

**Approved: November 22, 2019**



**Trustees of Trust Funds  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday October 25, 2019  
Memorial Room, Merrimack Town Hall, East Wing**

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The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am. Trustees present were Balcom, Wilkes and Christensen. (Wilkes arrived at 8:35) Thomas Boland, Merrimack Deputy Finance Director was also present.

The minutes of September 20, 2019, were approved as distributed. Motion by Balcom, second by Christensen. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Discussion of the Watkins Forest site walk was summarized separately and is attached to these minutes. Correspondence to the Merrimack Conservation Commission, the Merrimack Village District and the Merrimack School District will be sent separately to those organizations noting that most likely next harvest is in 2025-26.

Scholarship award requests have started coming in. On a motion by Balcom, second by Wilkes, it was voted to pay these awards as the requests are received. Vote 3-0-0.

A meeting with the new Merrimack School District Superintendent, Mark McLaughlin, has not yet been successfully scheduled. Further attempts will be made.

Trustee training is scheduled for November 13th at the NH Municipal Association annual meeting in Manchester. All trustees plan to attend.

Portfolio review: Our team from Cambridge Trust was invited for November 22. Balcom expressed concern for income levels on the fixed income portion of our portfolio in view of current and future cuts in interest rates. It was pointed out that the 10 year treasury is currently yielding 1.75%.

Our next meetings are scheduled for November 22 and January 17, 2020.

A motion to adjourn was made by Wilkes, second by Balcom. 3-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 am.

Respectfully submitted  
Chris Christensen, Trustee

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## Notes on Watkins Forest Site Walk

October 7, 2019

Trustees Jack Balcom and Chris Christensen met with Forester Eric Radlof. They were joined by Tom Boland, Town of Merrimack Assistant Finance Director. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a site walk of the two parcels comprising the Watkins Town Forests. Per Eric Radlof "Both properties appear to be growing well at this time with no signs of damage or disease." The first parcel is located between Profile Circle and Mitchell Street (Mitchell Woods 6B224-1 Watkins Forest 6B-158). We met at the right of way on Profile Circle which provides access to the parcel. We observed that the ROW s overgrown with small saplings and mixed brush. It does not appear to have been infringed upon by abutters.

We removed to Mitchell Street where there is access to Town owned property (Mitchell Woods). A gated access road leads into a landing site that has been used for previous harvesting. The gate is in significant disrepair. This also provides access to the area where the MVD has plans for two additional water supply wells. The Trustees have granted an easement to the MVD for the required Sanitary Protection Zone around the well sites.

Eric Radlof noted that the landing area has invasive species growth of both "Autumn Olive" and "Oriental Bittersweet". These are mostly confined to Town property at this time but some control measures will likely be called for in the future, perhaps in 5-6 years in conjunction with a future harvest. Specific timelines for activities on the Town owned land by the Town and/or MVD are un known at this time.

There are trails through the property that are related to past harvests and appear to be used by hikers and snowmobilers.

Radlof pointed out evidence of previous harvests in 2004 and the mid 1990's. The various levels of growth that lead to long term sustainability were also pointed out. Harvest would consist of mostly White Pine. Hardwoods (Oak and Maple) are occasionally found on the property, along with some Beech and Birch.

Radlof's opinion was that the existing management plan makes sense. It calls for a harvest in 2026 or 2027, depending on intervening growth and the economics of the market at that time. No thinning or other activity is necessary at this time. Such work, done at the time of harvest, is adequate.

Compiled by Chris Christensen, Trustee. By consensus: attach to October 25, 2019 minutes