

9/22/25 Town of Otis Revitalization Meeting Minutes
Otis Town Hall
September 22nd, 10:00 AM

Members Present: Cynthia, Tim, Celeste, Stacey, Susan

Members Absent: Glenn, Jackie, Hal

Guests: Mike and Hilary Howard, Diane Dyer, Jeanne Randorf, Melissa Kleinman, Rena Samuels (Zoom)

1. Stacey called the meeting to order at 10:01

2. **August minutes** were tabled because there wasn't a quorum who had been at the meeting to pass them.

3. There were no **public comments**.

4. **Construct presentation** by Mike & Hillary Howard was very informative and engaging. Hillary is the Operations Director and Mike is the Construction Supervisor of the nonprofit Construct of the Berkshires that helps south county residents secure homes to rent and purchase. The committee was interested in finding out more about affordable housing. Throughout the hour and a half presentation, questions were asked, and discussion ensued. At the conclusion of their presentation, the committee agreed with Celeste's suggestion to invite members of Habitat for Humanity to come and talk to the committee.

5. The select board approved the finalized business and downtown beautification letters. They will be mailed.

6. Working groups

- **Needs assessment:** Stacey reported 650 individual and 38 responses business responses to the survey. If the town receives the grant, there is a possibility that the survey will be mailed by the Planning Board as part of their Master Plan, which is why the survey has not been closed.
- **Promotion & Community Events:** Cynthia reported the food trucks would be available Tuesday and Wednesday until the beginning of October. Sinti, a local food truck, has started to sell food at Paige's. The members present all agreed that the food trucks were well received and provided an opportunity for the members of the community to meet downtown. The committee received feedback concerning the food trucks being open on a evening when other restaurants were open. Susan pointed out that the original intent of the food trucks was to bring people together on night's when the local restaurants weren't open. The subcommittee said this would be adjusted next year.
- **Business, Culture, and Recreation:** On October 15th, Sharon DeLevie will lead two focus groups with businesspeople from Otis. The first session will begin at 4:00 PM. The second session will begin at 6:30. There will be a potluck dinner in between.
- **Infrastructure:** Stacey has asked Kate to help with the understanding of brownfields.

7. The Revitalization Committee will meet on Oct 20th (instead of 27th) and Nov 17th. The Revitalization Committee also discussed having a night meeting where members of the community would be able to come and suggest ideas, ask questions or express an opinion about downtown and reviving the community.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 12:07.

Next meeting: October 20th, Town Hall*, 10:00 AM

Future Meetings: November 17th at 10:00PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Ebitz, Secretary