

Otis Historical Commission

June 10, 2026 Minutes

ATTENDANCE: Gail Geburd, Joel Myers, Stephanie Skinner, Hal Kobrin, Cathy Bezozzo, Geoff Pigman, Diane Provenz, Celeste Watman

Gail Gelburd resigned as the Chairperson, and as a member of the Commission. Instead, she will be an alternate member.

Tom Ragusa is now an alternate member.

Diane Provenz joined the Commission, and will be the new Chairperson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The April 1, 2026 minutes were approved.

BUDGET: Diane requested the following amounts from the OHC budget:

\$4,800 (Professional Services account) \$1,700, and \$500 (Special account.)

The request was approved. Next, the Town Administrator needs to ask the Select Board about using the Professional Services account for the organ.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES:

Otis Cultural Center at Historic St. Paul's:

Larry Gould approved opening the Otis Cultural Center at Historic St. Paul's for the purpose of inviting donors to tour the inside of the building. This event is planned for August 30.

Geoff mentioned that the lectern needs to be installed but we need approval. Another topic was the removal of guano, which is the responsibility of the contractor.

The architect sent engineer drawings to Hal. The drawings showed several parapets which need replacement. The cost of this project needs to be determined.

East Otis Schoolhouse:

A warrant to paint the schoolhouse at a cost of \$20,000 was submitted to the town. There was a discussion about the possibility of using town personnel to paint the building.

Knox Trail:

The booklet, “Ye Olde Trodden Path” is now available for purchase. The cost is \$15.00.

Historic District Signs:

Hal will obtain an invoice for the signs (“Otis Historic District, Founded in 1810”) and then ask for approval from the town.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Archives and Museum:

Each month, the current issue of the Otis Observer is added to the collection.

Community Day:

On June 13, a Community Day event, celebrating the 216th anniversary of the incorporation of Otis, will be held at Otis Ridge. The Otis Historical Commission will participate.

Notice Otis:

John Dixon will present a lecture about Herman Melville.

GRANT ACTIVITIES:

We received a grant of \$148,000 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. This is a matching grant, and the match must occur in 2 years.

We will apply for the Feigenbaum grant

NEW BUSINESS:

On July 18, Gail, the author of a book about Sue Moody (an international journalist who once lived in Otis) will present a lecture.

The next meeting of the Otis Historical Commission will be held on June 4, (Tuesday) at 4:30pm. It will be a joint meeting with the Otis Preservation Trust.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

