

AMBRIDGE

DEMOLITION ACTIVITY CONTINUES

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AMBRIDGE — Now that Ambridge's old industrial buildings between 14th and 18th streets have been razed, it won't be long before brownsfields project developers begin flattening the 11th Street end.

Bill Sutton, vice president and managing director of the Moltoni Corp., the project's developer, said in about four months, the next phase of the demolition should be under way.

"We had hoped to get started at the end of this year," Sutton said.

But developers are taking their time cleaning up, after demolishing about 10 acres of buildings and debris on the former Toth property and H.H. Robertson sites. Just about all of the buildings along 14th to 18th streets have been razed, and Sutton said they are clearing out debris so they can rip out the concrete, remove 26 underground storage tanks and grade the land to rebuild.

"Naturally I would like to have it going faster, but it's going pretty much as scheduled," he said.

The developer recently bought a key parcel of property between 14th and 11th streets as part of the ongoing project. A blend of commercial, retail and residential housing is being planned once demolition is completed. Ideas have included condos, a brewery, a cafe and a food processing company.

Sutton said they have signed a sales agreement with Thomas Allen for eight to 10 acres on the 11th Street end. Sutton wouldn't specify the sale price, but said a closing on the property should be completed within 60 days, enabling officials to coordinate a final demolition plan for the site. Many of the buildings are integrated into one another.

Those with operational businesses or structurally sound buildings will be preserved, while at least two to three major buildings are coming down, he said.

"We're taking out some of the ones that are not in use right now, in particular, 11th Street across from borough building," he said.

Also known as the Northern Ambridge Redevelopment Project, Moltoni Corp., owned by Australian businessman and developer Rob Moltoni, purchased a span of about 40 acres between Duss Avenue and Merchant Street from 11th to 19th streets to redevelop the old rusted mill sites.

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