

Otis Historical Commission

December 3, 2025 Minutes

ATTENDANCE: Gail Gelburd, Goeff Pigman, Joel Myers, Tricia Smith, Hal Kobrin, Stephanie Skinner, Cathy Bezozos, Celeste Watman

The meeting was called to order at 4:33.

MINUTES: The minutes of October 8, 2025 were approved.

BUDGET: At the end of December, we need to submit next year's budget to the town.

At this time, there is \$14,000 in the Otis Preservation Trust (OPT) budget.

OPT sent an annual appeal letter, asking for donations.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES:

Otis Cultural Center at Historic St Paul's: The bid of \$235,000 from LaRochelle was opened. However, we are short \$12,000.

Knox Trail: Tom Ragusa was interviewed about the history of the Knox Trail by the Boston Globe.

East Otis Schoolhouse: We will ask the town to paint the school house.

Historic District Signage: Hal is working on this project. We need 8 signs.

Hal plans to obtain the chandelier for the Otis Cultural Center at Historic St. Paul's in the Spring.

Peter Cameron is working on acquiring 7 signs and 6 QR codes to designate the historic houses in Otis.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Archives and Museum: In one of the museum cabinets, 2 shelves were reinstalled. We asked the library to install an alarm on the door to the museum collection but it was not approved.

There was a discussion about the future need for handicapped signs, and pavers for the Otis Cultural Center at Historic St. Paul's.

Gail will read from her book, *The Liberation of Sue Moody, Slaying the Dragons* at the Riverdale Library (NY), the West Stockbridge Historical Society, and the Berkshire Historical Society.

At a forum about the Knox Trail, scheduled for January 10, 2026, OPT's film pertaining to the Trail, and General Knox will be shown at Mahaiwe in Great Barrington.

GRANTS:

A grant from the Washington Trust was applied for, and another grant from the Bolger Foundation will be applied for, and the decisions will be made in the Spring of 2026.

NEW BUSINESS:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18pm.

The next meeting will be on February 11, 2026 at 4:30pm on Zoom.