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MHIC News

Ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrates completion of Water Mill Apartments in Leominster

Former box factory was converted into 40 units of
affordable rental housing

On Monday, December 10th, public officials, lenders, the project sponsor and members of the community gathered to celebrate completion of Water Mill Apartments, also known as the “Whitney Building.”

Marc Dohan, executive director of Twin Cities CDC, the project sponsor, said the process of redeveloping the former box factory was started five years ago, but construction did not begin until July 2011. He said that getting it done involved pulling together a patchwork of public and private funders and supporters.



Left to right: Roger Herzon, CEDAC; Denise Andrews, Staff to Rep. Dennis Rosa; MA State Representative Stephen DiNatale; MA State Senator Jennifer Flanagan; Congressman Jim McGovern; Twin Cities CDC Board Member Barbara Abraham; Congressman John Olver; Deborah Boatright, Director, Northeast Region NeighborWorks America; Undersecretary Aaron Gornstein, DHCD; Marc Dohan, Twin Cities CDC; Tom Gleason, MassHousing, Peter Sargent, MHIC; Tom McColgan, TD Bank; Dean Mazzarella, Mayor, City of Leominster; Jeanie Storrs, Twin Cities CDC; and Jasmin Loft, North Central Chamber of Commerce.

The former paper mill, originally constructed in 1893 and out of use since 1961, now includes one-, two-, three-, and four-bedroom units in addition to a management office, community space, a play area, and parking. 100% of the units will be affordable to households at or below 60% of the AMI. 8 units will be targeted to households at or below 30% of AMI.

Financing for the \$15 million project included a mix of private, federal and state sources. MHIC provided \$7.8 million in low-income housing tax credit financing. Financing also was provided by TD Bank, Avidia Bank, CEDAC, the state DHCD, the City of Leominster, MassDevelopment, MassHousing,

NeighborWorks America, the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the Home Investment Partnership Program, and HUD.

“This project cleaned up an extremely unsightly building, created high quality housing, and created 110 construction jobs, giving our local economy a boost,” said Mr., Dohan. He thanked the City of Leominster for infrastructure work, including new sidewalks and a new intersection.

Congressman John Olver and Congressman Jim McGovern were among those who attended the ribbon-cutting event. Congressman Olver, a staunch supporter of the project, commented on “the impact of this development and the startling transformation of the neighborhood.”

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Scroll down to see more pictures of Water Mill Apartments.



