

Middletown Economic Development Advisory Committee

Tuesday, May 5, 2015, 4:30 pm

Middletown Town Hall, Town Council Chambers

Members Present:

John Bagwill
Joseph A. Cirillo
Liana Ferreira Fenton
David Lepore
Robert M. Silva, Chairman
Barbara VonVillas, Town Council
Ron Wolanski, Town Planner

Members absent:

Nick Coogan
Tom Kowalczyk
Rocky Kempenaar, Town Council
Jody Sullivan, Newport County Chamber

Guests present:

Matt Wainwright, Middletown IT Director
Sarah Atkins, AIPC
Allison McNally, AIPC

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Silva at 4:30pm

1. Approval of the minutes of the April 15, 2015 MEDAC meeting.

Motion by Mr. Cirillo, seconded by Mr. Bagwill, to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2015 MEDAC meeting. Vote: 6-0-0 (Ms. Fenton had not yet arrived.)

2. Continued discussion of state broadband studies and options for moving forward.

Mr. Silva and Mr. Wolanski described discussion during prior meetings, including the recognition on the part of MEDAC that accessible broadband is a significant economic development issue. Consensus of the committee at the last meeting was that the issue needs to be addressed regionally, rather than MEDAC or Middletown taking the lead.

Ms. Atkins and Ms. McNally described the efforts of the AIPC on the broadband issue. There was discussion of efforts at the state level, including the joint legislative commission, co-chaired by Rep. Ruggeiro. Connecticut was cited as an example of state-level leadership on broadband.

Ms. Atkins indicated that this effort fits into the mission of the AIPC, and the Board of Directors has agreed to take it on as a project for the commission. The new executive director for the AIPC is expected to be hired within the next few months.

The consensus of the MEDAC members present was that MEDAC will support the AIPC as appropriate in the effort to bring better broadband, and specifically affordable fiber accessibility to Aquidneck Island.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Ronald M. Wolanski, Town Planner