



## The Hugh Cargill Trust Committee

Minutes of the public teleconference meeting (Zoom) held February 21, 2023

Co-Chair, Elisabeth Elden called the public teleconference meeting (Zoom) to order at 9:33 AM.

Present from the Committee: R. Abraham, Co-Chair & Tax Relief; Elisabeth Elden, Co-Chair, L. Rosborough, Intake; D. Whitfield; Treasurer,

Absent: Katherine Berger, Clerk

Also present: Terri Ackerman, Select Board liaison; Shannon McAndrews, Town House liaison; Hester Schnipper, observer.

### **APPROVAL**

**Minutes:** The public and executive minutes of January 10, 2023 were unanimously approved for release.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Reports for February, 2023 were unanimously approved. Deena noted that, in January of 2023, we received donations of over \$20,000 for HCT and close to \$14,000 for Tax Relief.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Member term Expirations** - Deena's term expires after Town meeting; Lucy's term has been extended until 2025.

**Tax Relief Application** – We unanimously agreed to increase the maximum value for homeowner's principal residence from \$881,550 to \$971,200 which represents the 2022 median home value in Concord. We unanimously agreed to change the circuit breaker categories from Single owner and Multiple person household to Single, Head of Household, and Joint which is consistent with the categories used for the Means Tested Senior Exemption. We unanimously agreed to increase the circuit breakers limits to: Single - \$64,000 Head of Household - \$80,000 Joint - \$96,000. This is also consistent with the limits for the Means Tested Senior Exemption.

Recognizing that money for tax relief comes from donations from town residents, questions were raised regarding how we would handle requests if we were to run out of money. Elisabeth will research this.

**Update from the Town Manager's Office** – Shannon reported that adding digital methods (PayPal, Venmo, etc.) for making donations is not as easy as it appears. Using 3<sup>rd</sup> party applications is not considered best practice, but the town is looking into this.

### **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

**Tax Relief Applications** – Bob advises that we have received 51 continuing applicants and 5 new applicants. Several of the new applicants appear to meet the requirements for acceptance.

**Communications** – Bob and Elisabeth agreed to create a one-page information sheet that indicates the criteria for both Tax Relief and Means Testing Senior Exemption as well as Hugh Cargill Trust Funds. The sheet will be available at the April Town Meeting. We will also distribute it in those places that we had identified as appropriate for the dissemination of our work.

**Adjournment:** On a motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:58 AM from open session to executive session for the purpose of discussing individuals or families seeking assistance, the disclosure of which would be a violation of privacy.

R. Abraham            Aye

E. Elden                Aye

L. Rosborough        Aye

D. Whitfield           Aye

**NEXT MEETING: scheduled for March 14 at 9:30 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Deena Whitfield, Acting Clerk