

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020 AT 4:00 P.M.**

WATCH ONLINE AT
<https://zoom.us/j/96628543241>

(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: Terry Greenier (Community Development Chair), Cindy Mehnert, Laurie Osher, Cheryl Robertson, Sam Kunz (4:30pm), Town Manager Sophie Wilson, Parks & Recreation Director Mitch Stone and Parks & Recreation Program Coordinator Meghan Mazzella.

2. Recreation & Open Space Ordinance Revision re: Tobacco, Marijuana & Vaping

Parks and Recreation Director Mitch Stone stated he was approached regarding grant funding that is available for education and signage for public parks and open spaces. The Committee reviewed the changes to the smoking ordinance. All of the changes related to definitions and examples of marijuana and vaping methods and techniques. Ms. Robertson offered minor clarifying edits to the methods and techniques.

The Committee agreed to move forward with the ordinance changes to the September 14, 2020 Council Meeting public hearing.

3. Parks & Recreation Operations Update

a. Departmental Staffing & Operations

Ms. Stone spoke highly of Meghan Mazzella being an excellent addition to the Parks and Recreation team and she has worked hard to develop programs during Covid-19 challenges. The goal has been to provide recreation opportunities in a safe way.

b. Summer Programming Recap

Ms. Mazzella described the 6-week free summer program that was held outdoors with up to 10 children, K-8th grade. She noted CDC protocols were maintained. The average number each week was 6 children. Many families did not participate, but the Town was able to meet the goal to be flexible and meet the needs of the community with no financial cost.

c. Trails & Open Spaces

Ms. Mazzella stated she is working on an interactive map for the Town parks and recreation open spaces. It will allow people to explore places around Town that they may not have been to before. She noted the popularity of the parks and hiking trails due to Covid restrictions. She showed Councilors the map which is on the website under Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Stone stated he has been working on the 30-mile trail loop. He is working with landowners to establish agreements/easements to connect the loop. He noted the entire project is going to take some time. Ms. Wilson noted that directional and interpretive signs for the trail will be the goal.

i. Gould's Landing/Nadeau-Savoy Park

Mr. Stone explained that an attendant was hired for the summer at Gould's Landing through the state's Cares Act grant to ensure public health and safety (ie 6-foot distances and limiting the numbers) for this year. Ms. Wilson said other grant resources may or may not be available next year.

d. Fall Programming Planning Efforts & Priorities

Mr. Stone noted some of the fall recreation programming challenges: Covid restrictions, Asa Adams School construction, limited access and space. He noted staff is working with UMaine regarding programming, and scholarships will be available for participation.

i. Recreation Programs to Support Workforce Needs

Mr. Stone stated staff is communicating with UMaine about recreation programs to support working parents needs. He noted one of the major issues is available space.

Ms. Wilson noted that staff has been working on Covid-19 safety precaution/prevention signage.

4. Celebrating Pride Month Sub Committee Update

Mr. Greenier gave an update on the Pride Month Committee's work: future crosswalk paintings and UMaine student assistance (when they are back in session).

5. Scripture Memorial Thanksgiving Dinner Plans

Ms. Wilson commented on the uncertainty of Covid-19, but if possible, staff would be providing Thanksgiving meal deliveries on November 19, 2020.

Mr. Kunz suggested having a Zoom Thanksgiving meal together with the community.

6. Brief Town Manager's Update

Ms. Wilson stated there will not be a meeting on Monday, but there will be a Special Council Meeting public hearing on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 about the Face Coverings Ordinance.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:37pm.

Minutes are summary only. A video recording of the meeting is available on the Town's website at www.orono.org under Agendas and Minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy W. Ward
Executive Assistant