

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021 AT 5:00 PM**

WATCH ONLINE AT
<https://zoom.us/j/95984683556>

**For Dial in Only call 1-312-626-6799 Webinar ID: 959 8468 3556
(LINK AVAILABLE AT ORONO.ORG)**

*Comments can be submitted via email prior to the meeting start time
at info@orono.org and during the meeting by using Zoom comment features.*

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: Council Chair Tom Perry, Terry Greenier, Cheryl Robertson, Laura Mitchell, Meghan Gardner, Geoffrey Wingard, Laurie Osher, and Town Manager Sophie Wilson.

2. Plan for Filling Orono-Veazie Water District Trustee Vacancy (Video record time 01:50-5:58)

Ms. Wilson stated that Laura Mitchell has been serving Orono on the OVWD Board of Trustees; however, she was required to resign as a Trustee in order to fill the elected seat on the Town Council. The Council is required to appoint an individual to fill the remainder of this vacant term (until 12/31/2023). She reviewed the background and proposed timeline for appointing a new OVWD Trustee. Applications are due by April 12, 2021, they will be discussed at the Community Development Committee on April 15th, with appointments made at the May 10th Council Meeting.

The Committee agreed with the process and timeline to fill the OVWD Trustee vacancy.

3. Public Health Implications and Potential Response to Large and/or Unruly Gatherings During the Pandemic (Video record time 06:05-09:56)

Ms. Wilson described a large gathering that occurred off campus and that staff is looking at an Emergency Ordinance for Large and Unruly Gatherings. Staff has also met with one of the owners and UMaine on this issue.

The Committee supported the Large and Unruly Gatherings Ordinance for the fall, and an Emergency Ordinance if needed. Staff will continue to work with the property owners.

4. Proposed Proclamation Recognizing Juneteenth (Video record time 09:57-17:13)

Ms. Wilson stated that last year, on the weekend before the Council's Regular Meeting in June, Council was asked to consider adopting a proclamation recognizing Juneteenth in Orono. Given

the lateness of the request, the item failed to garner a unanimous vote of all Councilors present to be added to the meeting agenda. Since the Council unanimously expressed its general support for the concept of recognizing Juneteenth, staff has updated the draft proclamation (penned by Councilor Gardner) for the Committee's consideration. Ms. Wilson noted the draft proclamation/resolution guidelines established by Council.

The Committee agreed to forward the Juneteenth Proclamation to Council. Ms. Gardiner will redraft the proclamation for person first language.

5. Plan for Recognizing Pride Month (*Video record time 17:14-24:53*)

Ms. Wilson noted that Councilor Greenier and Councilor Gardner will be working with staff to develop a general plan for the coming year. Some of the events/activities include: thermoplastic paint for the crosswalk (if possible), reading to children at the library, Pride Month displays and artwork and a chalk-out event on the sidewalks. More information can be found at oronopride.org and on the Town's Facebook page.

The Committee agreed to forward the Pride Month Proclamation to Council.

6. Continuation of the March 8th Workshop Discussion on Next Steps related to Council's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative (*Video record time 24:55-1:35:00*)

Ms. Wilson noted Council has been working to learn more about diversity, equity, and inclusion. She stated two proposals have been received from Councilor Gardner and Councilor Osher. The Committee discussed the proposals.

Bangor City Councilor Angela Okafor provided information on how the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group has worked in Bangor.

After a lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed to have an Ad Hoc Committee to gather information and feedback before the permanent committee is established. Ms. Mitchell agreed to combine the two proposals that would include a process for Council education and would establish guidelines for an Ad Hoc Committee.

The Council will review the proposal at their March 29th Workshop to provide a plan/committee proposal for the April 12th Council Meeting.

7. Statement against Violence Against Asian Americans (*Video record time 1:35:00-01:39:28*)

The Committee discussed needing a statement against violence against Asian Americans. Ms. Wilson and Mr. Perry will work on a statement by Monday, March 22, 2021. The Committee agreed.

8. Town Manager's Report (*Video record time 1:39:29-01:45:10*)

Ms. Wilson provided an update on the following upcoming items:

- Pride Month update.
- Update on the Municipal Review Committee (MRC) announcement of Coastal Resources of Maine, LLC sale negotiations. PERC solid waste bypass plan for temporary closure.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:45 p.m.

Minutes are summary only. A video-recorded version is available on the Town's website at www.orono.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward
Executive Assistant