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# Pine Creek Journal

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## Redevelopment options sought for Route 8

Aaron T. Bruckart  
Staff Writer  
Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Jan Rosholt was impressed with the products and businesses along the Route 8 corridor in Shaler.

Rosholt, along with three other national experts, spent last week in Shaler, discussing ways to redevelop the Route 8 corridor from Glenshaw Glass to Spencer Lane.

The experts used their time in the township to meet with citizens, observe traffic, discuss fixes and give suggestions on what can be done for the area.

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- Develop a traffic plan.

The experts agreed that Route 8 acts as an efficient artery for traffic traveling through the area. But to make it a good business location to both employees and consumers, the township has to address safety and access points.

This includes the possible addition of more traffic signals and frontage roads.

- Make future development easier.

In order to help draw in more business, Rosholt suggested coming up with a process to expedite the acquisition of permits and licenses. He also suggested looking at new ways to offer financial assistance.

Earlier in the week, the experts participated in a panel discussion with township residents to hear what the residents wanted out of the area.

Colleen Juran, who lives on Butler Plank Road, summed up exactly what she wants from the corridor.

"I'm on that road sometimes once, sometimes six times a day," she said. "I don't want barriers there. I would not like to see any more traffic lights because I do want the flow."

"I'd like to see businesses come back. Keep traffic moving, but keep it safe."

Rob Arnold, economic development coordinator with the Northern Allegheny County Chamber of Commerce, said the issues the experts brought up are not new to those who live and work in the area, but he appreciated the outside help brought in to look at things that might actually work.

Arnold said both safety and flood control were the keys to the suggestions, but he also said multiple municipalities working together would be a key to making progress.

Last week, 20 of the northern municipalities joined in on the Act 167 study that will deal with the Pine Creek watershed, how to control it and how to use it to their advantage, said Shaler manager Tim Rogers.

The three other experts were Greg Hurst, a civil engineer from Fort Collins, Colo.; Sue McNeil, a transportation and disaster management expert from the University of Delaware; and Ken Tamminga, a sustainable land and water efficiency expert from Penn State University.

The panel was sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Brownfields Center at Carnegie Mellon University. Shaler Township was not required to pay for their services.

The experts were not compensated, but CMU covered their expenses.

"We looked at the previous studies and plans along the corridor," Rosholt said.

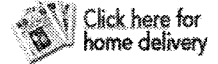
"We were really impressed with the quality of product and the sophistication of product being manufactured there."

Rosholt, a civil engineer from Seattle, announced the group's three main suggestions at a conference Friday at Fall Run Park.

The suggestions are:

- View the Pine Creek watershed as both a liability and an asset.

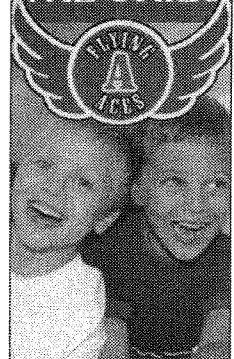
Rosholt pointed out that the watershed is great for recreation and aesthetics, but is also a hazard as it is the point of flooding in the area. He called for a storm basin plan that would retain water higher up the creek. He also said the township should continue to work on ways to improve water quality.



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