

Timeline

The first general contractor's estimate was \$600,000 in 2014, and the second was \$1 million after \$600,000 had been pledged. Now after more than \$2 million spent, the completion of the museum-visitor center is in sight. A many weeks delay in construction was a consequence of the decision to change the heating system from gas furnace to heat pump: sub-contractors who are able to design and build the system for a 6,000 sq. ft. building are few and very busy. Presently, the architect's engineers are checking the design and revising the building permit plans for the change to heat pump. When the general contractor returns from Florida in March, he will complete building fit-out and renovate the parking area as required in the Billerica Conservation Commission's Order of Conditions. With the required landscaping, a public riverside park will have been built. In short, the surprises that come with renovating a 150-year-old building and re-design of plans to accommodate improvements are in the past. Occupancy permit in 2024.