

Otis Historical Commission Minutes

August 5, 2025

ATTENDANCE: Gail Gelburd, Diane Provenz, Geoff Pigman, Tom Ragusa, Hal Kobrin, Ron Bernard, Joel Myers, Celeste Watman, Melva Eidelberg.

The meeting began at 4:32 pm.

MINUTES: The minutes of June 3, 2025 were approved.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES:

Diane Provenz announced her resignation from the Otis Historical Commission. Peter Cameron was appointed as a new member.

Otis Cultural Center: Hal completed an online course for grant coordinators. An RFP of the Otis Cultural Center at Historic St. Paul's tower and roof will be sent for their restoration.

East Otis Schoolhouse: Paul Holtz told the Town Administrator that the town can now paint the schoolhouse. There was a discussion about if the schoolhouse originally had a wood stove. Joel will investigate this issue. If there was a wood stove, Geoff offered to donate one.

Knox Trail: Tom mentioned that there are a few inaccuracies in the Knox Trail video, and will mention them to Jessica Provenz, the director of the video. Ron mentioned that the cost of 525 booklets about the Knox Trail was \$1,200, plus shipping. The booklet would be distributed

to libraries, Otis Town Hall, and other public venues. It was decided that the number of copies will be determined at a future time. The Commission approved the booklet.

The fee for the producer of the Knox Trail video was \$5,000. It was suggested to ask the Otis Preservation Trust to pay for it.

Historic District Signage: No report.

Historic Signs for Houses: No report.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Archives and Museum: The Molly Brown letter was removed from the museum, and relocated in the Otis town vault.

Notice Otis events: The Knox Trail video will be shown on August 14, at the Monterey Library, and on August 17, at Ted Rosenthal's house in East Otis. These events are open to the public.

FUNDING ACTIVITIES: No report.

Gail stated that the Otis Cultural Center at Historic St. Paul's requires a drainage project. Further information is needed about the scope and cost of this project.

Diane will submit an end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2025) accounting report.

GRANT ACTIVITIES: No updates.

TOWN SUBMISSIONS:

Hal said that he will pick up the chandelier sometime during the coming months.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made to change the schedule of OHC meetings to every other month, on Wednesdays. The motion was approved.

The next meeting will be October 7, at 4:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.