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COMMUNITY HEART & SOUL CONTINUES IN BUCKSPORT
EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE NEXT TRAINING

[Bucksport, ME] (April 19, 2016)— As the Community Heart & Soul moves forward here, all residents are encouraged to attend the next training session for phase two of the project, called Explore Your Community.

The free training is offered on from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., April 30 at the Bucksport High School library. Heart & Soul is a citizen-led effort to shape community and economic development and create a roadmap for the future.

The second phase of training will have local residents “Exploring Their Community”. We will begin the first half hour of the training recapping the first phase, “Laying the Groundwork.” Lunch will be provided as well as light refreshments during the morning.

Community Heart & Soul is a resident driven approach to community development and planning. It was developed by the Vermont-based Orton Foundation, and endeavors to increase participation in local decision-making. Residents are invited to help shape the future of Bucksport, based upon what matters most to them. Other Heart & Soul communities have seen the process build leadership, boost volunteerism, bridge divides, create partnerships, preserve historical sites, increase resources for K-12 education and strengthen economies.

“We have just completed phase one of the four-phase project. It took close to four months and we are ready to move on to “Exploring Our Community,” said Rich Rotella, Bucksport Community and Economic Developer and project coordinator of the Heart & Soul effort.

The Heart & Soul project launched in January. Since then volunteers have since attended six team meetings, attended numerous sub team meetings, helped clean up and set up the new headquarters located at 72 Main St, where an open house was held earlier this month. “The open house was a great way to continue to get our name out there,” Rotella said. During the open house 141 coupons for free ice cream cones at Wahl’s Dairy Port were given out, the Bucksport High School Jazz Ensemble Band played, and a local resident Ed Newbegin won a \$100 gift card.

“It was a great day. Citizens talked, laughed and enjoyed ice cream in the building that once housed Rosen’s Clothing Store,” Rotella said. “We are encouraging everyone in Bucksport to come learn more about Community Heart & Soul and to get involved as we begin phase two,” Rotella said.

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