

Approved: February 21, 2020



**Trustees of Trust Funds  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday January 24, 2020  
Memorial Room, Merrimack Town Hall, East Wing**



The meeting was called to order at 8:32 am. Trustees present were Balcom, and Christensen. Wilkes was present via conference telephone. Thomas Boland, Deputy Finance Director also attended.

Balcom moved the minutes of November 22, 2019. Second by Christensen with an amendment to correct Lindsey Donovan's name which had been incorrectly entered as Doherty. Passed 2-0-1 with Wilkes abstaining.

Christensen reported that he had attended the Watkins Prize Spelling Contest at the Merrimack Middle School on February 17. Six students, three from grades 7 and three from grade 8 competed. Pending receipt of an invoice, Balcom moved, second by Wilkes to authorize up to \$450.00 in prize money and related expenses. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Christensen stated that the Trustees had received a thank you note from Ashley Gamache and Tabitha Pariseau, coordinators of the contest.

In other correspondence, five scholarships have been billed and paid. One Watson scholarship and the Greenleaf scholarship are still pending.

A check in the amount of \$1,990,000.00 was received from the Town for deposit to 15 capital Reserve Funds. Boland noted that these were the amounts approved at the annual town meeting. It is possible that a procedural change may occur in the CRF funding process. Finance Director Paul Micali is in discussions with the NH Department of Revenue Administration seeking to simplify the warrant article process.

There is a possibility of a new donation to the Town which would then put the funds under Trustee management, if accepted by the Town Council. According to the Department of Justice, a public hearing requirement would depend on the amount of the donation.

The draft of the Trustees annual report has been submitted to the Town for publication in the book distributed at the annual town meeting. This is a summary with reference to the Town website for detailed spreadsheets.

Our next meeting will be February 21. March 20 is a tentative following meeting.

There being no further business, Balcom, second by Wilkes, moved to adjourn. Motion passed 3-0-0, and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

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