

# Westbrook-Gorham Rotary Board Meeting Minutes

## October 8, 2025

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

Meeting called to order about 9:02 AM by Kim

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from September 10, 2025 Board meeting were approved.

### **New Members:**

No new member applications.

We need to start presenting membership packets and pins to all the recent new members. We are behind about 12 folks. Christine will confirm with a couple that packets were not previously presented.

### **Club Items**

**Club Master Calendar:** The “master calendar” is available on our shared drive [Master Calendar](#). Most items for October have been or are being addressed. RYLA student visit will be in November this year but should remain as Sept/October item. Reading Friends program has not restarted. Christine will reach out to the three Gorham Elementary schools to determine if there is interest this year. Originally, the program was done at Village School.

**Speakers/Programs Calendar:** Speaker calendar is quite full through March. We need to slot in more classification talks over the next few months. Kathi has requested that we not book any more programs past end of March for now.

**Dues status:** 40 members on the books currently. Sue has paid dues but needs to step back. Anna, Crystal, and Phil have not yet paid dues. Kathi offered to reach out to Anna and Crystal.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Karen sent out reports ahead of the meeting. She went over the numbers for club savings & checking, as well as charities accounts. Finances are in good shape. We paid our District dues for 38 members (one member under 30 years old). The 40<sup>th</sup> member joined us in September. Discussion on some items was deferred to the committee reports. Jason Beever memorial donations totaled \$4000. We should discuss how best to use that money. In addition, \$10,000 was donated to the Rotary Foundation through Jason’s will. We accepted the check on their behalf and will forward it.

### **Projects/Fundraisers**

**Wreaths & Trees:** Scott Linscott will place our sale on the church electronic sign on Main St. Delivery still pending – will be based on supplier’s schedule. Christine needs to follow up again on the wreaths. Karen suggested we ask for presence on the Gorham Public Works board. Setting a date for tree lot set up was discussed. Kathi proposed Saturday November 22. Christine will add this to the calendar for 10AM on November 22. Folks bringing the trailer to the site will meet at WRVC earlier that morning so the trailer can be on site for 10AM. The few parking spots that will be impacted need to be blocked or marked in some way ahead of time so no cars park to impede setting up. Kim will contact the church to let them know our plans. The Mayor has asked us to notify all the local businesses and keep them in the loop. Kathi and Kim will work on that. Trailer insurance ends November 10 and the carrier is not continuing this product offering. This is a “value of unit” insurance, not liability insurance. The suggestion is to self-

insure for the trailer value. We need to confirm what type of insurance, if any, is required to register the trailer so it can be moved to the lot when the time comes.

**Saco River Jazz Band – Proposed Fundraiser:** To be held at FBC Westbrook who have agreed to host us. Discussed if we should have food in addition to the music. It was agreed that there would be no dinner served. The band will donate their time. Saturday April 25 is at the end of April vacation week and the only weekend day the band is available. Kathi has contacted schools for possible involvement of WHS and GHS Jazz Bands. Kim proposed that proceeds benefit food insecurity. Discussed the possibility of this being our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and possibly midweek instead of a weekend. We agreed with the concept, but some of the board feel we need additional discussion about dates and format of the event.

**Youth Services:** Eye care for kids – two requests received. \$200 sent to Maine Optometry to cover the exams. The schools will fund the glasses. GATY – Requested Federal grants not being approved because there are new guidelines. Gorham will likely reapply. They are also looking at other sources of funding and focusing on mental health. It is a larger group of very committed people.

**House:** There has not been a meeting yet this school year. Kids are actively working on buttoning up the exterior so they can move to the interior as the weather turns. Still working on getting the electricity to the site. CMP is seeking an easement from the City. Jerre Bryant involved. Still a few weeks away. Brief discussion about having a ribbon cutting or celebration on site as the house is completed.

**Westbrook High School food project** – New project introduced by Kathi. A teacher is working with a small class of special education students who will not be furthering their education. Teaching kids cooking as an important life skill. They would like to provide each student with a folder/book of recipes that have been made over the course of the year. Locker Project is helping with some of the food, but the teacher is looking for donations to help purchase additional food. Kathi proposed we donate \$500. Board approved. Kathi and Karen will work out which line item to use as we have unallocated dollars in at least three lines.

**District Grants:** Phil will be going to the alley around 9AM Saturday October 11 and invited others to help get things started. The bulk of work will happen in the spring. Plan on 9-12.

**River Bowl:** Friday October 24, 2025 game between GHS and WHS 7PM. We will have Rotary presence during the games and presentation. Hopefully the tent will be available. No team dinner necessary, per coaches. This is an opportunity to highlight World Polio Day and promote our upcoming tree and wreath sale. Kathi has approached the two Interact Clubs about coming. Some logistics to be worked out about announcing and presenting. Eli has an upcoming meeting with Gorham coach and will loop in Phil.

**Annual Budget Approval:** There is no language in our bylaws covering proposal or approval by the board and club of our annual budgets. Kathi has developed proposed language to be added to the bylaws. She sent it out for review. Tabled to the next meeting.

**Pop Up Tent/Canopy:** Christine & Phil went through a design on Amazon for a cost of \$796.51. Top panels are generic Rotary branding. Back panel and sides will have WG Rotary logos. Canopy was ordered October 4.

Meeting Adjourned at about 10:47 AM

Next Board Meeting on November 12, 2025 at 9AM via Zoom