

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

Meeting Minutes – for meeting held on Wed., 10/2/2024

**Location:** Zoom

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

### **Agenda:**

1. The meeting began with a review of current and economic and market themes. Notable headwinds include inflation, which has come down but remains above the Fed's 2% target. Growth in consumer credit balances, a decrease in discretionary spending, and a continued decline in housing affordability were also mentioned. On the flip side, the labor market remains resilient, banks remain well-capitalized, and corporate earnings are continuing to grow. The Fed's recent decision to lower interest rates is also consequential in that bond prices are increasing and yields on new fixed-rate bonds are decreasing as a result. Finally, Dona mentioned geo-political risks and the dock worker's strike as further economic themes to keep an eye on.
2. We then moved to an annual review and discussion of the "Trustee of the Trust Funds Investment Policy Statement and Guidelines." The latest version of the policy statement includes more description related to the investment objectives of both the Capital Reserve Funds and Trust Funds and more specific targets for fund asset allocation in the interest of ensuring we have sufficient cash available while maximizing our opportunity for the greatest returns. A finalized and dated version of the approved policy is being prepared by BNH which the Trustees will then ratify in the coming week.
3. The meeting ended with a review of fund performance. Both the Capital Reserves Fund and the Trust Funds have rebounded well from a down year in 2022 for both stocks and bonds. The Capital Reserves Fund rose 5% in the last year, while the Trust Funds are up 16%. Both remain well-positioned given the current economic market.

**Next Meeting:** As mentioned, the Trustees plan to review and ratify the finalized Investment Policy statement before our next Trustees Meeting will be held in winter 2024/25 (January or February), either in-person or via Zoom.