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By Dana Forsythe
watertown@wickedlocal.com
Posted Apr. 8, 2014 @ 6:09 pm

WATERTOWN

Plans for a Marriott hotel in Watertown are almost ready to be unveiled. Using the former Charles River Saab dealership lot in Watertown – a 1.5-acre site – developers BP Watertown Hotel LLC could begin construction on the new 148-room, six-story Marriott Residence Inn late this year or early in 2015.

Boylston Properties, alongside affiliate company BP Watertown Hotel LLC will be developing the site and seeking a Special Permit from the Town of Watertown over the next few months. According to a company release, the project could take approximately 14 months to complete, with an expected opening in the first quarter of 2016.

Watertown Director of Community Development & Planning Steve Magoon said, while they have not received any plans as yet, they are excited by the prospect of a hotel being located in town.

"We have received consistent feedback from the community that there is a need for a hotel here in Town, Magoon said in an email. "That was the case from the business community during the crafting of our Strategic Framework for Economic Development, and from residents in our discussions of the Comprehensive Plan."

This week, Boylston Properties announced an information session on April 24 on the proposed hotel and present the proposed project to the neighborhood, and to respond to comments and questions the community may have on the proposed hotel.

According to a release from Boylston Properties, attendees will be afforded the opportunity to comment on the specifics of the project, as presented. The information session will be held Thursday, April 24th at 7pm inside The Arsenal Project (in the interior hallway between Golf Town and Old Navy)."

According to initial plans, the hotel will have lots of amenities, including a pool, fitness center, meeting room for guests, and a top floor lounge/balcony with views of Boston. Among other features include a dining room for daily breakfast and evening socials, a small guest marketplace, guest laundry facilities, a business center, a bar with seating for hotel guests and visitors, and welcoming reception area.

Tom Onken, Marriott International's Senior Vice President of North America Lodging/Select Services Extended Stay Hotels commented on the location in Watertown.

"This is a fantastic site close to a lot of great amenities, and it's a market we've looked to be in for quite a while," he said. "We think we're bringing the right product, and it's perfect for

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Watertown."

Last year Boylston Properties developed and opened a Marriott Residence Inn on Brookline Avenue in the Fenway neighborhood, just a block from Fenway Park.

The architect is ADD Inc., in partnership with Group One Architects, who designed the Fenway Marriott hotel. Engineering and Landscape Design will be VHB, local to Watertown.

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