

**TOWN OF ORFORD
CHURCH STUDY COMMITTEE
MEETING AUGUST 14, 2023
Orford United Congregational Church**

APPROVED

Attended by: Sylvia Paxton (Chair), Eva Daniels, Ann Green, and Heidi Peyton. Guests Carol Boynton and Libby Chapin.

Minutes:

Sylvia opened the meeting at 1:05PM. Eva made the motion to accept the Minutes of August 7; seconded by Sylvia. Minutes were amended to say that Sylvia offered to post posters in Bradford. Minutes as amended were approved unanimously.

Carol Boynton and Libby Chapin, Trustees of the Orford Free Library and the Orford Social Library respectively were welcomed to share the thoughts of their respective Boards of the church being a possible site for a Central Town Library. Carol provided a summary of her Board's including the Director's discussion of the proposal. They essentially believe the church could be a possible library site. To facilitate further discussion and consideration, the physical viability and physical library space needs would need to be professionally evaluated. Libby advised she will bring to her Board for further discussion and recommendation. Reference was made to the Report of the Library Study Committee and the Assessment completed by the State Librarian consultant of the Public Defender's Office as a possible site for a central library. Committee members were encouraged to read both reports. Sylvia will request copies. At the conclusion of this discussion, Eva gave Carol and Libby a tour of the building facilities.

Heidi distributed copies of the final poster announcing the Open Houses for posting throughout town and immediate surrounding areas. It was agreed that posters should be out by August 25.

It was felt that Ann's draft for the listserve was too much information. Sylvia will rewrite in time for posting on Sept 5. Also, she will submit a short Committee report to include the Open House announcements to Carrol Boynton for inclusion the September issue of the Friends Newsletter.

Heidi completed the letter but encountered printing problems. She will ensure that each member has a copy by the end of the day. Members are to review and comment asap. Once approved, Sylvia will send to the Town Administrative Assistant, Esther Dobbins-Marsh who has graciously agreed to type on Town letterhead and submit for printing. Committee members offered to assist with folding and taping.

There was a brief discussion of plans for Open Houses. Eve agreed to make signs noting a few specific areas of the building, including no admittance to Steeple or bell tower. Sylvia will review handout materials and present at next meeting. Peyton Place Restaurant will donate cider. (Thank you, Heidi!) . Also, it was agreed to have a guest book for attendees to sign.

Due to some members not being available next Monday, the next meeting will be held on Tuesday August 22 at the Church.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.

Submitted by

Ann Green (Secretary)