

8/25/2025 Minutes Town of Otis Revitalization Hybrid* Committee Meeting
Town Hall August 25th, 10:00 AM

Members Present: Stacey Silkey Schultze, Cynthia Fletcher, Susan Ebitz. Hal Kobrin Glenn Steinberg

Members Absent: Jackie Genteel, Celeste Watman, Tim Wighton

Guests: Cathy Bezozo, Robert Schlossberg (Zoom)

1. Call to Order: 10:01 AM

2. July minutes unanimously approved

3. **Quarterly Report 2** was presented to the selectboard at their meeting on 8/12.

4. Updates from working groups:

- **Needs Assessment Survey** – More direct outreach will be done to solicit more respondents and businesses via social media and personal outreach. A direct mailing of the survey link may be used in conjunction with the master planning.
- **Promotion & Community Events or Quick Wins** – Food trucks continue to be a huge success and will continue into the fall. Many people have commented on how positive the food trucks have been in bringing the community together. Susan was concerned that a Wednesday night food truck might interfere with local restaurants.
- **Business, Culture & Recreation**- Glenn has developed a Fact Sheet about Otis and a series of interview questions that could be used to solicit businesses who might want to locate in town. After the information has been checked for accuracy, this fact sheet can be distributed to potential business. Glenn also drafted three letters of encouragement:
1. Notifying downtown residents about an opportunity for zero interest loans to improve their homes. 2. A letter to owners of abandoned buildings encouraging action. 3. A letter to potential investors. Cynthia and Susan will revise the draft of the first letter. Stacey will take copies of all three letters to Brandi for feedback from the selectboard. There will be two sessions for the business focus groups in October to assess their needs, see if they would like to revive a business association and consider how to make the town more business friendly. Sharon DeLevie, who does this work professionally, has volunteered to lead these two groups.
- **Downtown** – The speed limit in the center of town has been lowered to 30 mph. in the village district. Vehicles are still speeding. More traffic calming mechanisms are being discussed.
- **Infrastructure** – micro grids were discussed.
- **Services & Population Retention/Growth** – Cynthia and Stacey will look for a feasibility study to explore the possibility of community paramedicine as an expansion of existing EMS. This would allow for nonemergency health needs in the community so that people may be able to “age in place,” provide support families with young children and anyone in between.

5. **Environmental Scan Narrative Files Template & Assignments** –

Harmony Hall – Susan

Terranova's – Stacey

Olde Otis Inn - Cynthia

6. A unanimous motion to adjourn the meeting was made 11:50 AM.

Next meeting: September 22nd **Town Hall***, **10:00 AM**

Future Meetings: October 27th, November & December meeting TBA, January 26, 2026
