

Westbrook-Gorham Rotary Board Meeting Minutes: July 12, 2023

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

Meeting called to order about 10:04 AM by Crystal

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the June 12 meeting were Moved/Approved

New Members: No new member applications this month.

Corporate Memberships: Crystal would like to create a letter and email that can be sent to businesses in Westbrook and Gorham. Purpose of which is to introduce Rotary and our club, to ask about ideas for collaboration on community projects (service hours), and to possibly solicit corporate memberships as part of that collaboration. There was enthusiasm about the idea, and we see this is a good opportunity for us to do more hands-on service and to gain exposure with local companies. Some ideas: offer opportunities for service or sponsorship related to our annual fundraisers, invite someone from the company to attend any of our regular meetings. Steve suggested the fewest “requirements” the better to get us started. Judith also recommended that we start slowly with growing interest through engagement. Kathi and Crystal will do research to find out what other clubs are doing with corporate sponsorships, to be presented to the board at our next meeting.

Elementary & Middle School Books: New project idea to provide books to some of our local schools. Perhaps for students with learning challenges or special needs or classrooms that could use an infusion of books. Possibly bi-lingual. Possibly focus on challenges for “covid kids” to help them advance in reading. Ask about existing programs that we could tap into as volunteers or to help support. Judith recommended that we refresh our understanding of their needs and figure out how we can better help with both hands-on and with books. We may have to wait until August for responses with school not currently in session. Christine, Kathi, and Karen will work on contacts. Judith will call Peter Lancia.

Board 2023-24: Slate as presented to the club by the board was approved on Tuesday June 13. Christine will follow up with Owens re VP slot.

DG Visit: Marion doesn't want to do the traditional DG visits this year. She would like to come and participate in some hands-on project or fundraiser. We will suggest the Golf Tournament. Phil stated that he has invited Marion to the lobster bake. Crystal, as President, will follow up on that invitation.

Interact Relationship: Westbrook students are usually able to join us at a lunch meeting. Gorham has only been able to join us via Zoom. Kathi will ask if a breakfast meeting might work, if we go to them. Crystal also suggested that perhaps we could help them with one of their hands-on service projects. Steve suggested a lunch meeting with them in Gorham vs a breakfast. Kathi will contact Niele.

2024-2025 District Grant: Preliminary discussion of what to do for the next year. Kathi suggests that we involve some of our newest members in coming up with ideas for the next grant. This is patterned after something that Yarmouth club has done in the past. Lead by Crystal or one or two of the Board members, including at least one person who has been involved with District Grants process. Kathi

recommended individual contacts with those we'd like to solicit rather than a general invitation to the club. Kathi and Steve will follow up with some of our new members to solicit ideas and possibly form a working committee to develop our next grant request.

Golf: Tracking spreadsheet is up and available on Google, link sent to the board. Website is taking sponsorships and teams. Scott is working on a flyer and promotional signage. We need a committee meeting. Some teams are signed up. Hole sponsorships are being solicited. Steve recommended that we hold a committee meeting after our next regular meeting and be sure to invite several new members to join us in person or via Zoom. Christine sync golf site with the spreadsheet and will send out an invitation to that meeting.

Wreaths & Trees: Contact has been made with Brian Fox brianroyfox@gmail.com. He thinks he can supply us trees this year (400 as a target number). We have requested at least 25 dozen wreaths and he will confirm the quantity available shortly. There are concerns about staffing shifts and getting bows on wreaths. Judith will check with the City re space in the park. More action items to follow once we have more information.

Youth Services: Three kids were successful at RYLA this year. District Youth Exchange is going to be doing promotion to attract students into the program, with a focus on short term exchanges. A long-term student from Brazil is coming into Greely HS, sponsored by the Yarmouth club.

Live Auction/Silent Auction: Plan for that in January 2024 as we did in 2023.

House: Waiting for final approval of the building permit. We understand that it is in the final review process now. Brush clearing can start as soon as we have the permit, and the students will likely be handling that in the fall. Foundation work is to start in mid-October. Judith will be talking with the City about the next lot. We must plan quite far in advance since the City has been selling a lot of land recently. The budget from Kirk is now complete. The committee needs to meet to review. A line of credit will be needed, and this budget is required as part of that process.

On a potentially related note, Phil quickly mentioned a military "small housing" initiative that he hopes Westbrook will become involved with. This is all very preliminary. Discussions are just getting started with many ideas being explored. The question was asked if we thought WRVC might consider this as an option in future years. Judith will contact Kirk (and Todd?). Kathi noted that even if this is possible, we would still need to sell these houses to make a profit towards scholarship and any subsequent construction project.

Information/Announcements:

Lobster Bake Tuesday August 22 at Phil's – start recruiting hard for that with July 25 meeting. Phil has invited DG Marion. The lobster provider is locked in, and we have cooks for the steaks and service.

District Grant 23-24 – Still waiting on a funding decision from the Foundation Committee and hope to know the answer by July 19th (the day after the Foundation Committee Special meeting)

Next Board Meeting Wednesday August 9, 2023 at 10AM via Zoom