

Lunenburg Trust Fund Commission meeting of 8/28/2025

Meeting called to order 5:04PM by Chairman Bowen

Public comment. No public comment from members of the live audience or via Zoom. Chairman Bowen expressed condolences for victims of the recent church shooting in Minnesota.

Agenda.

Old Business:

The structure of the funds currently identified as being under the purview of the Trust Fund Commission are a part of pooled funds with Cemetery and Conservation. There currently is no policy to protect one commission's action from another. Chairman Bowen feels that prior poor planning and controls are causing the funds as an aggregate to suffer in their returns..

Treasurer and Finance Director reports - have not been received since March, likely using the same investment strategy so do not expect today to be much different. Both Chairman Bowen and Mr Howard expressed concern we are too heavily invested in Pharma, and possibly too heavily weighted in Bonds. Chairman Bowen advised the Commission that he has sent requests to the Treasurer & Finance Director raising specific questions and concerns. Chairman Bowen has requested an updated report of all revenue received, interest, fines penalties and trading expenses.

New Business:

Chairman Bowen updated the Trust Fund Commission on his meeting with Town Attorney Costa to understand what protections are in place and what is the rationale of investments past and present. Managing expenditures. Informed treasurer of method to have fund withdrawing impact others and how to isolate and are others following declarations. Chairman Bowen expressed concern that there have been certain expenditures made outside of declarations and is questioning whether the interest of the Board and Commissions are being addressed. In the meeting with Town Attorney Costa, Chairman Bowen also presented the draft of the Risk mitigation and Best Practices policy present

There are others monies that Chairman Bowen feels should be under the management of the Trust Fund Commission, specifically the Workers Comp sec 807. The Chairman believes that the value of these funds is approximately \$145K which does fall under the 1913 statute, which is 1/20 of 1%.

Chairman Bowen raised an issue about financial controls in the Town, specifically an amount of approximately \$300,000 located with no current understanding of the source/use of these funds. Chairman Bowen suggested that a forensic audit should be performed every 10 years or so, maybe this has to be on the Town Warrant.

Discussion of selections of investment philosophy, the Town has historically taken a very conservative approach to limit losses. Chairman Bowen highlighted the need for the Budget task force and Fincom to understand the investment philosophy.

Chairman Bowen raised a point on the authority to have the Treasurer expended funds from some of the existing funds outside of the control of the Trust Funds Commission. The question that we need more clarity on is who oversees the enforcement of declarations for Cemetery and Conservation. If spending outside of declarations is uncovered, it must be reported by oath of duty to the Atty. General's Office.

Scholarships (School Committee) except in uncommon circumstances, the Gift should be handled by the Trust Fund Commission unless a School Scholarship Fund is formed - composition would be beyond the current school committee members.

Chairman Bowen advised that the American Legion has expressed interest in clawing back monies that are in one of our funds. Chairman Bowen referred that request to Town Counsel and Town Manager. This issue remains unresolved as of the meeting time.

Mr. Howard made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Aug 14, 2025 meeting. The motion was tabled as they are still in review and were subsequently not approved.

The next meeting of the Trust Fund Commission is scheduled to be held on Thursday, Sept. 11th at 5pm.

Public Comment:

There were no Public comments, neither in person or over Zoom

Chairman Bowen made a motion to adjourn 6:34pm, seconded by Mr. Howard, motion passed unanimously.