Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire

TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS

Meeting Minutes – July 16, 2026

Offices of NH Trust on West Street

Keene, NH

Note: Draft Minutes are subject to review, correction, and approval by the Trustees. Review and approval of Minutes generally takes place at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Trustees.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Kordys at 10:32 am. Present were Trustees Steven Bittel, Richard Scaramelli, Cynthia Kordys and Alternate Mark Scalera. Also present was Alternate Trustee Ashley Guion and Recording Secretary Beverly Bernard.

OTHERS PRESENT: Janelle Sartorio, VP & Wealth Advisor with NH Trust, Michael St. Onge, SVP & Wealth Advisor.

MINUTES: Motion was made by Bittel to approve the Minutes of June 23, 2026. The motion was seconded by Scaramelli. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Warrant Article Funds

Bittel noted Warrant Article funds will be coming into the trusts very soon.

REVIEW OF INVESTMENTS AND RELATED STATEMENTS (NH Trust)

Overview

St. Onge said he had a quarterly call discussing outlook for the future with TIS advisors. Theme is resilience, a strong first half of the year, and a new Fed Chair. The advisors have been saying let market prices guide them, not market pundits. S&P had best quarter since 2020. Price stability is major concern of Fed Chair. He is also in favor of examining market prices for guidance. Technological innovation impact was noted.

St. Onge said the market rally is earnings driven and that is good news. While it was thought earlier Mideast tensions would ease, Mideast tension is up and so is the price of oil. However, international markets are still doing well.

Fed has held rates firm in June. Cutting rates has gone away. The Fed might increase rates because core inflation has remained sticky. Underlying inflation is just under 3%. Interest rate futures guidance: 2026 remains steady, beyond that into 2027, maybe rates will come down. Will not see a cut in rates this year. Even excluding food and energy costs, inflation is still at 2.9%.

Labor Market – has cooled a bit. Unemployment rate ticked down as well, but this may mean the number of people who are actively looking for jobs has dropped. Not enough to need to stimulate the economy.

GDP was revised up for the first quarter. Retail sales rose. Housing softened a bit. The underlying economy is holding up well. Consumer sentiment is down. Kordys pointed out costs are up which would account for consumer buying remaining steady despite sentiment.

Interest Rate Environment – Fixed income continues to provide income in the portfolio.

Summary – stay with disciplined management style. Mid-term elections and global tensions could be headwinds for the market. No moves are recommended in the portfolio.

Discussion on Market Overview
Guion asked if information is subject to manipulation. St. Onge said all economic data comes from a government agency to see how it is aggregated. It is transparent. He noted media will sometimes produce headlines that may be biased. St. Onge suggested uncertainty can be created by politics and media reporting. He noted once folks in the market react to noise and then settle down, the markets resume their growth. He also noted there are a lot of questions and hesitancy about AI data centers since they have unknown impact on the future markets. He mentioned some states are halting development until questions about their impact on their constituents can be answered.

Kordys spoke about healthcare – how to evaluate the direction of healthcare. St. Onge said all the hard numbers are reviewed and advisors consider the right entry point price before investing.

Kordys also noted debt is growing for AI development for some companies.

PORTFOLIO REVIEW - as of June 30, 2026
Future Cash Need
Bittel noted a large amount of construction is planned for the future.

Capital Reserves -Fixed Income
Sartorio said 30% in cash right now earning 3.5%. About $2,000,000 in cash. Bittel said a million in cash should be sufficient. St. Onge noted there is a $1.1 million bond maturing in November. November and May maturity dates are planned in order to provide for Town cash needs. He said Bonds are in $1 million increments, so cash will always be available. Using US Treasuries.

Return Net of Fees
Return since 7/2/2025 is 3.0%. Kordys questioned a transaction. St. Onge reviewed her data. St. Onge said it is the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) sales charge. They only do it on sales. It is a fee on sales and Kordys thought it should be included in fees calculated. St. Onge left the meeting briefly to research further.

Non-Restricted Funds (NRF)
$700,000+ ending value. Overall yield is 2.7%. 60% equities. Allocation and Top Ten Holdings were noted. Sartorio noted the Town uses the Prudent Investor Policy. Biggest underweight sector is Information Technology.

Bond Maturity Date Distribution
Activity Summary showed net additions The account is worth more than originally invested. The portfolio has made about $35,000 in net gain. Returns Gross of Fees – since 7/3/2025 return is 11.4%. Guion asked about a ten-year summary to be included. Sartorio said it would require a lot of data to be processed. Bittel said total portfolio value over ten years could be used for comparison purposes.

Net Return of Fees revisited
St Onge returned to the meeting and amended his statement about SEC fees. He said some brokers charge a commission of $0.03 for executing a trade on the Exchange. Guion asked for the net return calculation to include that. St. Onge said all the trades would have to be calculated at $0.03 cents a share. Kordys said the number she calculated is over $1,900 for donated funds. St. Onge said only those who have a seat on the Exchange can make certain trades. Kordys said TIS should be responsible for those fees. St. Onge said TIS is an advisor, not a trader. Kordys said she wants the fees to be disclosed for transparency. There was a brief discussion about how fees are determined for various investments.

Donated Funds Only
Yield is 3.4% with ending value of $9,280,521. Sartorio noted the Top Ten Holdings and Account Sector Diversification.

OTHER BUSINESS
Frank L. Snow FBO Cutler School Scholarship Fund update
Scaramelli spoke about the closing of the Cutler School and how that closing impacts on the bequest from Frank L. Snow. He said the question is what to do with the fund since the school is closing and the bequest specifically mentions the top students from the top grade at Cutler School. He noted the Charitable Trust Unit at the State of New Hampshire was consulted. He said the fund can be redesigned: Scaramelli provided examples of non-judicial settlements from Wakefield, NH, Exeter, NH, and Portsmouth, NH. Scaramelli suggested principals from Cutler and from Mt. Caesar schools should be consulted. Guion said the three top students from Mt. Caesar School could be an easy change from the top students from Cutler School since they would be the same students. There was a discussion about the school population of each school and the grades eligible for the scholarship award. Guion noted there were no 4th, 5th or 6th grades at Mt. Caesar, only at Cutler School. Therefore, the same students would be eligible for the scholarships.

Bittel left the meeting 11:46 am.

Guion was seated for Bittel and discussion continued. It was noted the name of the school would need to be changed from Cutler School to Mt. Caesar School for the top 6th grade students as named in the scholarship fund. Scaramelli said he would draw up a draft of a non-judicial settlement of agreement with the change in school name.

Edna C. Whitcomb FBO Carpenter Home Fund
Bequest to the Carpenter Home was discussed. The Carpenter Home is no longer used for senior citizens in need. Kordys reported that Town Counsel said we could not redirect funds for daycare. There were

stipulations in the Will if the function of the Carpenter Home changed. In the event the home is not being used as Lucy Carpenter intended, there were three other beneficiaries. Guion asked about funding elderly tax abatements and would this be in keeping with the intent of the Will. Scaramelli noted a small committee has used the fund in the past to assist an elderly needy resident of Swanzey. The committee was instituted in 2025. Kordys noted speaking to the new Welfare Director about promoting the availability of funds to the residents. Guion suggested promoting elderly need is a major focus for the Edna Whitcomb Fund. Scaramelli noted the Will was clear about the contingency if Carpenter Home was not being maintained as contemplated by Lucy Carpenter's intent.

New Business
Scalera said he will no longer serve as an Alternate when his term expires. He suggested Guion be encouraged to document her issues and he encouraged the Trustees to make her a full Trustee, adding that either Bittel or Scaramelli could continue as Alternates. Scaramelli said he intends to end his role as a Trustee when his term ends. He agreed with Scalera about Guion. There was a brief discussion about access to Trustee documents held on the Town's servers.

Next Meeting: TBD

ADJOURNMENT:
Motion to adjourn by Scaramelli, second by Scalera. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***
Adjournment occurred at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beverly Bernard
Recording Secretary

DRAFT