

Otis Historical Commission Minutes. March 11, 2025

Zoom call

The meeting Began at 4:37PM

The Meeting ended at 5:55PM

ATTENDEES: Joel Meyers, Diane Provenz, Gail Gelburd, Peter Cameron, Hal Kobrin. ABSENT: Celeste Watman and Tom Ragusa

Guests: Jeanne Randorf, Geoff Pigman, Stephanie Skinner,

Tricia Smith

1. Minutes from February meeting approved
2. Joel Meyers announced that La Rochelle Construction Was the winning bidder for the RFP for the East Otis Schoolhouse.
 - The bid was \$115,365. The next closest bid was \$23,000 more. The work to be done includes the Roof, Trim, Clapboard, window sashes front steps. The interior and exterior would be stabilized.
 - An additional \$16,750 would be added if the exterior is painted.
 - The remaining work will be the interior stabilization.

- At the Town Meeting in May OHC will ask for approval for the Town to utilize the \$30,000 that was approved as matching funds last year but not utilized.

Note: The roof is tin and what is underneath needs to be verified.

3. Otis Cultural Center: Joel submitted the final report to Paul Holtz (Ma Historical Commission) to complete the grant received last year.
4. Gail Gelburd will be submitting a matching grant request To Ma Historical Commission in the amount of \$100,000. Otis Preservation Trust has the matching funds. Again, OHC will ask the Town to approve an advance of 25% for Cash Flow. This will be a warrant at the next Town Meeting in May, 2025.
5. Knox Trail Signage \$. Tom will need to provide a written report.
6. The Knox Trail video will probably be presented in the Fall (September) at the Monterey Library
7. The Massachusetts Cultural Council has grants for the 250 year celebration. The grants are to promote the event. This might be good for the Video or for Peter Cameron's project (recognizing historically significant homes in Otis)

8. OHC to reimburse OPT for the Notice Otis Series since the grant was given to OHC by the Otis Cultural Council. This would be for the year 2023 – 2024.
9. Chattel held by the Diocese – Hal Kobrin will work on retrieving the Chandelier which is in Boston. He will also work on retrieving the remaining Chattel from Springfield.
10. The schoolhouse desks need a new home until the schoolhouse is completed. Hilary Harley has graciously offered her garage. Hal and Joel will move them before April 1.
11. Sadly, Gail Gelburd is stepping down from OHC October 1, 2025. Her work has been invaluable. She is irreplaceable.
12. Peter Cameron shared information he learned while researching his Historic Houses project. Bob & Judy Hampel bought the Davidson Farm 40 years ago. Apparently, Herman Melville visited their house. They also shared that the town animal pound was on their property.
So far, Peter has researched 6 houses.

Next Meeting: April 1, 2025. On Zoom

Respectfully submitted by Diane Provenz