



Artist's Merrimack River view of new Harbor Place apartments, 44 Merrimack St.

Haverhill is hoping existing city residents take advantage of an opportunity to move into the new Harbor Place apartments on Merrimack Street.

More than 50 units of affordable housing will be available through a lottery now taking place through Oct. 4, Andrew K. Herlihy, community development program director, announced at Tuesday's Haverhill City Council meeting.

"We want to do a better job of getting local applicants," Herlihy told councilors during a suspension of the rules to allow an item not previously posted on the agenda. He explained the lottery, conducted by Peabody Properties, just went live and he wanted to ensure local residents have ample time to apply. There is a preference for either existing Haverhill residents or people who work for Haverhill businesses.

As WHAV reported last December, the Massachusetts Housing Partnership—a quasi-public agency—requires more than half of Harbor Place’s apartments to be designated as affordable for 51 years as a condition of financing. Apartments available by lottery include 33 two-bedroom, 17 one-bedroom and six three-bedroom apartments, Herlihy said. He said the housing project is exciting since “no one lives on Merrimack Street right now.”

The apartments at 44 Merrimack St., divide affordable units between a “Merrimack Project” and a “Riverfront Project,” with six units. All other apartments will be rented at market rates.

Applications are available online at liveharborplace.com or in the mayor’s office and community development division at City Hall; Haverhill Housing Authority, 25 Washington Square; or the Hayes Building, 14 Granite St. Applicants may also call 781-794-1000. For those interested in learning more, there will be informational meetings Tuesday, Aug. 30, at 4 and 6 p.m., at Haverhill Public Library. A model apartment is expected to be available for public viewing in September, Herlihy said.

The additional low- to moderate-income apartments at Harbor Place pushes the city over the 10 percent threshold required by the state to avoid issuance of comprehensive permits to developers, Herlihy said. His remarks came in response to a question posed by City Councilor Andy Vargas.

Those permits, allowed by the state legislature in 1969 to address a shortage of low-income housing, allowed developers to bypass zoning restrictions. Chapter 40B, as it is known, permits more densely packed housing on smaller parcels.

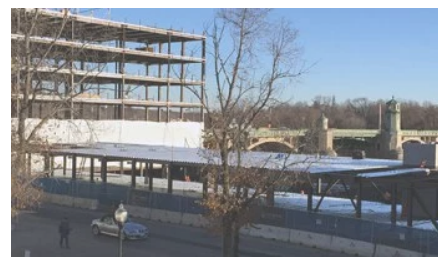
Related



Councilors Promote Drug Forum,
Affordable Housing
In "Haverhill"



Downtown Developer Buys
Former Winter St. School for Apts.
In "Haverhill"



56 Harbor Place Apartments
Designated Affordable For 51
Years
In "Exclusive"