

Kendra Amaral

From: Jeffrey Thomson <jeffdthomson@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 12, 2021 5:49 PM
To: Judy Spiller-Personal; George Dow; Jeffrey Pelletier-Personal; Cameron Hamm Gmail; Cyrus Clark; Mary Stevens Gmail; Colin McGuire - McGuire for Kittery
Cc: Kendra Amaral
Subject: Trust Funds Overview

Good Evening Everyone-

I had planned on speaking with you in person tomorrow night but a family situation will prevent me from doing so. Thus the email..

This is an explanation especially for the new members of the Council. I speak as a Trustee of the Trust Funds-the predominant one being the Mary Safford Wiles Trust.

Mary Safford Wiles was a generous benefactor to the Town of Kittery. Her homestead (which I remember....) was located at the corner of Walker and Wentworth-site of the current Taylor Library Building. She passed away in 1952, leaving funds and her physical property to be used to "aid the poor and needy of Kittery". Funds were also left for use by the Traip Academy Trustees.

At the annual Town Meeting in March of 1953, the Mary Safford Wiles Board of Trustees was established consisting of three members of the community elected for three year terms, with the Town Clerk and the Select Board Chair as ex-officio members.

In 1966, the family home was torn down and the Trust constructed the building which would house the Maine District Court and rent was paid by the State of Maine to the Trust.

I became a member of the Trust initially in 1985 when I was elected Council Chair for the first time. At my first meeting, there was absolutely no discussion about the town's needy-it was all about the courthouse. Imagine my surprise to learn that the Chair of the Trust at the time was also employed by the Trust as the custodian at the Courthouse! But I digress.....

I decided that a course change in the direction of the Trust was needed to fulfil this kind woman's intent. In 1989, I was successful in having \$25,000 annually transferred from the Trust holdings to the town's General Assistance account-which still continues today. My attempts to expand the scope of the Trust beyond an occasional \$25 grocery purchase or a bus ticket had limited success (always outvoted) until the past 5 years or so.

Judy has been a tremendous help in recent years when -as Council Chair-she also has had a vote. With Kendra's assistance and Council approval, the membership of the Trust was expanded by two members. Of course, I sought out members who think like me.....

Disbursements are now made quarterly to: Table of Plenty, Footprints, Fuel n More, End 68 Hours of Hunger. I also check periodically on any needs with the Kittery School Nutrition Program. Incredibly, there is still some resistance to all of this.

At our meeting in October, the following annual (holiday) disbursements were approved: Kittery Holiday Baskets-\$1800, Table of Plenty-\$2500, Footprints-\$2000, FuelnMore-\$1000, End 68 Hours of Hunger_\$2500, WomanAid (Kittery resident services)-\$2500.

Again, a special shout out to Judy for her assistance when she has served as a member. Lastly, a/o October 30, 2021, the Trust Fund balance was \$727,215.85.

Happy to answer any questions you might have.

Regards,
Jeff Thomson