

Otis Historical Commission

May 6, 2025 Minutes

ATTENDANCE: Diane Provenz, Gail Gelburd, Joel Myers, Celeste Watman, Hal Kobrin, Peter Cameron, Geoff Pigman. The meeting began at 4:35pm.

MINUTES: The minutes of April 1, 2025 were approved.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES:

Otis Cultural Center: Joel spoke to Paul Holtz, and said that he will work with Hal on the Otis Cultural Center grant.

East Otis Schoolhouse: Joel had a conversation with Paul Holtz who mentioned that there was money available from previous grants.

We can receive an additional funds between \$10,000 - \$15,000, and the town needs to agree to match the amount. The money will be used to paint the schoolhouse.

Knox Trail: A date is not yet determined to present the Knox Trail video. After a discussion with a representative from the Monterey Library, it was agreed that the video will be shown there, perhaps, sometime in August.

Historic District Signage: Diane and Hal will meet to discuss this project.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Archives and Museum: In the archives, there is an important letter written by Molly Brown. To insure its safekeeping, it was decided unanimously that the letter will be stored in a locked box in the town vault. Celeste is researching the digitization of the archives.

Notice Otis Events: There was a discussion about Rob Hoogs giving a lecture for the Notice Otis series. There is no program scheduled in June.

A book about Sue Moody, written by Gail is in the process of editing by a book publisher.

Peter is researching the cost of QR Codes for the historic district signs. Furthermore, Peter asked the town attorney to approve a letter to send to the owners of Otis historic properties for permission to have these signs on their property.

FUNDING ACTIVITIES:

OPT Report: Hilary and Tricia agreed to schedule the volunteers for the Farmers Market. Our schedule will begin on the Memorial Day weekend. The Otis Preservation Trust will sell watercolor maps of Otis.

In the OPT account, there is approximately \$146,000.

GRANT ACTIVITIES:

It is anticipated that at the end of May, we will know if our MA Historical grant application for the Otis Cultural Center at Historic St. Paul's was approved

There was a conversation pertaining to ADA compliance, and the Otis Cultural Center at Historic St. Paul's. Joel stated that after a discussion with Paul Holtz, we can not apply for this type of grant until 80% of the building is completed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Diane said that she will "step back" from the Otis Historical Commission, effective June 3, 2025.

Peter said that in 1773, there was a town pound for wandering farm animals, and that he took photographs of the pound.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27pm.

The next meeting will be on June 3, 2025, at 4:30pm.

