

Lewisburg Business Roundtable Meeting Summary

February 23, 2026 | 9:00 AM

The Lewisburg Business Roundtable held its first meeting on February 23, 2026, bringing together 16 participants, including the LDP Executive Director, four LDP Board members, downtown business owners, and property owners.

The purpose of the meeting was to launch the Roundtable as a regular space for communication and collaboration, while gathering feedback to help guide Lewisburg's economic vitality efforts in 2026 and beyond.

Business Improvement Grant (BIG) Update

LDP shared an update on the state-funded **Business Improvement Grant (BIG)** program, which supports established downtown brick-and-mortar businesses. Grants of up to **\$5,000**, with a required **25% match**, may be used for interior improvements such as:

- technology upgrades
- POS systems
- interior redesign
- operational equipment

Approximately **one-third of the available funds** have already been applied for. Businesses were encouraged to help spread awareness of the program to other eligible merchants.

More information is available at: **LewisburgPA.com/businessimprovement**

Parking and Borough Policy

Parking was the most substantial topic of discussion. Key concerns included:

- Overnight parking restrictions on Market Street
- The impact of parking limitations on future hotel guests and early-morning businesses
- Thursday municipal lot closures affecting both staff and customer access
- Permit policies and enforcement concerns

There was broad agreement that parking policy has a direct effect on downtown business perception and performance. Participants emphasized the importance of coordinated business input to Borough Council and the parking committee. LDP reiterated its role as a liaison and encouraged direct engagement with council representatives.

Downtown Events and Activation

The group briefly reflected on the **Ice Festival**, noting strong attendance despite very cold weather. Discussion also included upcoming and ongoing downtown initiatives such as:

- the **Summer Festival**, aligned with Bucknell Alumni Weekend
- **Miracle on Market Street**
- other signature events led by LDP

Holiday Lighting Improvements

Participants raised concerns about the declining consistency and quality of holiday tree lighting throughout downtown. LDP shared the operational and budget challenges involved and expressed interest in developing a more cohesive long-term lighting strategy, potentially supported by fundraising efforts and demonstration projects.

Business Support and SBDC Resources

Representatives from the Bucknell **Small Business Development Center (SBDC)** invited feedback on business needs for 2026. Support opportunities may include:

- workshops
- one-on-one consulting
- student-led projects

Businesses were encouraged to complete the SBDC survey to help shape future support offerings.

Next Steps

The Lewisburg Business Roundtable will continue meeting **monthly on the 4th Monday at 9:00 AM** at the LDP office to strengthen communication, gather feedback, and coordinate action on issues affecting downtown businesses.