

**TOWN OF ORFORD
CHURCH STUDY COMMITTEE
MEETING JULY 10,2023
United Congregational Church**

APPROVED

Attended by: Sylvia Paxton (Chair), Heidi Peyton, Eva Daniels, Ann Green, Jenny Littlewood, and Dave Smith

Minutes:

Meeting opened with a discussion initiated by Heidi suggesting the Committee have a mission statement. No conclusion was reached other than our mission would seem to be that which is stated in the Article on the 2023 Town Warrant – assess the feasibility of the town acquiring the church and submit a report of findings to the Selectboard by December 1, 2023.

Eva reviewed the list of individuals and organizations using the church facilities, church fund-raising events and expenses in 2022 as reported in the Church Annual Report. Sylvia agreed to summarize for review at next meeting. Eva reported that the Certificate of Occupancy needs to be renewed. She will contact Orford Fire Chief, Terry Straight.

Heidi suggested that we schedule the Open House later in the season due to people being away (vacationing). It was decided to reschedule to Sept. 15 6PM-8PM and 16 11am-1PM). Heidi will ask her son Shamus to design a poster. Perhaps Rivendell students might help with the Open Houses; contact person, Nancy Hall.

It was also decided to reconsider a community wide mailing of an Introductory letter rather than the post card invitation previously agreed upon. Heidi will compose a draft by meeting scheduled on August 14, 2023. Projected date for mailing will be Labor Day.

There was a discussion of what the Committee needs to know to determine the feasibility of the town acquiring the church. Does the community need to support acquisition or does the Committee need to make that determination?

Heidi learned on an Internet site that the Church is the only one of Gothic architecture in NH. This suggests that public funds be might be available to address infrastructure and other needs.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm.

Next meeting July 24 at 2pm.

Submitted by, Ann Green (Secretary)