

Former Attleboro nursing home to be redeveloped into a family homeless shelter

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A former nursing home at the corner of George and Dunham streets in Attleboro is being converted into a family shelter.
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ATTLEBORO — A former nursing home at 27 George St. is about to be converted into an emergency shelter for homeless families.

The nursing home was known as the Golden Living Center Nursing Home until late in 2022 when it was vacated due to a flood. Since then, its 120 rooms have been empty and unused.

There will be a neighborhood meeting to discuss the project at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at First Baptist Church, 118 South Main St.

When a reporter visited the site, electricians were stringing temporary lighting in the halls so visitors can see what the three-story brick building offers.

The electricians said the transformer in the basement was destroyed, which knocked out power to the nursing home.

The dining facilities and kitchen were also in the basement and the flood put those out of commission, too.

The Planning Office of Urban Affairs, which is affiliated with the Archdiocese of Boston and Father Bill's and Mainspring, are working together on the \$22 million project.

John Yazwinski, CEO and president of Father Bill's and Mainspring said the Planning Office of Urban Affairs contacted his group.

“Regarding our involvement with the property, we were approached by the Planning Office for Urban Affairs, which is a non-profit affordable housing developer, and they acquired the property in November through an affiliated non-profit organization, who is the owner,” he said in an email to The Sun Chronicle. “They approached us to operate a proposed emergency shelter for families.”

The money would come from grants from the state's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities.

Building Commissioner Bill McDonough said that a change of use permit and a building permit are most likely to be needed.

He said he does not yet have an application so he is speaking hypothetically.

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McDonough said electric and plumbing permits may also be needed and he said the change of use in a General Residence A zone is protected by the Dover Amendment, which allows educational and religious groups to go into certain neighborhoods.

“This use is more likely to qualify under the Dover Amendment as long as there is an educational use,” he said. “I don't see any reason it can be kept out.”

The site is slightly less than an acre and the three-story brick building on it was constructed in 1972.

Plans have been drawn up by West Work out of Roxbury Crossing.

Renovations call for the building to be converted into 39 bedrooms for two-person families (one adult and one child), and 11 bedrooms for three or more people with at least one adult. Each bedroom will have a half-bath.

The families will share shower facilities, kitchens, living rooms and play areas.

There are 28 parking spaces on site, but families who are homeless often don't have cars. The site is within walking distance of downtown and public transportation.

The project will also include a welcome desk, staff offices, activity spaces, a laundry, an area for teenagers and a security room.