

Wentworth Town Trustees of the Trust Fund

Meeting Minutes – for meeting held on Thurs., 11/2/23

Location: meeting held via Zoom

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

Agenda:

1. Dona sent a draft "Investment Policy Statement and Guidelines" document for the Trustees to adopt (every third year) as required by the State of NH. It was decided to review the document with Linda upon her return so this item is still pending.
2. Frank and Dona also shared an update on the current market environment. Yields are still running at an "inverted curve" meaning higher interest rates for shorter terms due to the pandemic and expectations of a recession. Businesses are starting to see inventories increase and expected earnings are going down so the Bank of New Hampshire folks are still expecting some recession in the middle of 2024. However, across the globe, governments are propping up economies which has staved off a recession. They may all continue to be successful i.e. resulting in a "soft landing" rather than a "hard landing."
 - a. The Federal Reserve is unlikely to raise rates going forward so interest rates are expected to stay stable.
3. Management of Wentworth Funds
 - a. The Capital Reserve Fund currently has approximately \$759,000 in cash reserves, or about 48%. This should be maintained closer to 30% but the higher level is fine to maintain for 6-8 months as the Money Market is currently returning 5.27% which is the same range as bonds and treasury bills. As a result, leaving cash available is certainly not problematic.
 - b. In the Trust Account, Bank of NH has reinvested bonds that had matured, and we are also invested in index accounts which have performed well this year.
 - c. Jen and Adam agreed with Bank of NH's assessment that the cash reserve should probably be lowered to \$500,000 but will leave Linda to review future cash needs of the Town and approve this decision at her discretion.

Next Meeting: The next Trustees Meeting will be held in early 2024, either in-person or via Zoom. Planned agenda items for that meeting include reviewing, approving, and adopting the "Investment Policy Statement and Guidelines" document and further discussing the possibility of lowering the amount in cash reserves, per Bank of NH's suggestion.