from Clare Woodman transferring from the Sebago Lake Club. Tabled. Request that she attend a couple of meetings before we act on her application.
- Corporate members application from Kevin Joyce transferring from the Sebago Lake Club (where he was an individual member). If he is approved, Keven appoints Brian Pellerin as an alternate. Approved pending report from his current club.
- Membership application from Julie Forbes transferring from the Bridgton Lake Region Club. Approved pending report from her current club.
- Corporate membership application from David Morse. If he is approved, David appoints alternate Monique Cornett. Approved.
- Membership application from Sue Blais. Approved.
- Request from Scott Linscott to transfer back to W-G Rotary from the E-Club of D5190. The board confirmed that no vote is needed for him to return.

Club Items

Club Master Calendar: The “master calendar” is available on our shared drive [Master Calendar](#). WRVC Awards Night is May 22. Scholarship and Toolship applications have been provided and sent electronically to Judith and will be to Karen. 10 applicants for scholarships and 5 for toolships. Schools are in process of selecting most improved. Calendar language needs to be updated for most improved and DG should be mentioned in each month from Feb to May.

Speakers/Programs: Next week on May 20 is our District Grant completion celebration. No meeting on May 27. Back at Brookside for June 3 (classification talks) or possibly at Rock Row. June 10 Kevin Jensen from Town of Gorham.

Dues status: One remaining – Wayne has not yet paid for the second half. He is back in ME and doing well. Started the conversation with him about whether he wants to step back or not since he was not as involved with the Sedona AZ club as he usually is during the winter months. He needs to confirm if he wants to remain an active member or move to honorary status.

Projects/Fundraisers

Wreaths & Trees: We have gone back and forth with the City on finding a location that meets our requirements. The latest proposal is the Church St parking lot. It is along William Clark Dr with electricity available. Moved and approved to pursue pricing for 250-300 trees in our usual mix and quality of sizes. We prefer to source from Maine, if possible.

Youth Services: Proposed new project - glasses for students who cannot afford them. This was brought up at the last board meeting. Karen proposed moving \$500 unspent from International to offer assistance for this school year. Approved. Kathi will follow up to confirm that money would help this year.

Hal Thomas Scholarship – We have an additional \$500 scholarship to award this year in honor of Hal and provided by his family. Judith is working with WRVC to select a recipient.

House: A summary of the May 13 meeting with WRVC, City and Town leaders was provided by Phil. Present were Kevin Jensen from Gorham; David Morse, Jerre Bryant and Angela Holmes from Westbrook. Also present were Superintendent Peter Lancia and representatives from WRVC and WG Rotary. This was the first time Gorham Town leadership had been involved. It was suggested that representatives of both communities gather every couple of years to discuss status of the program. Gloria Noyes mentioned that the new Marketing Program and a couple of additional programs could be engaged in the house project. With the difficulty identifying land, and new a new law recently enacted, we should be getting creative and thinking about the possibility of ADUs, tiny houses, or other options.

Foundation: Steve would like to increase our Rotary Direct enrollees. He is suggesting producing a flyer to help educate current and new members. Christine noted that our PolioPlus giving has already exceeded our goal for this year, but Annual Fund giving is behind.

Mini-Golf: April 26 at Walker Library was a success with about 150 individuals participating on a rainy Saturday. The Friends of Walker Library will likely do this again next year.

Road Race – The annual road race went off well thanks to Owens. Several Rotarians were joined by volunteers from Sebago Technics and two members of the Westbrook Community to be road marshals and make sure the kids stayed on the course. There were about 65 runners this year, up from last year, but down from past highs.

Pizza Challenge 2025: Net revenue for the pizza challenge is about \$18K as things stand right now. Phil will work with Karen to confirm all expenses are accounted for.

Map Project: Dates set for July 17-20 to work at Canal School. Stencils are available from the District.

Epic Day of Service: Board agreed that we will assist FBC with the usual monthly Community Meal on Saturday May 17. 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.

District Grant: World Bee Day 2025 is May 20 and will be our day for a celebration/dedication with the school and Town Officials in Robie Park. Workday Saturday May 17, starting at 8AM. Volunteers are needed to help the students complete the project. 2025-2026 Grant: Phil is working with the City of Westbrook on a proposed project. The club is fully qualified should a grant be developed.

31st Annual Golf Classic: Database of emails was updated. Save the date email was sent May 9. Several sponsors committed verbally prior to the email blast and we're working through invoicing them now. Website is fully functional, and some sponsorships have been purchased already. First golf committee meeting after regular meeting June 3. Christine will send out link to the 2025 spreadsheet.

Treasurer's Report: Board voted to continue the practice of offering a free lunch and 3 raffle tickets to members for paying dues up front for the year. Reports were provided by Karen prior to the meeting. Chef is excited to be coming back, and we expect the fee will remain \$195. Dues bills will be going out as

soon as we can approve the budget. Karen reviewed each of the accounts and asked account holders for any updates to those numbers. Acadia Insurance for the House was secured by Steve for \$950 for a one-year policy. The Hal Thomas scholarship will go to a vocational student who will pursue a career in electrical trade or engineering.

Westbrook & Gorham River Bowl: The high school football coaches and administrators would like to establish an annual bowl. They are asking Rotary to purchase the trophy which will be a “perpetual” trophy that will be engraved with winners each year. The first presentation would be at the game on October 24 between Westbrook & Gorham. Approved. We discussed how we can help identify opportunities for the Interact Clubs to be involved with the game and presentation. We also discussed looking for opportunities for Rotary to participate in a larger way during the event.

Pop Up Tent/Canopy: Tabled a future meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at about 10:30 AM

Next Board Meeting on June 11, 2025 at 9AM via Zoom