

Otis Historical Commission

June 3, 2025 Minutes

ATTENDANCE: Gail Gelburd, Diane Provenz, Joel Myers, Hal Krobrin, Celeste Watman, Peter Cameron.

The meeting began at 4:34pm.

MINUTES: The minutes of May 6 were approved.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES:

The contractor, LaRochelle is waiting for the delivery of the metal roof for the East Otis school house. LaRochelle will also paint the schoolhouse white (its original color.)

Paul Holtz informed us if we finished the roof by June 30, he will release the grant funds.

The Otis Cultural Center at Historic St. Paul's needs a trench to prevent flooding in the rear of the building.

There was no report for the Knox Trail.

It was agreed that Diane and Peter will meet to discuss the historic signs for houses. Peter will send samples of possible signs.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Celeste is still researching the digitalizing the museum collection.

There was a discussion about the Molly Brown letters in the collection. After they are located, they will be moved to the Otis town vault.

The Knox Trail video will be presented by Notice Otis at the Monterey Library on August 14, at 7:00pm. A lecture will follow given by Jessica and Josh, the creators of the video, and Tom Ragusa , a local historian.

FUNDING ACTIVITIES:

A report from the Otis Preservation Trust indicated that there is \$12,000 in their Wells Fargo account.

GRANT ACTIVITIES:

Gail spoke about the MASS Development grant that requires a project must be “shovel ready” to qualify for the grant, and that a building must be either owned or leased by an organization. Furthermore, the town of Otis stipulates that a form must be filled out when applying for a grant.

There was a discussion about the possibility of the Otis Preservation Trust leasing a building.

TOWN SUBMISSIONS:

Hal said that the chandelier was still in Boston, and that Steve is assisting him with obtaining the chattels which were originally in the Otis Cultural Center at Historic St. Paul's.

NEW BUSINESS:

A tag sale is scheduled on July 5, at the Otis Ridge parking lot.

Peter wrote an article for the Otis Observer about a Native American dugout canoe found at Mud Pond in Otis.

The next meeting will be on August 5, at 4:30pm.

This meeting ended at 5:21pm.

