

CONSTRUCTION OF GAGARIN PLACE IS IMMINENT

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An illustration of one of the homes that will be built at the Litchfield Housing Trust's Gagarin Place.

The long-awaited start of Gagarin Place, an 8-unit affordable housing community on Torrington Road in Litchfield, is close at hand.

The Litchfield Housing Trust's project's groundbreaking is expected to take place this month, according to trust's executive director, Jill Groody Musselman. Construction on the 12-acre site will commence quickly and continue through winter, she said. Burlington Construction of Torrington is the construction manager.

"Everyone on our board of directors is very excited, because this project is almost 12 years in the making," Musselman said. "The board never gave up on the mission and worked hard to get to this point. Now we're looking forward to bringing some new people into town."

The project was delayed for several years due to lawsuit filed by a group of opposed to the development on the grounds that it could harm wetlands on the property and threaten drinking water supplies.

Gagarin Place is named after the late Andrew Gagarin, a Litchfield resident who established the Litchfield Housing Trust in the late 1980s. The eight units will give the trust 55 units of affordable housing in town.

The project is being funded by a \$2.2 million federal grant administered by the state Department of Housing, a \$1.75 million construction loan from Litchfield Bancorp, and a Small Town Economic Assistance Program grant of \$250,000 from the state.

Homes will be sold for between \$160,000 and \$210,000 to families meeting income criteria for affordable housing.

Applications for potential buyers are available through Musselman. She can be contacted at 860-480-9178 or jillgroodymusselman@gmail.com.

Below, floor plans for homes at Gagarin Place.

