

**TOWN OF ORFORD
CHURCH STUDY COMMITTEE
MEETING JUNE 19, 2023
APPROVED**

ATTENDED BY: Sylvia Paxton (Chair), Eva Daniels, Heidi Peyton, Jenny Littlewood, Ann Green, and Dave Smith.

Minutes:

Sylvia opened the meeting at 1:10pm. She made a motion to accept the Minutes of June 12 and seconded by Eva Daniels. Minutes approve. Sylvia reported on recent meeting with Board of Selectmen. Requests for funding of a boundary survey and structural analysis were felt to be “premature’ and therefore not approved. Costs for printing and mailing of a community wide survey will be met by the Town. Use of the Town’s Postal Permit was approved.

Heidi felt that the committee and community need to know what the cost would be if the Town decided to buy the Church building. Eva said she will follow-up and have a discussion with the Church members in the beginning of July. Jenny volunteered to attend this meeting as committee representative.

It was agreed to proceed with formalizing the questionnaire for the community-wide survey and mailing and entering on the Orford listserve as well. The introduction and questions drafted by Jenny were reviewed. Heidi suggested there be five instead of four questions, feeling that an odd number will be more successful. She will draft a fifth question by the date of the next meeting. The Committee hopes to print the survey, and the sending and return addresses on one 8.5 by 11 page. Sylvia will contact Adm Assistant Esther Marsh-Dobbins to see if there is a process to obtain mailing labels of all town residents. She will also ask if the Town Postal Permit maybe used for the return of surveys, if the survey needs to be on Town letterhead, and is there is a preferred printer. It was agreed to use the Church PO Box as the return address.

Ann agreed to make another call to a Haverhill contact regarding the recent meeting to determine the future of the Haverhill Congregational Church.

Ann asked if the Committee would ask the Board of Selectmen what they need to know when considering the feasibility of the Town acquiring the church. Sylvia agreed to contact John Adams.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday June 22 at 1pm at the church. Meeting was adjourned.

**Prepared by,
Ann Green**