

MINUTES

Trustees of the Trust Funds Meeting
July 22, 2022
Council Chambers, Town Hall
8:30 AM

Members Present: Mike Everngam - Chair, Bill Cote, Craig Seymour, Tom Bebbington – Alternate, Ted Howard – Alternate (via Zoom), Wil Fleming – Cambridge Trust Wealth Management, Chris Lucas – Cambridge Trust Wealth Management

Members Absent: None

Others Present: None

- I. The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.
- II. There was no public input.
- III. Approval of Agenda. Chair Everngam moved approval as posted, Craig Seymour seconded. Passed.
- IV. Approval of Minutes: Tom Bebbington questioned section about bond yields. After discussion, the draft minutes were amended. Tom Bebbington moved and Craig Seymour seconded to approve the minutes as amended. The minutes of the April 22, 2022 meeting were approved as amended. Minutes are posted on the webpage.
- V. Old Business:
 - A. Update on Doe Farm/Land Stewardship Sub-Committee (LSSC).

Chair Everngam said that a policy change is needed so that no fires are permitted in Doe Farm. Chair Everngam said he would ask the LSC to approve this policy change at its next meeting. Craig Seymour said that he spoke with Charlie Moreno and told him that Doe Farm is very popular. Chair Everngam mentioned he spoke with Tom Brightman about updating the forest management plan. Brightman indicated he wants to hold off for a while due to the recent logging and the impact on regeneration. Ted Howard asked if Moreno or Brightman have walked the harvest area recently to check on stream crossings, water run-off, and regeneration.
 - B. Update on Cemetery Committee.

Craig Seymour said there have been 12 grave site sales year-to-date involving 7 plots. There have been approximately 10 burials so far. He mentioned that on Sunday, August 7th, there will be a reception for Irene Bragdon at the Three Chimneys Inn as she had recently passed away. Her husband, Bruce, was a long-time member of the Trustees.

Seymour said he needs to call a meeting of the Cemetery Committee about maintenance. Still have some 5 headstones that have tipped over. Seymour is trying to work with the funeral homes as the heirs/families are responsible for the

headstones. There has been little cooperation. He mentioned the need to address maintenance on headstones where there are no known heirs. He also mentioned that questionable footings have been installed on gravestones. Chair Everngam said he visited the cemetery and saw the repairs being done to the shed. Seymour mentioned that there are many concrete corner markers in the corner of the shed. Ted Howard asked about the details of a plot purchase. Seymour indicated that purchasers own a license to inter remains, and not actual ownership of the land, as the town still owns the property. Seymour said that the town does not provide perpetual care. Howard mentioned the possibility of increasing plot purchase prices in order to repair tipped gravestones, etc., as pricing has not increased in 10-12 years.

VI. New Business

A. Expenditure Requests.

There were no requests.

B. Monthly MS-9 Spreadsheet.

Chair Everngam reported that Deb Ahlstrom is still working on the MS-9 due to the complexity of the transfer from People's Wealth Management to Cambridge Trust. Wil Fleming stated that People's listed the funds as cost basis and not at market value. Cambridge Trust back office has been working on getting the MS-9 restated.

C. 2nd Quarter Update from Investment Advisor

Chris Lucas spoke on the volatility of Quarter 2 and indicated it was "brutal." The S&P was off by 15% and bonds were also off – a circumstance which hasn't been seen since the 1970's. There has been a seismic shift in monetary policy as the Fed fights inflation. Growth stocks are off some 75-80% and there is a move toward a value tilt in equities over growth. On the bond side, Lucas said that keeping them at a short duration was wise. Bond yields are rising thus affecting the value of bond holdings. The strength of the U.S. dollar is whipsawing markets—in effect, the U.S. sets world monetary policy. U.S. consumer is buoying performance and the unemployment rate is at pre-Covid numbers of 3.6%

Fleming and Lucas then went through the report they provided which is also available for viewing at the Town Offices.

Lucas also indicated that they have delayed making adjustments to the application of the Trustees' Investment Policy (IPS) Statement in that they have deliberately held equity investments at around 30% as opposed to the IPS goal of 40%. This has benefitted the portfolio: Thus the portfolio is currently overweighted in bonds and underweighted in equities.

Ted Howard asked if consumer confidence will decrease as interest rates rise.

Lucas stated there are no signs yet of a pullback. Mortgage lending is stable as housing is desperately needed.

D. Reports or issues brought forward by Trustees.

Craig Seymour indicated he may be stepping down in the Spring due to a potential move out of town. Should that come to pass, we will need to find a replacement for him on the Trustees as well as the Cemetery Committee.

VII. Adjourn.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:57 AM. The next regular business meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2022 at 8:30 AM at the Town Offices.

Approved:

/s/ Michael H. Everngam
Michael H. Everngam

Date