

# Mausert Block moves forward in Adams

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ADAMS --  
Developers of the  
Mausert Block on  
Park Street  
narrowly avoided  
another setback  
this week.

The project  
developer, RedPM,  
had permits  
granted, an  
excavator on hand,  
and police detail scheduled for the installation of a water main.



It was perfectly timed with renovations on Park Street.

"If they didn't do that they wouldn't have been able to for years, once the street gets done," said Building Commissioner Don Fitzgerald.

But at the last minute, the plumber that had been contracted by the developer backed out.

"He just looked at it and said he couldn't do it," said Stephen Stenson, a principal at developer RedPM. "I was like 'I wish you said that six weeks ago when we started.' "

But after a plea for help on the Mausert Block's Facebook page -- Stenson was able to find a licensed plumber who could manage the complicated task in less than a week.

"He jumped to the plate and is running around getting around materials," Stenson said. "We always have a Plan B and C and D. ... this one we were running out of letters."

The water main installation kicked off without a hitch Wednesday but was halted Thursday due to heavy rains. Stenson said he expected to be completed early next week.

The disruption threatened to further delay the development of the Mausert Block, which RedPM has been working on for more than a year.

The project aims to convert the lower half of the building into restaurant and retail space, while renovating the top floors into apartment space.

Work only recently resumed in August after a stoppage that was prompted by town officials in May.

Fitzgerald, who was hired by the town earlier this year, said the developer's initial application -- approved prior to Fitzgerald's tenure -- was incomplete. The necessary documents were provided and the order was lifted in August, Fitzgerald said.

"I look forward to it restarting," Fitzgerald said. "They've got everything in order."

Now, Stenson hopes to have retail spaces on the lower floor of the building open by the end of the year and begin renovations to the apartments upstairs.

"We've still got, you know, a lot of work ahead," Stenson said. "It's certainly tested our perseverance. We're sticking with it."