

Town of Otis
Select Board/ Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Conference Room, 1 North Main Rd., Otis, MA
Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 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. This meeting is being recorded.

Topic: Select Board

Time: Jun 23, 2026 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82008444895?pwd=wpALhHP2xV0ZPKr6z7YgDaZxOI9CoG.1>

Meeting ID: 820 0844 4895

Passcode: 490992

Attendance: Terry Gould, Larry Southard, Brandi Page, Dave Sarnacki, Bruce Wall, Mike O'Brien, Star O'Brien, Gail Gelburd, Joel Meyers, Brain Middleton, Anthony Middleton, Chris Chaffee, Derek Poirier, Candy Chaffee, Jeff Laramy, Dominick Batista Cynthia Fletcher and Justin Hyland. On Zoom: Michael Miller, Steve, SM-S916U, Heather Gray, Mimi Crandall, Robin Peterson and Barnards.

Call to Order: 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from June 9th were continued to the next meeting.

Eversource Pole Petition 22231806: Travis Walsh was present on behalf of the petition. This is for 2 new mid span poles on Town Hill Road and replacement of old poles. Derek asked about duplicate poles on Town Roads. Travis replied once they change over their wires it is up to Verizon to switch out their wires and remove the old pole. The issue is with Verizon. He understands Derek's concerns. The Board was good with the petition and didn't have any further questions. Larry made a motion to approve, Terry seconded, motion passed, vote 2-0. The petitions will be signed and forwarded to Lyn.

Discussion with Conservation: Terry reminded Dave that Conservation has a quorum here and they were warned about that. Dave wanted all the Board members there and said they didn't intend to deliberate. Dave gave a history of his time on the board and how efficiently they have handled issues. He reiterated the upstanding conduct of the Board and was disheartened that the Select Board had held off on the Conservation appointments at the previous meeting. Bruce spoke about the work of the commission enforcing the Wetlands Protection Act and also felt Justin had been doing work in the buffer zone that needed approval. Justin and Dave both spoke to restate their positions on the work being done. Both had pictures they showed to the Board. Terry stated this is a very small town and we all know each other. She acknowledged Conservation is a very active Board. The delay in the appointments was simply an opportunity to reflect and not meant as a

punishment or embarrassment. She also acknowledged that she feels Justin was working in good faith and felt the work was exempt. There was discussion on protocol if work in the buffer is suspected. Candy and Dominick weighed in as well. A plan was agreed upon to move forward.

Annual Appointments: The Board approved the remaining appointments. See attached. Cynthia Fletcher was appointed to the vacant Library Trustee position and will then need to run at the next election opportunity.

Order of Taking: The Board signed the Order of Taking for the Reservoir Road project easements. This along with the easement plan will be recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

Flag Request for West Center Road: The Middleton family had asked to be on the agenda. They want to paint the U.S. flag in West Center Road as had been done years ago. It had been removed due to complaints from Veteran's and the Selectmen at the time had Highway remove it. The Middleton's currently paint it in their driveway. They stated people have been asking them to paint it back in the road. Terry asked about a different patriotic symbol instead of the flag. That was not what was wanted. Derek said it was removed prior because it turned into a public safety hazard. Drivers were trying to avoid the flag and leaving their lane of travel frequently. There were occasions where people were getting out and taking pictures and laying down in the roadway to get selfies. Larry Southard felt the Select Board could not approve painting the flag back in the road with it being identified as a safety concern. Terry agreed. Flag etiquette was cited as well and it is not appropriate to have the U.S. flag where it will be walked or driven over.

Discussion of Organ/ Cultural Center: Gail was present on behalf of Historic and requested the Board reconsider the invoice for the work on restoring and bringing the organ back to the former St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Terry stated that the vote to acquire that property was very contentious and the voters made it very clear they didn't want town funds to go towards the restoration of the building. Gail agreed that OPT was established and fundraises for the restoration efforts. The Historic Commission feels the organ that the Diocese had removed from the building was significant and they had taken it upon themselves to have it returned to the Town. Terry clarified that when the retrieval and storage of the organ had come up in the past the Select Board had discouraged their efforts and did not approve. She felt strongly the Town is not responsible for the organ nor did they take responsibility for retrieval. If Historic intends to continue work on the organ then OPT will need to fund the efforts. Gail disagreed. Terry made a motion that the invoice not be paid from Town funds. Larry seconded, motion passed, vote 2-0.

Recent & Upcoming Events: Otis Community Day was a great event. Smile Like Jack is coming on the 11th of July. Addressing concerns about the route they did make a change and are also incorporating large signs warning of the event prior. There is talk the fireworks may be postponed due to the low water level.

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

Not Anticipated by the Board: Mark Barnard raised his hand on zoom. He is requesting additional signage for Tolland Road after the dam reinforcing to drivers there is no outlet. Terry said we will place this on the agenda for July 14th.

Adjourn: At 8:10 PM.

Last Name	First Name	Email	Position	Term	App Recd	Date elct/Appointed	Term Expiration
Sarnacki	Dave	ridnhds@aol.com	Conservation	3	X	06/23/26	06/30/29
Chaffee	Christopher	chaffeeexcavationllc@gmail.com	Conservation	3	X	06/23/26	06/30/29
Ryon	Fred	fcryon@hotmail.com	Conservation Alt	1	X	06/23/26	06/30/27
Tochterman	David	david@tochterman.com	Revitalization Committee	1	X	06/23/26	06/30/27
Watman	Celeste	celestewatman4@gmail.com	Revitalization Committee	1	X	06/23/26	06/30/27
Tomaino	Jeffrey	jtomaino@townofotisma.com	Police Officer/ Constable	1	X	06/23/26	06/30/27
Fletcher	Cynthia	cynthia.fletcher1183@gmail.com	Library Trustee		X	June 23, 2026	* until the next election opportunity