

Public Record

Investment Committee Meeting

Tuesday October 3, 2023

Present: Norm Nicholson (Chair) Skip Sullivan, Roseana Richards, Ted Gibbons, Tim Creem, Bridget Fuller, Dave Welbourn

Also: Holly Heyman (Finance Director) and Kurt Garascia & Mary Leavitt, Norway Asset Management

The Meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM

The first order of business was a review of the investment outlook and the Trusts by Norway Asset Management. Kurt indicated there had been a shift in their thinking. Inflation will continue to be “sticky” with fixed income yields offering real competition to equities. A decline in equity weightings from around a current 67% in the three portfolios toward the “target” weighting of 60% can be anticipated. There will be further additions in intermediate term bonds.

Within the equity sector there has been a trimming of the strong performers such as NVIDIA, KLA-Tencor, & Eli Lilly. Norway remains underweighted in Consumer discretionary where they anticipate a slowdown in consumer spending with the decline in savings built up in the covid years and the start of tuition loan re-payments. Energy remains overweighted. Areas where Norway looks to increase weightings include Industrials and the Small and Mid-Cap ETF's.

Kurt reviewed performance of the Funds. One year returns in the period ending August 31 for the Moose Pond (\$1,921,448) and Bridgton Trust Funds (\$1,492,590) at 10.07% and 10.23% respectively compared with a Benchmark return of 9.15%. The three year returns of 6.69% and 6.76% vs the Benchmark 4.38% were particularly favorable. The performance of the smaller Park Forest Fund (\$119,448), which can be managed more aggressively due to no foreseeable withdrawals, lagged the larger portfolios but did out perform the Benchmark in the latest 12 months.

Following the departure of Kurt and Mary who left with the thanks of the committee, Norm Nicholson announced that, after 20 years, 10 as Chairman, he was resigning as Chairman and a member of the Town Investment Committee. A letter of resignation was delivered to the Select Board today, effective the end of October. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday December 20. In addition to the election of a new chairman, it was suggested that a new position (for this Committee) of secretary, who would be responsible for minutes, also be considered. Another possible topic for discussion might be term limits for both positions. Skip as vice-chairman of the Committee will be Chair of the meeting. Skip has indicated he would not be a candidate for chairman on a continuing basis. It was not felt it necessary for Norway Asset Management to attend.

The meeting ended with a look at several charts that individual members thought would be of interest. A scheduled space of time for members to bring interesting charts or questions of an investment nature to the Committee for discussion might be another item to consider for future meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 PM.

Norman Nicholson, Recorder