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By:

Alice Dreger



The Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority has granted the City of East Lansing its request for \$99,000 to demolish the vacant, blighted ?little bank building? at the corner of Abbot Road and Albert Street, shown above.

According to a press release ^[2] from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), the ?long-vacant building [is] considered to be one of the most significant barriers to infill development in the city?s Park District.? The property is owned by East Lansing?s Downtown Development Authority (DDA), which purchased it as part of the failed City Center II project.

The grant to East Lansing is part of \$1 million grant from MSHDA to the Land Bank aimed at ?continu[ing] efforts to demolish vacant and abandoned structures and promote public safety.?

According to East Lansing's Mayor Pro Tem Ruth Beier, the grant means we don't have to use our general fund to pay for the demolition.

Unfortunately, she adds, we do have to push [the demolition] back a few weeks, past the previously reported [3] goal of demolition by the end of April. According to Beier, It will take two to three weeks to get all of the details of the grant in place, pushing the completion of demolition to the end of May.

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