

TRUSTEES OF THE MERRIAM FUND  
MEETING ON MARCH 26, 2019  
WESTON TOWN HALL  
11 TOWN HOUSE ROAD

MINUTES

Meeting came to order at 7:05 PM

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

1. Resident Comments – No residents present
2. Presentation by Jean Thurston, Weston Service Committee of The Salvation Army and Weston resident. Jean explained that this regional committee is authorized to distribute up to \$600 on a one-time basis to assist residents in need on a short-term basis. They are able to request a larger dollar amount when necessary. They fund residents in similar situations to what we do such as an immediate need to pay a bill. Her committee is able to pool resources with other organizations in the case of larger needs.
3. Unanimously approved minutes from January 29, 2019 meeting.
4. Jack reviewed the “Report of The Trustees of the Merriam Fund” summary that will be in The Town of Weston’s Annual Report.
5. Jack reviewed progress made on 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.
6. Jill updated progress made on our Key Organization Summary. Hannah agreed to prepare a brief write-up about Springwell; Jill agreed to do the same about the Salvation Army’s Weston Service Committee; and Mary agreed to provide the same about Weston Police Community Service. Additionally Jack will reach out to The Rotary Club of Weston & Wayland and determine an appropriate town board working on affordable housing to contact as well. Jill will reach out to the Weston Fire Department and Weston Recreation Department.
7. Mary reviewed one request for funding that occurred subsequent to our most recent meeting. The resident requested assistance for one month of daycare cost for her child. Mary and Jack met with the resident, recommended we pay one half of one month of the daycare cost (\$936) and we voted via email to approve this funding. Jack provided a summary of funds we have disbursed to date this fiscal year, which totals \$1,777.
8. Unanimously ratified our previous email vote to pay for half of the child care request as summarized above.
9. Hannah explained that the work of the Fundraising Subcommittee is in progress and moving toward a stuffer to accompany an upcoming town wide tax bill mailing, most likely in the fall. If approved, the 2020 town budget will allocate \$2,850 for a mailing.

10. Jack discussed Linda Angelucci's inquiry regarding whether she is able to direct a donation from the Foundation for Metrowest to the Merriam Fund. Mary will follow-up with Kara to clarify our tax-exempt status.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

Next meeting: May 21, 2019 (note date change from May 28, 2019)

Respectfully submitted by  
Jill Lenhardt