

# Westbrook-Gorham Rotary Board Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2024

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

Meeting called to order about 10:05 AM by Crystal

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the April 10 meeting Moved/Approved

**New Members:** No new member applications

**2023-2024 District Grant:** Karen will check with the Town to see if they have “big scissors” and maybe a ribbon to use on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Millside Creations, the vendor we used in Westbrook last year, has agreed to provide food service this year. Invitees include Gorham Rec Director, Bank Representatives; need to confirm who else from the town was invited. It was suggested to contact Ethan Johnson for GBE participation. Signage remains an issue. Christine will pursue. Final report for this grant must be submitted by May 31.

**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. He met with Westbrook ED Director Dan Stevenson who asked us to take a pause on this idea while planned work is underway in that area to expand the boardwalk/riverwalk. Our backup plan is a Pollinator project with the Gorham HS Bee Club. We hope to be able to pull together a quick project involving students and pollinator planters/gardens in Gorham. Grant application is due on June 1. Note: We have been freed from reporting requirements on the Guatemala grant, which remains open, so we can qualify for a grant with the successful completion of our current district grant.

**Hal Thomas Memorial Donations:** Judy reached out to Rudy Clark, Electrical Instructor. He identified a tool he would like to order from Home Depot. The item will have a plaque, or some other designation attached – 12V Lithium-Ion 3D-plane laser level kit. \$599+ tax and plaque. Moved and approved to purchase this item in memory of Hal. Judith and Karen will collaborate on ordering. We use Awards and Recognition for our race trophies. Steve will provide contact info to Judith.

**Wreaths:** 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.

**Golf:** \$800 remains outstanding. We have written off \$200 already and may need to write off \$100 more. Christine has forwarded outstanding invoices to the club contacts and will email them directly to each sponsor, as well.

## **Youth Services:**

- Interact – Kathi is fairly confident that we will have an advisor for Westbrook High School next year.
- RYLA – We have 5 students from GHS and 3 from Westbrook, including one student with paperwork outstanding. We previously agreed to pay for a staff member. That is a total of 9 (budget 10).
- Summer Exchange (short term) – GHS Student Lola leaves for Sao Paolo on June 8. Both girls come to Maine on July 1. Brazilian student returns July 28. This is a family-to-family exchange.

- Scholarships - There will not be an interact scholarship for Westbrook in 2024 since the program has not been active. However, GHS has 3 students whom Neille wants to recognize. Moved and approved to add \$500 to the William Chadwick scholarship for 2024 - to be divided three ways - \$500 each. We will be awarding Most Improved to each of WHS and GHS.
- Westbrook Middle School – \$50 donation to a charity that the 2 awardees have volunteered with.

**House:** Drainage has been taken care of, footings are in, walls have been started. Phil suggested we plan for a 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in 2027. Karen recommends that the budget be updated, and Judith confirmed that she has spoken to Kirk about doing that.

**Pizza Challenge:** Good result. Already planning for next year. Current anticipated net is about \$11.5K.

**Club Match:** Karen's records indicate that only 5 members have taken advantage of this match. Two board members thought they had already done so. Karen will check records.

**PJs for Nana's House:** People gave Karen \$100 for Nanna's House. Additional money and items were given directly to Beth the day she spoke. Moved and approved to donate \$200 to Nanna's House, including the \$100 donated by members.

**Scholarships & Toolships:** Only 9 scholarship applications and one toolship application were received this year. One application was incomplete but is being updated. As incoming, Phil may be presenting the scholarships at the May 23 awards ceremony. Karen reported that 2 toolship and 5 scholarship recipients from previous year(s) have not requested payment. She will follow up with WRVC.

**Interact International Project:** Nellie Young from Marshwood HS Interact Club is working on an international project to fund a nursery school in Peru. She will join us on June 4 to share her vision. Nellie was the first speaker at the District's International Café on April 6 and the video was sent to all board. Moved and approved to donate \$500 to this project and present the check when she speaks. The check will be written to a local Rotary club that will manage the donations - South Berwick-Eliot Club.

**Budget** – Karen sent out a budget summary prior to the meeting. Items were discussed within the context of each agenda item above. It was also noted that an approved budget is needed by the end of June for the 2024-2025 year. As incoming President, Phil will work with Karen and Christine to develop a proposal for discussion at a special board meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at about 11:40AM

Next Board Meeting Wednesday June 12, 2024 at 10AM via Zoom