Town of Otis

Selectboard/ Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

Conference Room

1 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01253

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 6:30 PM

This meeting will be held in person at the location provided on this notice. Members of the public are welcome to attend. A remote option is offered via zoom with the link provided below.

Please note that while an option for remote participation is being provided as a courtesy, the meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Anyone with interest in any specific item should plan in person attendance.

Time: May 13, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86284057468?pwd=5IXbswXow2hPHQHKVctpoXT4uLVNDU.1
Meeting ID: 862 8405 7468
Passcode: 147464

Attendance: Gary Thomas-Chair, Larry Southard, Terry Gould, Brandi Page, Sue Brofman, Diane Dyer, Stacey Schultze, Lisa D'Orazio, Dr. Wighton, Larry Gould, Rick Phair, B.J. O'Brien, Mark Anthony, Denise Gould, Diane Provenz, Eric Danforth, Cynthia & Jim Fletcher, Lady. On zoom: 4134413651

Call to Order: 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from 4/22 and 5/01 were approved as written.

Appointments: Phil M. submitted his official resignation from the School Committee effective June 17th. The Board will post the vacancy and is looking for letters of interest. There was discussion with Denise as to when they SC is looking to have this appointment made by. Denise expressed their wish for the member to have a child in the district and hopes the Board takes the time to consider more than one applicant. This vacancy will be posted. Item continued until the next meeting.

One Day Liquor Event: Eric Danforth was present for the application for Paige's Place. The "Summer Shindig" is planned for June 21st. The one day event approval is to include the outside area from 11:30 am to 5:30 pm. There was discussion of a possible rain date. If that were to happen Brandi can place it on the agenda for June 24th for approval. Larry made a motion to approve, Terry seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Historic Sign Project: Diane was present from the Historic Commission. Peter Cameron was not able to attend. Terry inquired if the signs being discussed for the project will be outside the cemetery and not inside near anyone's grave site. Diane was not sure. Bruce Wall was fine with the project. Item to be continued until a date Peter is able to attend and offer specifics.

Bylaw Suggestion: The Fire Chief had submitted a letter supporting a change to the bylaws giving the Police the authority to ticket anyone who does not adhere to the regulations regarding open burns in town. The Board discussed and is in favor of working on language to draft and then recommend to Planning Board. Item to be continued.

Revitalization Committee: The Revitalization Committee had submitted their quarterly report and had also pushed out a working document for the public. This working document included an in depth assessment and looked at aligning assets and leveraging opportunities. They prioritized some quick wins and have a survey they are working on which the results will dictate their strategic plan. Terry felt there were some redundancies and wanted to offer some clarifications. She asked when the group is meeting next so she may attend. There was discussion of one of the priority items which was revamping the town wide cleanup day. Terry gave the background on how it came about and typically worked. The revitalization group wanted the Town to consider having a free day at the Transfer Station. Brandi had spoken with Eric and he was not in favor. Previous clean up days the items were bagged and brought to LVWTF so as not to burden our own Transfer Station. Item to be discussed further and placed on the agenda for the next meeting. There was discussion about blighted properties in Town and what typed of efforts might be successful in getting people to clean them up. Efforts on private property has been identified as one roadblock and will need more thought/discussion. Revitalization had submitted a grant request for an opportunity through Mass Development. Stacey talked about the grant specifics. Also submitted was a request for Planning to apply for a technical assistance grant to begin updating the Master Plan. There was a question as to whether it would be better to do one project ahead of the other. Stacey had inquired and felt it was fine for them to happen simultaneously. Larry Gould reflected on some prior planning grants where the end result is acceptable by the State's standards but it falls short of what the Town ultimately needs. Larry Southard made a motion to approve both grant applications. Gary seconded and the motion passed.

Point of Order: Brandi had placed this item on the agenda as a reminder that once the board adjourns the meeting is closed. Discussion with the two or more members would then need to wait until the next posted meeting.

Recent and Upcoming Events: The book sale went well and they raised $1,100. The Library Fair is planned for July 5th and they will showcase Italian cooking.

Review & Approval of Warrants: Payroll and vendor warrants are on the table for signature.

Not Anticipated by the Board: None

Adjournment: 7:48 PM