



**-APPROVED-**

**Thomas Darling House Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 4 pm via WebEx**

**Meeting Video:**

<https://woodbridgect.webex.com/recording/service/sites/woodbridgect/recording/play/651f44a6222641ba897a8f592f731175>

**Video Password:** EqseJU2K

**Present - Committee Members:** Richard Blackwell-Chairman, Donald Menzies, Leland Torrence, Chris Sorensen (joined meeting at approximately 4:20 pm)

**BOS Liaison:** Sandra Stein

**Preservation Architect:** Richard (Rick) Wies

1. Meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm.
2. **August 5 Meeting Minutes:** Richard Blackwell motioned to approve minutes with an amendment to Agenda Item 6a as recommend by Donald Menzies; Leland Torrence seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item 6a Amendment (added as final sentence to this section):**

Donald Menzies brought up the point that repairs to the existing alarm system is under the purview of the Amity Woodbridge Historical Society as per the agreement with the Town of Woodbridge.

**Vote: Yes** - Richard Blackwell, Donald Menzies, Leland Torrence, Chris Sorensen

**August 13 Meeting Minutes:** Richard Blackwell motioned to approve; Leland Torrence seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Vote: Yes** - Richard Blackwell, Donald Menzies, Leland Torrence, Chris Sorensen

3. **House Inspection and Security System Update:**

Discussion relating to the fire suppression system took place. Don Menzies noted the fire suppression project will be covered through a grant awarded to the AWHS. Todd Levine (State Historic Preservations Office) recommended the system for use at the Thomas Darling House.

Regarding the house inspection, it was reported that a few outstanding items remain. If not done so already, Building Official Andy Rizzo will be requested to provide a list of these items to the AWHS. Don Menzies mentioned that the AWHS has been working with Elizabeth Acly, PE.

4. **Review Draft of Thomas Darling House Project List from August 13 Site Visit:**

Projects were identified into categories: Urgent Projects, Volunteer Projects, Low Priority Projects and Ongoing Projects. Discussion focus predominantly on the urgent and volunteer projects with several action items identified.

**Urgent Projects:**

**Cow Barn -**

The Committee would like to worked toward having the Lucy Street School House removed from the barn by the end of September and if feasible, a structural evaluation by the end of October.

Publicizing the removal of the school house (incomplete structure) via the Town's newsletter, resident email blasts, and website was discussed. Publicizing this project would be the means to make the community aware of the removal of the school in the event there was interest in the structure prior to its disposal. Using the September Newsletter to publicize may not be feasible given production deadlines and the timing of the letter expected from the AWHS Board to the BOS. An update will be provided.

The structural review of the barn via grant funds was discussed. Sandy Stein will reach out to both Mary Dean (AWHS) and Todd Levine (State Historic Preservations Office) to identify grants that may be in the works and those that may be available.

**Lead Safe Grounds -**

Rick Wies will coordinate an on-site review of the Thomas Darling House property, barns and outbuildings by three environmental firms for hazardous material testing. The project scope will be defined as a result of this step. It is expected that there would not be a charge for the initial on-site review. Once test results are available, any necessary abatement would be addressed by separate businesses.

### **Remove Rotting Trees and Limbs -**

It was noted that rotting limbs and trees that might fall on the Thomas Darling House, barns and outbuilding should be removed. Chris Sorensen will identify the scope of this project.

### **Volunteer Projects**

Five Volunteer Projects were identified: replacing rotted planks (on the chicken coop); paint picket fence, roof replacement (chicken coop, pig barn & privy), remove weeds and overgrowth, and garden plantings.

To help with these projects, Don Menzies will reach out to potential volunteers including local Boy Scout troops and the Garden Club. Also, the business used to roof the Thomas Darling House will be contacted; at the time of the house was roofed, the business mentioned a willingness to donate roofing materials as well as professional roofers to work with volunteers.

### **Low Priority and Ongoing Projects -**

Three Low Priority Projects were identified: barrel repair, restoring the heritage rose garden, and Ice Barn. (Ongoing Projects were not reviewed.)

Don Menzies noted that the barrel is owned by the AWHS and they would handle the repair. Additionally, he mentioned that the contents within the Ice Barn are owned by the AWHS.

5. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 1 at 4 pm via WebEx.
6. The meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted: *Toni Belenski*