

Three modular homes being built in town

By Chris Reagle

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Marion -

Following a trend seen more readily in the southern and mid-western parts of the country, homeowners in town seem to be buying into modular housing as an option to traditional construction.

Citing cost and ease of construction, Marion Building Commissioner and Zoning Enforcement Officer Richard Marx said some people are opting for the road of least resistance when looking to build a new home.

“I think the advantage is you can get a fairly well built home at a reasonable price,” Marx said, “Beyond that modular homes have evolved from when they first started hitting the market in the 1970s. The old modular homes looked like a double wide trailer; that’s not true anymore,” Marx said. “I think they don’t look like mobile homes anymore. You can finish them, and they look quite nice.”



There are presently three modular homes under construction in Marion; another two have already been built, Marx said. For the time being, all of those houses seem to be on or along Converse Road, including one being built by Sean Sweeney, owner of the Needham-based home contractor Heritage Modular. Sweeney is building the home for his own family.

Sweeney purchased the 307 Converse Road property approximately nine months ago to make way for the new cottage where he and his wife, Lisa, and their three children will spend summers and vacations when not at their home in Needham.

The home was delivered to Massachusetts last week from the plant in Liverpool, Pa., and was set on its foundation beginning Monday, Feb. 11. Over the course of the next week, the roofing and siding will be completed. Rough plumbing and electric, installed at the factory, will be completed on site together with the HVAC and other custom finishes. In approximately eight to 10 weeks, the home will be ready for occupancy, according to Hallie Pinta, vice president of Heritage Modular.

The 2,100-foot home was built over three days at Excel Homes in Liverpool.

Sweeney said he choose Marion as a summer home after he “fell in love with Marion while visiting friends and family who live nearby,” Pinta said.

With three manufacturing plants, Excel Homes is one of the largest modular manufacturers in the country, Pinta maintains. Their Web site is www.excelhomes.com.

Sweeney is a general contractor who also runs Heritage Builders which stick builds custom homes and additions as well as doing high quality historic renovations. Sweeney started building modular homes approximately seven years ago to accommodate the demand for new homes in the area. While Sweeney continues to do traditional on-site construction, the modular homes have been extremely popular and led to the creation of Heritage Modular Inc., which has consistently been one of the top 10 Excel Homes builders, Pinta said.

Heritage Modular has designed and built many different styles of homes including a community of 22 cottages on Nantucket in 2006, and all variety of single-family homes from capes and colonials to contemporaries as well as townhomes and multifamily dwellings. For more information on Heritage Modular, go online to www.heritagemodular.com.



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