

Cleanup Planned for the Former Public Drug Building

Site History

Located on the most prominent corner on Main Street, the Public Drug Building was constructed in 1911 as the first commercial brick building in downtown Cut Bank and has been a cornerstone in the community for more than 100 years. The history of this prominent Main Street building includes past uses as a general store, bank, newspaper, barbershop, public library, grocery store, department store, apartments, and drug store, including most recently, Public Drug. Public Drug closed in 1994 and the building has been mostly vacant since then.

Redevelopment planning for the Public Drug Building began in 2005 when the City's Growth Policy was developed and the community decided the top priority for Cut Bank should be revitalization of the downtown business district. Between 2005 and 2013, the Public Drug Building has been owned by six different owners that all tried to redevelop the property but failed due to asbestos and lead-based paint cleanup costs required prior to renovating the building. The Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce purchased the property in 2013 with the intent to cleanup this historic building to facilitate redevelopment.



Public Drug Building ♦ 4 West Main Street
Cut Bank, Montana

Assessment and Cleanup Funding

Using Targeted Brownfield Assessment funds, the Chamber requested assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments at the Public Drug Building in 2013. The results showed asbestos-containing materials and lead-based paint located throughout most of the building that could pose risks to potential tenants and the public if the building deteriorates.

In June 2015, the Chamber was awarded a \$145,833 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant to abate asbestos and lead-based paint at the Public Drug Building. Cleanup is scheduled to commence in late 2015 and will be complete early next year. Once cleanup is complete, the property will most likely be sold and redeveloped into a functional, commercial-use building that will preserve a piece of Cut Bank's history and will lead the revitalization effort in the downtown core of Cut Bank for years to come.



Cleanup Project Key Points

- ♦ Prominently located at the busiest intersection in Cut Bank, the currently-vacant Public Drug Building has been at the heart of our local commerce district since 1911
- ♦ Costs to cleanup asbestos and lead-based paint have posed insurmountable challenges to redevelopers in the recent past
- ♦ With the assistance of grant funding from the EPA Brownfields Program, the Cut Bank Chamber Commerce is planning to clean-up asbestos and lead-based paint in the building
- ♦ Future redevelopment plans will return the Public Drug Building to a prominent commercial building in our community
- ♦ Cleanup work will begin in late 2015 and is scheduled to be finished in early 2016
- ♦ For more information, please contact the Cut Bank Chamber at 406.873.4041 or cutbankchamber@gmail.com

Cut Bank Area Chamber
of Commerce



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