

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021 AT 5:00 PM**

WATCH ONLINE AT
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MINUTES

1. Roll Call

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

2. Minor Change to Mobile Food Vendors Ordinance *(Video record time 12:25 - 18:38)*

Town Planner Kyle Drexler stated that the Ordinance was revised to regulate mobile food vendors (Section 18-152). The intent of the ordinance was to provide basic standards for mobile home vendors and to balance permitting requirements against the potential impact of the mobile food truck use. He noted that he was recently approached by the University regarding mobile food vendors on campus regularly and in a variety of locations. In reviewing this request, staff has determined that the proposed activity would not potentially impact neighboring properties. Mr. Drexler proposed revising the ordinance to exempt Mobile Food Vendor II applicants from the Planning Board process, provided the vendor is being hosted by the University, for a University of Maine purpose, in the University District on a lot owned by the University.

The Committee agreed to refer this item to the Planning Board for its review.

3. Proposed Marijuana Ordinance Revision *(Video record time 18:39 - 1:24:43)*

Mr. Drexler gave a presentation on why there is a Moratorium Ordinance on Marijuana Establishments in the C-2 District. He spoke of a minor language change to address a concern about setbacks inadvertently allowing marijuana establishments to be located in proximity to the University of Maine campus which was clearly in conflict with staff's understanding of the Town Council's intent. Councilors also discussed considering trails as access points requiring setbacks and whether or not to allow marijuana establishments in the C-2 district.

The Council agreed to have language that speaks to bike and pedestrian entrances that require setbacks for marijuana establishments. **Mr. Drexler will put together a visual representation**

to indicate different levels of University entrances and setbacks in the C-2 District for the Committee to bring back to Council to consider.

Mr. Drexler spoke of one more amendment to consider: allowing the small-scale cultivation (500 sq. ft.) of marijuana in the Low Density Residential (LDR) District that could be used by registered caregivers. He provided information and a map of the area. **Councilors spoke in favor of this amendment to allow small-scale cultivation of marijuana in the LDR District.**

The Committee discussed whether or not to amend the ordinance to include adult use marijuana nurseries. **The Committee agreed to consider marijuana nurseries in the F&A District and possibly the C-1 and EDZ Districts.**

The changes mentioned above will be brought back to the next Committee meeting.

4. Review of Conceptual Plans Main Street Sidewalk and Pedestrian Safety Project (Video record time 1:24:45 - 2:26:15)

Public Works Director Rob Yerxa stated that staff has been working with Sebago Technics on the conceptual plans for the Main Street Sidewalk and Pedestrian Safety project. Project Manager Brad Lyon of Sebago Technics gave a presentation on the background and scope of work on Main Street from Kelley Road to the Brandon Silk Memorial Bridge in its entirety. He noted that phase one focuses on crosswalk locations and crosswalk treatments in the downtown Main Street area.

Mr. Yerxa stated the Town has allocated \$500,000 of the 2020 Infrastructure Bond proceeds and \$24,000 of confirmed grant funds from the State of Maine Department of Transportation for this project. Staff has submitted requests for directed Congressional funding for the remainder needed to complete this project.

Mr. Yerxa stated the next steps would be to finalize the plan and contact property owners. The Committee agreed to proceed further.

5. Review of RSU Director Candidates and Discussion of Next Steps Regarding Appointment Process (Video record time 2:26:17 - 2:44:00)

Ms. Wilson stated the Town was informed that Erin Ellis resigned her position as an RSU 26 Director effective immediately. Pursuant to State Law, the Town Council is charged with filling this vacancy until the next Annual Municipal Election (March 2022). As discussed with the Town Council, on June 4th, staff advertised the vacancy with a request that all interested individuals submit a letter indicating their interest by Wednesday, June 16th at 2 p.m. At the

close of this period, three individuals had responded indicating their interest in serving: Thomas “TJ” Herlihy, Elizabeth “Beth” Hufnagel, and Leo Kenney.

The Committee reviewed the process and agreed to interview the applicants at the June 21st Council Workshop at 5pm for consideration of filling the appointment. The RSU has requested the Town fill the position prior to their August meeting.

6. Resolution Recognizing a Climate Emergency and Committing to a Municipal Climate Action Planning Process

This item will be taken up at the next Committee meeting.

7. Town Manager’s Report (*Video record time 2:45:00 - 3:02:27*)

Ms. Wilson reported on the following items:

- Auditor did the pre-audit with the actual audit in September.
- Mitch Stone provided information on the revaluation update and informal hearing process.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:02 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