

## Downtown Dover to tear down facility, then build back up

Nonprofit seeks bids for demolition of former shelter

**By Mike Finney**

Daily State News

DOVER — The Downtown Dover Partnership is ready to start on some demolition projects before its plan of revitalization takes off.

The agency announced Wednesday that it is taking bids from contractors to bring down a commercial structure it owns at 680-684 Forest St., most recently home to the Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing, now on Walker Road.

The site is part of the Downtown Dover 2030 Plan to revitalize the district and represents one project in the initial transformation of the “West End” gateway onto Lookerman Street.

Ken Anderson, DDP’s property development director, is excited these first steps are about to begin.

“It’s pushing up a hill, but we’re at a good place right now,” he said. “This is kind of the most visible. ... There’s a lot of stuff happening in the background, but this will be the most demonstrative first step, so it’s great.

“We’re calling it the ‘West End,’ and there’s conceptual drawings associated with the vision of the West End down the road, in terms of what we’ll phase in, but we’re looking at two mixed-use buildings potentially with some apartments.”

He added, “West End is a major part of the overall master plan.”

Historical aerial pictures show that the structure at the Forest Street location has been in place since the late 1980s.

It was developed into two commercial buildings, one of which has around 4,500 square feet of space — with first-floor office/classroom areas, a large kitchen and a small second-floor apartment. Mr. Anderson said the partnership will receive sealed bids for the demolition beginning Feb. 27 at 2 p.m.

The bids must include three paper copies and one electronic copy on a flash drive in a sealed envelope. They should be dropped off or mailed to Downtown Dover Partnership, 101 W. Lookerman St. 2B, Dover, DE 19904.

Potential vendors also must complete an intent-to-bid notice and send it via email to [ken@downtowndoverpartnership.com](mailto:ken@downtowndoverpartnership.com) and to [See Dover — \[Page 4\]\(#\)](mailto:doverim-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

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[provements@gmail.com](mailto:provements@gmail.com). Any questions should be submitted by Feb. 7.

More information is available at [downtowndover.com](http://downtowndover.com).

Downtown Dover Partnership's executive director Diane Laird is also looking forward to getting boots on the ground.

"We're thrilled," she said. "We have several priority development sites, and we've got to ready them before development can occur. So, this is a first step.

"We are (demolishing on the West End), but we've actually shifted our gears to focus more in the heart of Dover at the first-priority site, which is 120 S. Governors, where the old Acme (shopping center) was."

That's where multimodal parking, shopping and apartments are envisioned.

"Getting any of the sites ready, at least getting them closer to marketing to developers, is going to be a goal, as well," she added.

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The Downtown Dover Partnership announced Wednesday that it is taking bids from contractors to demolish a commercial structure at 680-684 Forest St. It was most recently home to the Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing. PHOTO COURTESY OF DOWNTOWN DOVER PARTNERSHIP

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