

**Rockland Economic Development Advisory Committee
Meeting October 22, 2015**

Draft Minutes of Meeting 9-24-15

In attendance:

J Billington, Chair

T Plummer, Member

L Ondra, Member

J Jeffers, Member

P Orne, Guest

G Pinto, Member

Audra Caler-Bell, Community & Economic Development Director, Rockland

1. Motion by L Ondra to accept meeting minutes seconded by G Pinto – unanimously accepted.
2. REDAC discussed how to move forward the high speed broadband project. The discussion included the following points:
 - J Billington spoke of the need to engage businesses, the schools, URock and other stakeholders
 - G Pinto spoke about models from other towns and how Rockland should better understand other examples of how this infrastructure was delivered
 - The group agreed the best way forward is a series of workshops/forums to educate and engage broader community on the benefits of better access to high speed broadband. Action: Audra to develop a schedule of different workshop/forum topics to bring back to REDAC for discussion.
3. REDAC discussed State cuts to the Downtown Revitalization program funding – Audra will look for contact details for any businesses that benefitted from this funding to ask for support in advocating to the State legislature in favor of saving this funding.
4. There is currently a vacancy on the Knox County Microloan committee for a Rockland representative. A description to the responsibilities of this committee will be sent to REDAC to try and recruit and new member.
5. P Orne from RSU #13 spoke to REDAC about the Schools of the Future Plan and the need for a strong link between education and economic development. He is willing to come speak to REDAC more often and talk about how we can support initiatives to strengthen the school district.
6. The Chamber provided an update including their 2016 election of new board members. The Chamber is currently fully staffed, including a new Members Services Director. The last cruise ship of the season came. Have learned a lot from the first cruise ship season.
7. G Pinto made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss an Economic Development project – the motion was seconded by L Ondra. After the Executive Session ended T Plummer made a motion to support the CED Department to work with Brio Promotions on submitting an Economic Development application to the Department of Community and Economic Development, this was seconded by G Pinto and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm, Next REDAC meeting is November 19th (moved due to Thanksgiving) at 4pm