



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Habitat Seeks New Land for Westminster Project

(Fitchburg, MA) Habitat for Humanity North Central Massachusetts recently learned that the land on Davis Rd which was donated to them by the Town of Westminster in 2008 presents problems in getting the necessary permits for a conventional septic system. A Local Partnership Committee has been working for over a year to raise funds and awareness to build this home which would be sold to a family using the traditional Habitat model of a 0% interest mortgage and an affordable housing deed restriction which will keep the house in the affordable market in perpetuity. Construction on the home was due to start this fall but in determining whether the land could sustain a duplex, the affiliate learned that local set-back for wetlands and abutters' wells make it impossible to place a septic system for even one home. At a June 1 meeting of the Westminster Board of Health discussion was held regarding the possibility of receiving a variance for the septic.

Habitat Executive Director Maggie Monroe-Cassel has announced that the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International still plans to build in Westminster. "We are working with the Town of Westminster to either continue to work with this land and find ways to make it work or to locate another piece of land so that we can go ahead with our plans." The affiliate raises all its own funds and selects the family for purchasing the home based on need, ability to pay and willingness to partner to help build the home with volunteers. Ms. Monroe-Cassel says that all funds raised to date in the Town of Westminster are restricted to use on the building of home in Westminster. They will be held until a project is completed in Westminster. The Family Selection Committee will proceed with a search to find a family to purchase the home in partnership with Habitat. Habitat's main mission is to eliminate poverty housing in the region so they are seeking a family currently living in substandard housing.

Questions about the future of the project may be directed to Maggie Monroe-Cassel, 978.348.2749 x 9206.

Habitat for Humanity North Central Massachusetts

Habitat for Humanity North Central Massachusetts is a non-profit, Christian ecumenical housing ministry that builds simple, decent houses with people in need. It is the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, serving 25 towns and cities in north central Massachusetts, including Acton, Ashburnham, Ashby, Ayer, Berlin, Bolton, Boxborough, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Groton, Harvard, Hudson, Lancaster, Littleton, Lunenburg, Leominster, Maynard, Pepperell, Princeton, Shirley, Sterling, Stow, Townsend, and Westminster.

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