

Orono Village District Development Plan

June 14, 2021

The Orono Village District was formed to support planning, public investment, and public-private partnerships aimed at creating and maintaining a vibrant downtown that will enhance the quality of life for residents, merchants, and visitors. In past years, the Orono Village Association actively worked with the Town to: (1) coordinate cultural and commercial events, (2) preserve and improve the historic and aesthetic elements of the downtown area, (3) encourage involvement and participation by the University of Maine in the activities of the Association and affairs of the District, (4) reduce the burdens of local government, including the improvement of access to downtown and the availability of parking, and the attraction of new businesses and improvement of the business environment for the good of the community.

A. Financial Information of Funding Sources

For many years, property owners located within the boundaries of the District were assessed at the rate of .50/\$1,000 of assessed valuation with the amount raised within the District to be matched by the Town of Orono. The Orono Village Association voted to suspend its activity in 2016 to allow for an evaluation of the Village needs and consideration of creating a successor organization. Property owners located within the boundaries of the District will be assessed at the rate of \$0.00/\$1,000 of assessed valuation. No indebtedness is proposed at the time to be incurred in the year of operation.

B. List of Public Facilities to be Constructed or Improved

The Town will complete major repairs of a portion of the sanitary stormwater and sewer separation system between Pine Street and Mill Street. In addition, renovations will begin for a major Main Street sidewalk renovation project and paving of Summer Street. These projects will be funded through money allocated from the Downtown and Transit Oriented Tax Increment Financing District.

C. Uses of Private Property

None are planned for this year.

D. Regulations and Facilities to Improve Transportation

The Town of Orono and the University of Maine, with cooperation from Orchard Trails and The Avenue,, will continue to promote the free shuttle service in operation since August, 2009.

E. Environmental Controls

There are no activities proposed for the year that will require environmental controls.

F. Operation of the District

The Orono Village Association maintains its legal status; however, has been inactive since 2018. OVA Board members are drawn from merchants and residents, with the University of Maine and the Town of Orono each holding a position. The Board will continue to evaluate the organization's goals and Village needs in the coming year.

G. Focus for FY 2021-2022:

The Town of Orono will continue to fund and organize/support the Orono Summer Concert Series, a community event to celebrate the winter season, and smaller themed events in collaboration with the University of Maine and Village District merchants. In addition, the Town will develop and implement a strategy to integrate businesses located throughout town with downtown merchants into a more complete and mutually beneficial organization.

Orono Village Center District Map

