

## Mausert Block development moves forward

By Phil Demers, *New England Newspapers North Adams Transcript*

Posted:

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Wednesday July 24, 2013

ADAMS -- Work continues inside the Mausert Block building on Park Street after the Planning Board approved the developer's site plan at a public hearing this week.

The developer, REDPM, expects that by mid-2014, three new businesses will be open at 19-25 Park St., along with 10 upstairs apartments for rent.

"We're concentrating on the retail right now, and hoping to have that up and running by the end of the year," Stephen Stenson of REDPM said Tuesday.

The building, vacant since 2009, was purchased by Braytonville Properties LLC in 2011 and is a key component of town officials' Park Street redevelopment hopes.

REDPM has finalized leases with three businesses: Pizza and pan-Asian restaurants and a dance studio.

The pizza restaurant, 21 Park Pizza, is slated for the former Woolworth's store space at 21 Park St. Adams Fusion, the Asian eatery, will serve up Chinese, Japanese and hibachi at 23 Park St. It will also feature a 750-square-foot outdoor seating patio.

The dance studio has yet to release details to the public, but Stenson previously said it's expected to hold 30 classes a week, with an average of seven to nine students in each class.

Stenson said the 10 upstairs apartments are expected to cost around \$700 and \$800 per month. Plans are in the works for eight two-bedroom apartments and two three-bedroom apartments, though the plan is subject to change.

"Five should be ready for showings in April or May [of 2014], with the rest coming a few months after," Stenson said.

Tenant parking and an entry will be located behind the building, where, according to the site plan presented Monday, REDPM plans to lay down extra pavement, adding parking spaces and bike racks. Each apartment will have two assigned parking spaces.

Additionally, Stenson said REDPM wants to pave an entry from the property to the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail, which is directly behind the building.

"We've been talking to the state about getting an access point so we can make that connection," he said at the meeting.

The Planning Board approved the site plan unanimously.