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PRESS RELEASE

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State Approval Secured for New Nathaniel Witherell



Perkins Eastman

THE PROPOSED NATHANIEL WITHERELL

February 6, 2004 - First Selectman Jim Lash welcomed Town Officials, Legislators and Nathaniel Witherell representatives to his office yesterday to thank the team who helped win state approval for funding to rebuild the outdated town-owned nursing home. It was formally announced that the state Department of Social Services has granted a Certificate of Need that will allow the Town to move forward with the \$45 million project to make the new facility competitive with private nursing facilities.

Nathaniel Witherell Board Chairman Ed Kavounas, thanked other board members and town officials, legislators, architects and consultants who have been working for four years to win state approval. State Senator William Nickerson, R-Greenwich, and state Rep. Livvy Floren credited the board for their efforts on the crucial 900-page Certificate of Need application. The entire process cost the town more than \$1 million.

The new facility will offer 64 semiprivate and 62 private rooms with at total of 196 beds. The \$45 million dollar price tag will be funded by general obligation bonds. As part of the agreement, the state will contribute \$25 million over the next 30 years through Medicaid reimbursements. The home serves both Medicare and Medicaid patients.

The Board of Selectmen will create a building committee to oversee construction soon. Kavounas hopes that the RTM and BET will approve the project by spring. If so, construction may begin as soon as the summer of 2005 and be completed by the fall of 2007.

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