

Lunenburg Trust Fund Commission

Bilotta Meeting Room/PACC

Lunenburg Town Hall

November 13, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by Chairman Bowen. Present were Mr Howard and Chairman Bowen.

Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Bowen proceeded to read the posted Agenda.

Public comment:

Chairman Bowen opened up the meeting to public comments. No members of the public were present nor were there any participants on Zoom. Neither Mr Howard nor Chairman Bowen had any opening comments.

There were no Treasurer or Finance Director reports.

New Business:

Chairman Bowen stated that he made comments at the recorded and televised School Committee meeting regarding scholarships. Chairman Bowen met with Anthony Sculimbrene from the School Committee and did receive some communication from the Treasurer and Town Manager. The Trust Fund Commission reviewed the latest quarterly statement from Bartholomew and Company, the results seemed to be below expectations and may need some clarification from either the Treasurer or Bartholomew and Company.

Chairman Bowen discussed Municipal Scholarships. According to some preliminary findings there are 15 scholarships according to the Town Treasurer, but there are 51 scholarships according to the Lunenburg High School guidance dept.

Town Manager and Town Treasurer would like to meet in December with the Trust Fund Commission regarding proposed cy pres filings and parameters of such.

Chairman Bowen read an email from the Town Mgr on accepting gifts. Chairman Bowen discussed the following text from his research into the treatment for Scholarships:

Municipal Management of Scholarship Gifts and Trusts in Massachusetts

Dear [Recipient's Name],

This letter provides a comprehensive overview of how municipalities in Massachusetts may

accept, manage, and invest scholarship funds, with reference to applicable statutes under the Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.).

1. Scholarship Gifts

Under M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 53A, municipalities may accept gifts or grants of money or property from individuals, corporations, or other entities. These gifts must be formally accepted by the appropriate municipal authority, such as the Board of Selectmen or City Council, and may be expended without further appropriation, provided they are used for the purpose specified by the donor.

For educational purposes, M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 37A allows school committees to accept gifts and grants for scholarships. These funds are deposited with the municipal treasurer, held in a separate account, and may be spent by the school committee without further appropriation.

2. Scholarship Funds via Tax Check-Off

M.G.L. Chapter 60, Section 3C permits municipalities to establish scholarship funds supported by voluntary taxpayer donations through a check-off option on tax bills. These donations are deposited into a special account and managed by a scholarship committee, which includes the school superintendent and appointed residents. The committee selects recipients based on financial need, academic performance, and other criteria.

3. Scholarship Trusts and Oversight

Scholarships established as trusts fall under the governance of the Massachusetts Uniform Trust Code, codified in M.G.L. Chapter 203E. This code outlines the creation, administration, and enforcement of trusts, including requirements for a lawful purpose, identifiable beneficiaries, and fiduciary duties of trustees.

Importantly, any scholarship established as a trust is subject to the management and appropriation authority of the Board of Commissioners of Trust Funds, as provided in M.G.L. Chapter 41, Sections 45 and 47. This board is responsible for managing all trust funds given or bequeathed for the benefit of the town or its residents, unless the donor specifies otherwise. The board must invest the funds prudently, maintain detailed records, and report annually on fund activity.

4. Investment Practices

Trustees must comply with the Massachusetts Prudent Investor Act, M.G.L. Chapter 203C, which requires that trust assets be invested with reasonable care, skill, and caution. Trustees must consider factors such as general economic conditions, inflation, tax consequences, liquidity needs, and diversification.

Additionally, M.G.L. Chapter 203D governs the allocation of principal and income in trust administration. Trustees may adjust between principal and income to ensure fair

distribution and compliance with the trust's terms, especially when income-based distributions are required for scholarship recipients.

Conclusion

In summary, Massachusetts law provides municipalities with multiple mechanisms to support educational advancement through scholarships. Gifts may be accepted and spent directly by municipal or school officials, while scholarship trusts must be managed by the Board of Commissioners of Trust Funds. Trust assets must be invested and administered in accordance with fiduciary standards and statutory requirements.

Please feel free to reach out if you require assistance in drafting scholarship agreements, establishing committees, or reviewing fund management practices.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Title/Role]
[Your Contact Information]

Both members discussed the vacancy on the Trust Fund Commission, Mr Howard expressed concern that the progress made to date could stall and those in need may be impacted if there were a request brought forward to the Trust Fund Commission where both members did not share the same position - we would not be able to act, so a 3rd person is necessary to ensure uninterrupted progress,

Chairman Bowen briefly discussed the Intern situation, as of the meeting this topic is somewhat on hold

There were no closing comments from members of the Trust Fund Commission, there were no comments from the public and no comments from Zoom..

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, the Trust Fund Commissions tentatively agreed to hold the next scheduled meeting on Monday the 24th of November at 5pm.

A motion to adjourn was raised by Chairman Bowen. The motion was seconded by Mr Howard. Motion passed unanimously with both members voting 'aye'. Meeting adjourned at 6:32pm