

Approved: June 19, 2020



**Trustees of Trust Funds
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 21, 2020**



Via ZOOM, hosted by town of Merrimack Media Center

As amended January 24, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am. Trustees present were Balcom, Wilkes and Christensen. Tom Boland, Merrimack Deputy Finance Director was also present. Guests were Judith Noel, Eric Jussaume and Lindsey Donovan, all from Cambridge Trust Co. and Ed Hilston, a Merrimack resident. The meeting was recorded for later playback on Merrimack TV.

The minutes of February 21, 2020, were approved as distributed. Motion by Balcom, second by Wilkes. Motion passed 3-0-0.

It was reported that all scholarships have been paid for 2020 and that there was no other correspondence requiring action by the Trustees.

Eric Jussaume presented information on current economic conditions as they affect our portfolios. Lindsey Donovan addressed specific portfolios and holdings. The scholarship account was up to 20% cash/equivalents and also contained 1% gold. These positions were taken to help stabilize the fund in what has been a very turbulent market. It was noted that markets seem to be re-stabilizing, that we have no need for cash until at least next December and that we are seeking income from dividends, not capital gains. It was noted that we cannot expend CG for scholarships earned on principal, only interest and dividends. With this in mind, we will move out of gold and reduce the cash position in favor of income producing holdings. The same discussion applied to the Common Funds, principal and income. Capital Reserve Funds for the Town, School and MVD, are all invested, by law, in U.S. Government guaranteed securities, mostly Treasuries and CD's. Yields are down, but our goal here is preservation of capital. Consequently the discussion centered on laddering our holdings and future expenditures. The most significant is an expected ~\$2,000,000 for the Town, as occurs every June. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, Town, School and MVD have not held their annual meetings yet, so no future budgets are in place. We will reconsider, if necessary, after the budgets are enacted in June.

A motion was made by Balcom, second by Wilkes, to authorize future expenditures such as the CRF reimbursement to the Town, in a timely manner. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Training seminars, aimed at newly elected officials, are planned in June by the NH Municipal Association. It was suggested that the seminars held in November in conjunction with the NHMA Annual Conference were likely to have content aimed more at us, and that there appeared to be no immediate need for the "newly elected" syllabus.

Our next meetings are scheduled for June 19 and August 21, 2020.

There was no other business.

Motion to adjourn by Balcom, second by Wilkes, 3-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted
Chris Christensen, Trustee