

Champlain Housing Trust to Purchase Bel Aire Motel

Frequently Asked Questions

The Champlain Housing Trust is purchasing the Bel Aire Motel and converting the building to eight apartments. Funding for the purchase, renovations and operations will come from the UVM Medical Center, and tenants will be recent or former patients at the hospital who have experienced homelessness or do not have a safe home in which to recover from their hospital stay. These “Frequently Asked Questions” are meant to give you an overview of our plans but are certainly not meant to be an exhaustive description. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Amy Demetrowitz at the Champlain Housing Trust at 862-6244 or amyd@champlainhousingtrust.org.

What is the timeline for purchase and renovation?

CHT expects to close on the purchase mid-December and will be submitting an application for a permit soon to convert the motel into a multi-family residential building. Renovations should commence in January and be complete by April.

What will the renovation look like?

The existing foot print will not change, and there will be no additional buildings constructed. The vast majority of the renovation is interior. There will be some accessibility upgrades and kitchens added. The motel will be converted into eight apartments for twelve residents: six one-bedroom or efficiencies, one two-bedroom, and one four-bedroom.

Does CHT need a permit?

CHT will submit a permit application shortly and abutting neighbors will be notified. The property’s use is currently non-conforming to the City’s zoning bylaws. Converting to residential will bring the property into compliance.

Who will live there?

The twelve residents will be members of our community who may have been experiencing homelessness and who have medical vulnerabilities which could be exacerbated by not having a safe home or apartment. Some of the residents require medical respite care – meaning they no longer need to stay at the hospital, but are too frail to recover from their illness living on the streets, in a makeshift lodging, or in a tent. These apartments will help stabilize the tenants at a critical time to avoid further illness or medical complications.

Will there be services onsite?

The Community Health Centers of Burlington’s Homeless Healthcare Program will have an onsite, full-time social worker to provide case management services to the residents. Additional services from organizations such as the VNA or Meals on Wheels will serve the residents of the apartments.

What impact will this have on the neighborhood?

We believe it will have little to no impact on the surrounding neighbors. The current motel has guests coming and going frequently. There should be less vehicle traffic overall at the property. There likely will be an occasional ambulance service to the apartments.

Media inquiries should be directed to Chris Donnelly, Champlain Housing Trust, 861-7305