

Otis Historical Commission

April 1, 2026 Minutes

ATTENDANCE: Joel Myers, Gail Gelburd, Hal Kobrin, Peter Cameron, Geoff Pigman, Celeste Watman

The meeting began at 4:35.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of February 11 were approved.

PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES: Otis Cultural Center at Historic St. Paul's: Last week, the contractor and the architect had a meeting. There was a discussion about the contractor's request for an additional \$30,000 for this project.

The tower is now removed from the roof.

The organ was taken apart, and is in crates that are stored on Hal's property. Hal donated the storage space for the crates. We now owe approximately \$7,500 to the moving company. Geoff was asked to clarify with Stephanie about where things stand with Lesley Rosenthal about the possibility of the Rosenthals agreeing to fund the moving of the organ from Springfield to Otis, and the reinstallation in the loft of the Otis Cultural Center at Historic St. Paul's.

East Otis School House: The school house is scheduled to be painted on May 19.

Knox Trail: The 250th Anniversary committee will sell their book about America's anniversary beginning April 11. It will be available for purchase at the Monterey Library, at a wholesale price of \$10 per copy. OHC will purchase copies to sell.

On April 11, and April 16, there will be a tour of the Knox Trail, and the Bidwell House will register participants for these events.

Historic District Signage: We need to select a blank sign, and show it to Commission members to approve.

Otis Historic Homes: There will be signs to display in front of the Otis Library, the Otis Town Hall, and some historical homes. The signs have information on QR codes, and installation is scheduled for May 1.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES: Archives and Museum: No report.

Notice Otis events: Gail attended David Cohen's lecture about Goose Pond, and mentioned that it was very informative.

The next event, "Trolleys in the Berkshires," will be at the Otis Library, on April 2.

FUNDING ACTIVITIES: OPT has \$2,000 in their bank account, and \$15,000 in their Wells Fargo account.

Gail will send an article to the Berkshire Edge, and write about the organ. She will also ask for donations for the organ.

GRANTS: We are waiting to hear from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to find out if we received the grant. Notification will be in May.

In July, OHC will apply for the Feigenbaum grant.

NEW BUSINESS NOT PREVIOUSLY ANTICIPATED: The next meeting will be held on June 11, at 4:30.

This meeting ended at 5:08.