

Town of Orford  
**CHURCH STUDY COMMITTEE**  
Meeting May 29, 2023

APPROVED

Attended by: Members Sylvia Paxton (Chair), Ann Green, Eva Daniels, and Jenny Littlewood

Minutes:

Meeting was convened by Sylvia at approximately 1:15pm on the lawn of Ann Green's home due to a member recovering from COVID and need to establish an "in-person" quorum.

Motion made by Ann, and seconded by Eva to accept the Minutes of May 15.2023. Minutes approved.

Motion made by Sylvia and seconded by Eva for the Committee to make a request to the Board of Selectmen for funds for a land survey and a building inspection. Purpose of each is to determine the Church property boundaries and structural needs respectively. Motion was approved.

How will the Committee reach out to the entire Orford community for participation and discussion in possible uses of the church? Suggestions were round table focus groups, and a community-wide survey. As an initial step, it was suggested that Committee members seek ideas from a few influential and well-respected citizens of the community. It was decided that by the next meeting each member draft a few questions for a town-wide survey.

Ann agreed to contact the Haverhill Congregational Church which, according to the media, recently had a meeting to determine the Church's future. Since the Orford church is facing a similar situation, it was felt that the Committee might learn from their recent experience.

Eva will contact the Town Administrative Assistant, Esther Dobbins-Marsh regarding the State's projected population for Orford in ten years.

Next meeting will be Monday June 12 at 1pm at the Church. Meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by,  
Ann Green