

Ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for Pine Woods

STOCKBRIDGE — Construct Inc. will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the beginning of construction on Pine Woods, a 30-unit mixed-income rental housing project in the town of Stockbridge. The ceremony on Tuesday will begin at 11 a.m. at 3 West Stockbridge Road. The public is welcome to attend.

Work on the site is well under way, says Fred Bunger, president of Construct Inc., the project's sponsor.

The site has been prepared to make room for the new circular drive, and the first of several duplexes has been set on its foundation since the snow melted.

The project has been a Stockbridge community effort, beginning with the early planning and feasibility studies of the Stockbridge Affordable Housing Committee, with input from the Stockbridge Land Trust.

The town of Stockbridge granted a 40B comprehensive permit in July 2003. The late Joseph Wasserman conceptualized the development project, guided by a sensitivity to the environment, particularly to protecting the trees and the greenway into the town of Stockbridge.

The town's Community Preservation Act fund has granted pre-development funds to the project, and many private citizens from the town have made contri-

butions in support of it.

This community support, in turn, has helped to leverage an additional \$6 million for the housing project from such state and federal sources as HOME, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund at Mass. Housing, the tax-credit program, and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston through its member bank, Berkshire Bank.

Construction financing will be made available through Banknorth, with permanent financing through Berkshire Bank. Construct Inc. is still seeking an additional \$25,000 in private donations to meet the community contribution portion of the development budget.

Others working on the project include Tim Geller of the Tri Corner Community Development Corporation as project manager and development consultant with Berkshire Housing Development Corporation; Stephan Green of Clark and Green, Inc., architect; Linda Shafiroff of Creative Building Solutions and David Tierney III of David Tierney Jr. Inc. as general contractor.

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