

Otis Public Library  
Trustees Board Meeting  
September 11, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm with Jim Adams (via Zoom), Sue Brofman, Tom Burke, Rosy Crittendon, Greg Dow, Diane Dyer, Lois Hall, Stephanie Skinner and Celeste Watman in attendance. Representatives from Downs (the Owners Project Manager) and TSKP (the Architect) also attended (via Zoom), as did four members of the public.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the August 14 meeting, seconded and approved.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded and approved.

A motion was made to accept the Director's report, seconded and approved.

The library averaged over 200 people per week during the summer.

Programming continues to be robust and well attended, organized by Molly. Upcoming programs in September include the Book Club, Cookbook Club, Intro to Drawing, and Open Mic Night

A new employee, Joanne Weir, starts soon to cover hours as Lois cuts down her hours.

New, expanded winter hours were approved, effective October 7:

| <u>Current</u> (22 hours) | <u>New</u> (28 hours) |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
|                           | Tuesday 3-6           |
| Wednesday 11-5            | Wednesday 10-6        |
| Thursday 12-6             | Thursday 10-6         |
| Friday 11-5               | Friday 11-4           |
| Saturday 9-1              | Saturday 9-1          |

A motion was made to accept the Friends of the Library Report, seconded and approved.

A new \$1/ticket monthly raffle of donated items will be held starting with an Otis sweatshirt on November 14.

Building Committee update:

At its August 26 meeting the Select Board chose the Crandall site in East Otis over the unanimous recommendation of the Erbe site by the Building Committee and the Library Board. Among other factors counting against the Erbe site, the Select Board

mentioned concerns about the possible negative impact a new well for the library would have on the Town Hall's existing well, which is not in compliance with relevant regulations. This issue was never raised in the 4-5 years of discussion of the Erbe Site, beginning with the initial pilot project several years ago.

The Crandalls subsequently withdrew their property from consideration for a library site.

At the Selectboard meeting on September 9 the Select Board members spoke harshly to Sue and about Stephanie and refused to allow the public to speak. One person was escorted out of the building by the police.

A petition seeking to withdraw the town from the Small Population Library garnered over 200 signatures and was presented to the Select Board. A special town meeting regarding the petition will be held in the near future.

After considerable discussion, the Library Board unanimously authorized that a letter from the Library Board and the Building Committee to the Select Board be drafted requesting a vote on a new library site be held at its September 23 meeting, and that the professional experts be allowed to speak at the meeting. A decision on choosing either 436 West Center Road or 7 North Main Street (the Erbe site) is imperative so that the architects can begin work on the project.

Logistics and publicity for the October 11 piano fundraiser were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.