

Construction Project Advances

The Vineyard's New Museum Takes Shape

KATY FULLER, OPERATIONS director for the Martha's Vineyard Museum, drives back and forth almost every day between the Museum's Edgartown campus and the construction site for what will soon be its new home atop a beautiful promontory overlooking Lagoon Pond and Vineyard Haven Harbor. And she has a message for every person who has watched the Museum board and staff discuss, for years, the question of whether such a transformational move was possible:

"This is really happening. If you were waiting to see if we were really going to deliver, we're doing this now. We're still looking for support and for Islanders to get involved, but we've long promised to give the Island the first-class Museum it deserves, and that's exactly what we are doing."

At \$31 million, the transformation of the historic 1895 Marine Hospital building into the new home of the Museum is the largest single nonprofit construction project in Island history except for one, the new hospital completed in 2005.

Says Jason Maurer, project manager for the general contractors,

Consigli Construction: "When I take a step back and look at the Museum organization, this is such a game-changer for them. From where you were to where you will be, this is a pivotal point in the evolution of the Museum."

Maurer and his crews have been at the building site full-time since October, on a multifaceted project that involves elements of both historic restoration and new construction. "The job really started," he says, "with opening the building up and finding out what our issues were in terms of structural repair." Fixing the structural rot they found took carpenters a couple of months, but



Drone shot by Denys Wortman shows progress on the new Museum project in late April.

by December they'd turned their attention to getting the building weather-tight. "Pouring concrete for foundations started in January and continued through March – which isn't the greatest timing, but that's when it needed to happen. But we work through winter all the time, and this project is still on schedule."

While foundations were going in, the focus upstairs in February and March was on plumbing, electrical and mechanical work. In April, the contractors scheduled inspections for everything inside the walls; now and in the months ahead, interior finishing is under

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