

TRUSTEES OF THE MERRIAM FUND
MEETING ON TUESDAY, January 29, 2019
WESTON RECREATION CENTER
20 ALPHABET LANE

MINUTES

Meeting came to order at 7:11 PM

Present: Jack Doyle, Mary Shaw, Hannah Peters Absent: Nancy Allen, Jill Lenhardt

1. Resident Comments – No residents present
2. Presentation by Wayne Johnson, Weston board member of Springwell, a non-profit service agency (largely state funded; some federal as well) that provides a range of in-home services to enable seniors to live at home with dignity. Note: Wayne is also on the board of the Weston Council on Aging (COA). Wayne shared a powerpoint presentation on Springwell.
3. Unanimously approved minutes from December 11, 2018 meeting
4. Jack reviewed our five short term goals: 1) Identify and reach out to other organizations providing assistance to Weston residents; 2) Prepare a booklet or brochure summarizing other organizations and what assistance they provide; 3) Make available a one-page memorandum on the Merriam Fund; 4) Identify and meet with key Town Boards and committees on our role, to publicize the Merriam Fund and how it helps Weston residents; and 5) Communicate our role to residents, such as putting information about Merriam Fund in the next tax bill. A vote was taken and we unanimously approved these goals.
5. Jack shared language about the Merriam Trust to be included in the Town's Annual Report. The language as written was unanimously approved.
6. Jack reviewed the 5-year financial history, noting an adjustment of \$1,106.44 which has been appropriately transferred from income to principal. The fund balance currently stands at \$31,620.04.
7. Grants subcommittee: Thus far this year, one grant has been made totaling \$841.00; one grant was denied (\$25,000); and one has been tabled until the requester re-approaches the Trustees (\$2,562). Mary led a discussion where we reviewed together a list of four "possible scenarios" for fund requests. This exercise was very helpful to do as a group to understand how we make decisions, what criteria are considered, when we need more information, and so forth.
8. Other Key Organizations: Jill is in the process of collecting brief informational write-ups and is putting them together. We will add the Weston Board of Health to the list and Mary agreed to reach out to them and prepare a write up. Jack is following up with Jean Thurston about the Salvation Army.
9. Fundraising Legal Opinion: We are approved to raise funds to add to the Merriam Trust per a memorandum dated 12/11/18 from Lauren F. Goldberg of KP / Law, Boston, MA
10. Fundraising Subcommittee: By unanimous vote, the Trustees established a fundraising subcommittee comprised of Nancy Allen and Hannah Peters. Nancy and Hannah will be in contact with each other to discuss planning and strategies.

11. Other business: Jack raised the question as to whether having information presentations from outside service organizations is worth continuing. While nothing was decided with finality, there was agreement that Jack has brought in an excellent assortment of speakers as the Trustees set about an approach to their work. The need to continue isn't immediately apparent, though this can be revisited as needed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

Next meeting: March 26, 2019

Respectfully submitted by
Hannah Peters