

Approved: October 21, 2016



**Trustees of Trust Funds  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday September 30, 2016  
Conference Room, Merrimack Town Hall, East Wing**



The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am. Trustees present were Wilkes and Christensen. Also present was Tom Boland, Merrimack Deputy Director of Finance and Brian Webb of Mill River Wealth Management.

The minutes of August 30, 2016 were approved as distributed. Motion by Wilkes, second by Christensen, 2-0-0

Mr. Webb described the Mill River business model for municipalities. They have a model portfolio (Equity Income) that we would be able to modify. In our case, they would transfer our current portfolio *in toto* and work with us to make changes over time. There are no transaction charges, but there is a monthly management fee (0.9% annually, billed on a monthly basis as the size of the portfolio changes). We expressed concern and noted that we currently pay only transaction fees. Our goal might better be described as wanting some global oversight with less emphasis on day to day service as there really isn't a lot of activity. A discussion followed on our present portfolio vs their suggested portfolio. We noted that while we need some growth, we have a responsibility to provide annual income to support beneficiaries, e.g. schools, library, and perpetual care obligations. It was agreed that Mr. Webb would review our portfolio and take a look at other fee options. (Mr. Webb leaves the meeting)

There was no feedback from the recent audit, so, presumably, no problems.

Communication with Tom Gibson re the Timothy Gibson Memorial Scholarship was brought up. We will add the \$7900.00 received to the fund principal. On a motion by Wilkes, second by Christensen, it was agreed to increase the scholarship to be awarded in May 2017 from \$3000 to \$3500. This is consistent with family wishes to provide greater support to students. It was agreed that at our next meeting with Cambridge Trust we would discuss how to safely improve income. 2016 income was just under \$4000.

A bill for perpetual care was presented from Last Rest Cemetery. On a motion by Wilkes, second by Christensen, \$8,738.00 payment from Fund A, and \$3359.20 from Fund B was authorized, 2-0-0. It was noted that the cost per grave had decreased slightly.

With national elections coming and uncertainty about market volatility, it was agreed to keep higher cash positions. We still have not been successful in recovering Canadian withholding of some dividends, Notably on Potash (POT) TD Bank (TD) and Royal Dutch Shell (RDS A). Despite the withholding it was agreed that TD Bank continues to be a reasonable holding. On a motion by Wilkes, second by Christensen, it was agreed to sell 300 shares of POT from Fund C, and 300 shares of RDS A from Fund D. In addition we will place an order for ExxonMobil (XOM) for 200 shares at \$80. It is currently trading at \$86. We still hold RDS A in Fund C, but no withholding is being done.

At an earlier meeting (May) we had authorized moving additional funds from the Watkins Forest Income Fund to the Watkins speaking and spelling contest funds, all in Fund D. On

**Approved: October 21, 2016**

reconsideration, the additional funds will not be likely to increase participation. Motion by Wilkes, second by Christensen to indefinitely postpone this action, passed, 2-0-0.

Next meetings will be October 21 and November 18. No meeting in December; then January 20, 2017. Cambridge Trust will be invited for October or November.

A motion by Wilkes, second by Christensen to adjourn at 11:30 pm passed 2-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Christensen  
Trustee Secretary/Treasurer