

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL COMMITTEES MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022 AT 5:00PM**

IN-PERSON: COUNCIL CHAMBER – MUNICIPAL BUILDING

ZOOM WEBINAR ON-LINE: <https://zoom.us/j/91772811441>

DIAL IN TO ZOOM WEBINAR: 1(312) 626-6799 ID: 917 7281 1441

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Present: (In Person) Cheryl Robertson, Geoffrey Wingard, and Town Manager Sophie Wilson.
(Via Zoom) Council Chair Tom Perry, Terry Greenier, Meghan Gardner, and Laurie Osher.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

a. Developing a Formal Town of Orono Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan *(Video record time 15:15 - 1:58:00)*

Town Manager Wilson and Councilors discussed the JEDI Committee and what the goals, objectives, and charge would be. Councilor Wingard suggested a goal of improving practices and providing feedback to move forward with aspirations and review ongoing and upcoming practices. They discussed keeping service delivery/policies separate from personnel. Councilor Gardner envisioned a 3-prong approach, developing a work plan for the Committee and also having a mechanism where Council can refer items to the JEDI Committee, and providing the Committee with what the Town is currently doing with DEI.

Councilors discussed the structure of the Committee: 5 to 10 people with 2-year staggered terms, chosen similar to the Ad Hoc Committee, diversity encouraged, members would have a strong connection to Orono, preference to living in Orono, working in Orono or going to school in Orono. Ms. Wilson suggested crafting an application that asks about their experience and connection to Orono.

Councilors discussed the importance of having a staff member on the Committee to provide operational and institutional knowledge of the Town. Ms. Wilson explained why it should be the Town Manager (or senior staff member) for past and current knowledge and legal information. Councilors spoke of wanting the Committee to have the right tools.

Councilors agreed to take incremental steps with the JEDI Committee, and do them well with regular quarterly check-ins. Ms. Wilson stated she would draft the Committee charge and then create a formal DEI plan with priorities.

They noted some possible priorities: Budget needs, signage around Orono, handicap areas, and engaging more thoughtfully with Wabanaki history. Ms. Wilson stated she would put together a draft document to bring back for review.

3. Town Manager's Report

Ms. Wilson reported on the following items:

- Fire Department over budget concerns due to medical leave and overtime coverage.
- State Legislature Housing Bill.
- FY21 Audit presentation next week.

4. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:53 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