

WP&B holds third 'Dialogue'

WAYNESBURG - In an ongoing effort to reach out to downtown business owners, Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful held its third Downtown Dialogue Aug 14.

The group met with members of the downtown professional services sector for a breakfast discussion in the Waynesburg University Center for Research & Economic Development.

The focus of the meeting addressed concerns and suggestions about doing business downtown. The Economic Restructuring Committee of Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful will use the information to refine its action plan for the future.

"It's always exciting and inspiring to see so many people who have such a deep love and passion for Waynesburg and its heritage," said Lindsey Biddle, chairman of the economic restructuring committee.

The group discussed many issues, including funding sources for new businesses and downtown Waynesburg's potential for becoming a specialty shopping destination.

Many agreed that downtown Waynesburg, with its historic buildings and small businesses, offers a quaint, old-world atmosphere for shopping that cannot be found at large shopping plazas and major chain stores.

"The dialogue series provides valuable information as we work together to enhance the livability of our community, the stability and diversity of the local economy, and the retention and expansion of independent, locally owned businesses," said Barb Kirby, director of the Center for Research and Economic Development and a director and WP&B board member.

The meeting was the third in a series of four Downtown Dialogues planned throughout 2009 to facilitate communication between Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful and business and property owners in downtown Waynesburg.

So far this year, the dialogues have addressed the retail, food and entertainment and professional services sectors. Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful plans to host its next Downtown Dialogue in November to meet with downtown property owners.

Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful is a nonprofit, Main Street program that operates in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Downtown Center.

Funded by the state Department of Community and Economic Development, Waynesburg Prosperous & Beautiful represents a community endeavor to preserve and revitalize historic downtown Waynesburg and raise awareness of the educational, cultural and historical opportunities, as well as the convenience of shopping associated with the town.

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