



News staff photo by LIVIA GERSON

Workers remove huge rolls of paper from a warehouse at the abandoned Templeton Stuart factory Monday as the first step in demolishing the building.

Demolition crew begins at Temple Stuart warehouse

By LIVIA GERSON
NEWS STAFF WRITER

TEMPLETON — Four years after it collapsed, a warehouse building at the abandoned Templeton Stuart factory in Baldwinville is finally being demolished. On Monday, workers began taking down the building's roof and removing an estimated 3 million

pounds of paper from inside.

Building Inspector Larry Brandt said he has been trying to get the warehouse demolished since March 2001, when the 6 Mill St. building collapsed under the weight of snow piled on its roof. He said that, over the past four years, he has repeatedly scaled the building off and posted signs to warn people away, but trespassers have not

been deterred.

"It's an attractive nuisance," Brandt said. "No matter what you do with a building like this kids find a way to get into it."

The demolition has been delayed largely because the building's owner, American Tissue Mills of America, is

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ate still at loggerheads over judgeship votes -- Page 14

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in bankruptcy. The company shut the factory down in 1995 and now owes Templeton \$92,437 in taxes for 2002 through 2004. Funding for the demolition came from an insurance policy that protected the company against building collapse.

"They're finally settling the claim," said Don Cutting, who is acting as an agent for American Tissue.

Cutting said the policy was shared among four insurance companies. Insurance adjuster Vericlain Inc. is handling the project on their behalf, he said.

On Monday, workers from

Bourgeois Wrecking were removing the roof so that paper salvage company Greer & Kirby could cart away large rolls of paper. Because of the dilapidated state of the building, the roof would probably have collapsed entirely if the paper had been yanked out from under it, workers at the site said. They said that, while the paper is somewhat damaged, it still has some value.

"It will probably end up being recycled, or you might be able to reuse some of it," said Frank Puopolo of Greer & Kirby.

Ray Bourgeois, the owner of the demolition company, said that workers took precautions to deal with hazardous materials at the site,

such as wetting down sections of roofing before removing them to keep asbestos from getting into the air. He said the asbestos in the building is the relatively innocuous non-friable type.

Environmental monitors also set up a system of pumps to collect air samples from four spots at the site. Those samples are being sent to a lab daily to check the air quality, workers said.

They said that the process of peeling off the roof and removing the paper will probably take about two weeks. Cutting estimated that about 100 truckloads of paper will be carted away in that time.

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