

Otis Historical Commission  
October 8, 2025 Minutes

ATTENDANCE: Gail Gelburd, Joel Myers, Peter Cameron, Hal Kobrin, Tricia Smith, Geoff Pigman, Stephanie Skinner, Tom Ragusa, David Modzelewski, Celeste Watman. The meeting was called to order at 3:59PM.

MINUTES: The minutes of the August 5, 2025 were approved.

BUDGET: The following expenses were discussed: 1. Historic signs identifying historic district: \$1,500. 2. Supplies for the Museum: \$300. 3. Canopy for the Farmer's Market: \$250. 4. OHC business cards: \$500.

Needed for next year's budget: \$20,000 to paint the East Otis schoolhouse.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES:

Otis Cultural Center at Historic St Paul's: The bids for the roof, and the repair of the tower are scheduled to be opened November 20, 2025. Then, a motion was approved to authorize Joel to spend up to \$3,000 for the drainage project.

Knox Trail: There was a discussion about opening a Vimeo account. Tom was interviewed by the Berkshire Eagle about the Knox Trail. He mentioned that 3 trail markers are still needed in the Otis State Forest, however no markers can be installed without permission.

Tom will attend the October meeting of the REV 250 committee.

Historic District Signage: Peter said that we still need signage but they cannot be installed until the boundaries are determined, and MA state grants us permission to install the signs. Furthermore, a budget is needed so that the signs can be ordered.

A budget for this project was not discussed.

Website: Peter will work on linking the OHC website to the Town of Otis site.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES: Archives and Museum: Celeste mentioned that a basket filled with knitting needles were left on the table in the Museum. There was nothing to identify who left it, and why it was left in the Museum? Tricia responded that she temporarily left it.

Current issues of the Otis Observer were added to the collection.

Notice Otis: A program given by Sherry Steiner will be held on October 16, and on November 12, Gail Gelburd will speak about Sue Moody, and read from her new book, "The Liberation of Sue Moody, Slaying the Dragons."

Funding Activities: OPT report: At the end of the fiscal year (June 30) there is \$11,400 in the bank account and \$14,000 in the Wells Fargo account. This summer, the amount raised at the Farmer's Market was less than \$1,000.

Update on Grant Activities: Gail, Celeste, Cathy Bezzozo, and Judi Greiman are researching and/or applying for the Washington Trust grant, the MA Cultural Commission grant, the Bolger Foundation grant, and possibly, the Feigenbaum grant.

NEW BUSINESS: The next meeting on Zoom will be held on December 3, at 4:00PM.