

Broadband Internet and Economic Development
Updated 12/31/2017

Why Economic Development?

- We need a full-time, year-round community
 - a customer base for local businesses
 - a skill pool
 - modern skills
 - skills to be taught and shared
 - State-wide problem
 - a tax base
 - support for our school, medical center, and other community needs and endeavors
 - volunteers
 - our volunteers are tired, burnt out etc.
 - the pool is small
 - there are limits to percentage of people in a community willing to volunteers
 - it can be enlarged to some degree but not a lot
 - enlarge the pool!
 - youth and diversity
 - enable people to stay (the “stay option”)
 - tourism
 - It contributes to our economy, but not to our permanent community
 - unless they opt to stay
 - show them how they can

The New Economy

- 20th Century mind set
 - old jobs are not coming back
 - automation is replacing repetitive work
 - kids need to aspire to careers, not “jobs”
 - innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship, human empathy
 - we do not “create jobs” - we identify needs and opportunities
 - corporations do not “create jobs” - their goal it to eliminate them
- educate parents
 - to educate and encourage their kids
 - community education
 - local networking, sharing of skills
 - online training
 - community awareness
 - it's up to us
 - basic economics
 - no business will come here because we “need jobs”
 - profit
 - customer base

- transportation
- communications
- skilled workers
- School resources
 - review curriculum (including high schools)
 - hands on experience
 - program to bring kids into local IT projects
 - yes – that means we need net neutrality, good BB, and IT entrepreneurs

Be careful what you wish for

- face the realities, bad and good, of inviting more people to Lubec and have answers and a plan for preserving and changing the community, meeting objections, fulfilling expanded demand, et al. We cannot separate “economic development” from its effects
- Welcome Wagon, social/orientation events etc.
- free copy of “the Lobster Coast” in the WW bag
- revisit the Comprehensive Plan in light of potential growth if we are successfully
- find out how Eastport’s effort is going

Finally – what’s this broadband thing anyway?

- Technical definitions vary – all sorts of numbers and technical approaches
- How we use it, and how we **can** use it, is what’s important
- Broadband as enabler
 - BB is a **tool*** - not a solution in itself
 - “Bring Your Job with You”
 - with fast, reliable internet, people in many occupations can work where they want to
 - We **have** broadband already
 - “not everybody has it”
 - work with what we **have** – build on it
 - there are houses and buildings for sale and rent in well-served parts of Lubec
 - a few families can make a huge difference and influence providers to invest
 - more people = more political clout in internet legislation
 - I wouldn’t be here if we didn’t have broadband
- BB is essential to rural towns such as ours
 - shopping, tourism, advertising, communication and on and on all require internet capability
 - **telemedicine** and other medical services
- BB is under attack
 - not only are we fighting to increase availability, quality, and reliability of BB, but providers and legislatures are constantly trying to infringe on “Internet Neutrality” - the principal of equal access for everyone – no “tiered” bandwidth, extra charges, preference to corporations etc. See “activism” section below
- Eastport
 - visit their web site – eastport-me.gov

- both the main site and the telecommuting site - <https://www.telecommute-maine.com> are examples to strive for, not only in marketing but information management and presentation
 - yes – it takes a combination of skills and \$\$ - see the “partners” page - <https://www.telecommute-maine.com/collaborating-partners>

Activism

There are many groups working to preserve, build, and improve Internet availability. Running out of time and can't find my folder full of information on that now, so will follow up later.

Here are the main Maine orgs:

- Maine Broadband Coalition - <https://mainebroadbandcoalition.org/>
 - best place to start learning and participating
- Actually that's the only one you need – everything is pointed to from that site.