

## **Wentworth Town Trustees of the Trust Fund**

Meeting Minutes – for meeting held on Thurs., 10/27/22

**Location:** meeting held via Zoom

**Present at the meeting:** Jen Meade (Chair), Linda Franz (Treasurer), Adam Sylvain (Secretary), Frank Anderson and Dona Murray (Bank of New Hampshire)

### **Agenda:**

1. At the start of the meeting, we were introduced to Dona Murray who is now managing our account with Frank Anderson following Charles Mathews' departure from Bank of NH.
2. Dona proceeded to provide an update on current market conditions and their impact on the Capital Reserves and Trust Fund accounts.
  - a. Fed continues to rise interest rates in response to inflation. The rise in mortgage rates and corresponding slowdown in the real estate market is having a trickle-down effect, leading to fewer expenditures on household goods, furniture, appliances, etc.
  - b. Dona and Frank predict that equity markets will continue to experience some volatility for at least the next 6-12 months. Notably, most of our equity investments are in large-cap funds (invested in large, established companies that are well-poised to rebound from the current economic crisis).
  - c. On the positive side, rising interest rates have had a positive effect on cash equivalents (U.S. treasury bonds, etc.), which are earning at a 3% rate and likely to go up further with future rate hikes.
3. To take advantage of future rate hikes and earn even more interest in our cash equivalent funds, Dona advised removing some portion of current cash equivalent funds to re-invest at a higher rate over a 60-day period.
  - a. To ensure we have more than enough cash on hand in the case of an unforeseen expense, the trustees elected to remove \$250K of the ~\$571,476.64 currently held in cash equivalents for the purposes of reinvesting at a higher rate.
4. No action was recommended regarding the equity funds. Our balanced portfolio is well-positioned to withstand current market volatility and we will be best served to wait it out over the coming months.

**Next Meeting:** Next Trustees of the Trust Funds meeting will be held in-person or via Zoom early in the new year 2023. Quarterly meetings will continue throughout the fiscal year.