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Brooks Academy Museum Commission  
Report to Harwich Community Preservation Committee  
September 13, 2018

Elmer Crowell Barn – Final Report  
Article #65 – 2014  
Article #30 – 2008

Reconstruction of the Elmer Crowell Barn is now complete. All CPC funds have been spent, and the project was completed within the available budget. Many of the original barn materials were salvaged and used in the construction. The builder supplemented these with other historic building materials. The barn is now seasonally open to the public on a weekly basis, and several special events are scheduled each year.

In June of this year the Town of Harwich hired Bertaux and Iwerks, an architectural firm from Boston, to perform “Architectural Services for the Design of Improvements at Brooks Academy Museum”, the subject of Article #65 from 2014 ATM. This architectural firm has considerable experience with museum design in Massachusetts. The firm also has a current project evaluating facilities at the Woods Hole Ferry Terminal.

The Architect held a kick-off meeting in July with members of the Brooks Academy Museum Commission and the Harwich Historical Society. The meeting focused on the needs of the museum, both from building construction and operational viewpoints. At a second meeting in August, the Architect presented initial concept drawings for museum restoration and improvement. Three of the central components of the design were (1) relocation of the museum entrance to its historic site under the columns on the north side of the building, (2) installation of a Low Capacity Elevator (LULA) to provide accessibility to the basement, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors and (3) basement excavation and redesign to provide storage space, including climate-controlled areas, to meet the museum’s growing needs for document and artifact storage.

The Architect also has had meetings with the Harwich Building Maintenance Supervisor to review work that may be necessary to maintain the historic integrity of the building.

The current study should be complete this fall. It will provide a master design for the use of and improvements to the Brooks Academy Museum. We likely will then request CPC funding for construction drawings that will allow work to go out to bid. Depending on the cost of the project, we may seek outside historical grants to supplement any funding requests to Harwich CPC.

All of BAMC’s efforts this year on the above 3 articles have been related to the study funded by Article #65 from 2014. Some of the findings from this study may relate to Article #30 from 2008, but we have nothing further to report on the latter article at this time.