

## **Mausert Block businesses approved**

*By Phil Demers, North Adams Transcript North Adams Transcript*

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ADAMS -- Three new Park Street businesses -- Asian fusion and pizza restaurants and a dance school -- have been permitted to open and may do so by fall.

Stephen Stenson, the developer of the Mausert Block building with company REDPM, obtained permits for each at Tuesday's Zoning Board meeting.

"We know the businesses are going to feed off each other ... so we're trying to create an attraction," Stenson said.

21 Park Pizza, a by-the-slice gourmet pizza stop, is to make its home inside the former Woolworth's store space at 21 Park St., operated by Seth Martin. The restaurant will have a big counter space and a high-energy feel oriented to young people.

The second restaurant, Adams Fusion, will serve Chinese, Japanese and hibachi at 23 Park St. Stenson said the business also plans to have outdoor seating to cater to the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail crowd.

The dance school will be at 19 Park St. Stenson said the owners aren't ready to release information to the public.

"It's an ideal space for them ... they have a reach from Southern Vermont to Pittsfield, so they're going to bring a lot of people who'd normally not come to Park Street here," Stenson said.

The school anticipates holding 30 classes a week at an average of seven to nine students apiece, Stenson said. Class sizes range from two to 15.

"This is going to be a significant improvement," said Peter West of the Zoning Board, as each new business was granted its request.

A completed Mausert Block will also have 11 apartments in its upper floors.

"We should have the first ones complete by Spring 2014, and then we'll roll them out ... through the summer," Stenson said Thursday.

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