

**TOWN OF ORFORD
CHURCH STUDY COMMITTEE
Meeting September 25 , 2023
Orford United Congregational Church**

APPROVED

Attended by: Sylvia Paxton (Chair), Eva Daniels, Ann Green, Heidi Peyton and Jenny Littlewood and, Guest, Terry Martin

Minutes:

Meeting convened at 1:05pm. Sylvia welcomed Terry Martin. Sylvia made a motion to approve the Minutes of Sept 18th meeting; motion was seconded by Jenny. Minutes were passed unanimously.

Sylvia gave a report on the recent Open Houses/tours for Heidi who was unable to attend.

A discussion of the questionnaire content ensued. The Introductory paragraph was revised. Terry suggested that once it is prepared, he could arrange for its review by a gentleman who is a specialist in the wording of questionnaires to get the best response. Committee members did not feel there was sufficient time to receive this input. There was discussion of putting the questionnaire on the Orford listserve in addition to a mailing. Sylvia will ask Town Administrative Assistant if BOS will support costs of a mailer. Can we include a return envelope or folks may drop off at the one of the libraries?

In the event the building is repurposed, Terry asked if the church congregation would no longer have services at the Main Street Church. Eva stated that they are considering holding services in the Orfordville Church and are seeking estimates for necessary improvements including the heating system, septic, electrical etc. Terry suggested a long-term lease of a fifty-year term for new owner(s). This would ensure control usage.

Next meeting will be held at 1pm , October 2, 2023 at the Church. In the interim, members were asked to draft a questionnaire for review at this meeting. It was recommended that the number of questions be limited to 4-5.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm.

**Respectfully submitted by,
Ann Green (Secretary)**