

Approved: January 19, 2024



**Trustees of Trust Funds
Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 17, 2023
Matthew Thornton Room, Merrimack Town Hall**



The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. Trustees present were Wilkes, Petrides and Christensen. Also present: Adam Britten, Town Finance Director. From Cambridge Trust were Lisa Tourangeau, Eric Jussaume and Lindsey Donovan.

On a motion by Petrides, second by Wilkes, the minutes of September 22, 2023 were approved 3-0-0.

Eric Jussaume led the presentation by the Cambridge Trust team (attached). Our equity income strategy has resulted in a more stable portfolio and yields have been improving. The Common Fund/Principal combined yield in 2020 was 2.37%. Through 10/31/23, it was 3.92%, boosted by a bond yield of 4.64% and a heavier weighting on fixed income. Returns on the Scholarship funds and Common Income Funds were similar. Growth in widely followed indexes has been largely due to a handful of companies (AMZN, NVDA, et al) known as the Magnificent Seven. Our portfolio has lagged in this regard. Such companies do not fit our guidelines for dividend income and low volatility. Yields on Capital Reserve Funds have improved. Most funds are laddered in the 1-3 year range but there is an eye out for longer maturities as markets shift. For liquidity needs, the MVD anticipates \$535K in withdrawals and deposits of \$1.1MM over the next 12 months. The School district has no immediate plans for changes to the existing CRF. The Town will be making deposits in late December or January as taxers come in and a withdrawal in the \$2MM range next June.

For future planning, Wilkes moved to authorize paying scholarships as the requests come in and the LEGO League if the school restarts that program. Second by Petrides, 3-0-0.

The Town Council, following a public hearing, voted to accept a \$10,000 donation to the Bear Christensen Fund managed by the Trustees. This will be \$7000 in Principal and \$3000 in the Common Income fund per the donor's direction.

Future meetings are scheduled for January 19 and February 16

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Christensen
Trustee Chair