

**TOWN OF ORONO
COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020 AT 5PM**

WATCH ONLINE AT

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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, Tom Perry, Laurie Osher, Cheryl Robertson, Sam Kunz (arrived at 5:07pm), Town Manager Sophie Wilson and Town Planner Kyle Drexler.

2. Zone Change - Amending Standard Related to Self-Storage East I-95

Town Planner Kyle Drexler explained amending the standard related to self-storage East of I-95 that would allow the current legally non-conforming self-storage business on Park Street to expand provided that it is able to meet site plan review requirements of the ordinance. The next step would be for the property owner to come forward with a Planning Board application for a conditional use and zone change request. The Committee agreed.

3. Excavation/Fill Ordinance Revision (Planning Board Recommendation/Next Steps)

Mr. Drexler reviewed the Planning Board's recommendation regarding the excavation/fill ordinance revisions to provide greater attention to the impact that filling and/or excavating larger quantities of earth may have on adjacent properties. The proposed ordinance revision was reviewed by the Planning Board which, after a duly noticed public hearing, provided Council with minor suggestions for its consideration. Mr. Drexler provided details of the Planning Board's recommendations for moving forward with the ordinance. The Committee reviewed the details.

The Committee agreed to move forward with the Planning Board's recommendations.

4. Citizen Request: Council Resolution Supporting Universal Health Care

Ms. Wilson presented revised language from the citizen's request that the Town pass a resolution urging the State of Maine Legislature to create an equitable, affordable healthcare system that will provide services to Maine residents from birth to death. Mr. Perry requested having one of the "whereas" removed (regarding administrative cost and waste ... in Orono). The Committee

agreed to remove that “whereas”. Mr. Perry offered changing to the last “whereas” to end with “beyond the scope of local government”.

The Committee agreed with the proposed changes.

5. Request to Apply for DEP Waste Diversion Grant Funds

Ms. Wilson asked the Committee for feedback about applying to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection for Waste Diversion Grant funds. Ms. Robertson noted that the grant application is due November 16, 2020. Environment Committee Chair, Councilor Robertson reached out to landlords about a voluntary recycling program. She noted the Town does not currently provide for recycling collection and processing for multi family residential (more than three units) or commercial properties; however, people are looking for opportunities to increase recycling. Although there is much work to be done developing this idea and garnering community input/support, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection has published a request for proposals for waste diversion project funding. Ms. Wilson stated that Ms. Robertson has offered to lead this effort (working with some staff support) to research and write this grant application. The level of sustained community interest in expanding the opportunity for recycling leads staff to see this as a reasonable operational issue that, with appropriate funding and volunteer support, might result in a sustainable program. Councilor Robertson asked for feedback from the Committee regarding Council’s level of support for this pilot project.

Ms. Wilson explained that staff and members of the Committee have begun high level exploratory discussions about the potential of having a recycling drop off area at the CDD Landfill.

Councilors expressed support for the pilot project. They also cautioned about any long-term future expense with the program.

6. Brief Town Manager’s Update

Ms. Wilson gave a brief update on the following items:

- Absentee ballots are available. She provided information about the process. Ms. Wilson spoke of the “In Person Absentee Ballot” dates, October 22, 29 and 30th.
- Sale of the bonds - The Town will save \$414,000 over the life of the existing debt. Ms. Wilson provided information about the bond call process.
- RFPs for the Main Street Sidewalk design project opened today. Staff will be recommending Sebago Technics to Council.
- Covid-19 spike occurring around Maine. Staff is reviewing the plan.
- Draft financial statements received from the Auditor.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:57pm.

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