



-APPROVED-
Thomas Darling House Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 4 pm via WebEx

Meeting Video:

<https://woodbridgect.webex.com/recording/service/sites/woodbridgect/recording/play/b96bb0ff7d3c4fdf97845640f93f062c>

Video Password: 8MfpvgM4

Present - Committee Members: Richard Blackwell-Chairman, Donald Menzies, Leland Torrence

BOS Liaison: Sandra Stein

Preservation Architect: Richard (Rick) Wies

First Selectman Beth Heller

1. Meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm.
2. **August 20 Meeting Minutes:** Richard Blackwell motioned to approve minutes; Donald Menzies seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
Vote: Yes - Richard Blackwell, Donald Menzies, Leland Torrence
3. **Cow Barn - School House Removal and Disposal Update:** The Amity Woodbridge Historical Society (AWHS) Board of Directors provided a letter to First Selectman Beth Heller with approval to remove and dispose of the incomplete school house structure stored in the Cow Barn. The availability of the school house will be publicized in an effort to identify any parties interested in the incomplete structure. First Selectman Heller noted the project was publicized in her Woodbridge Town News column which should be "out" this upcoming Friday. It was suggested that the Town's Newsletter and email blast publicize the school house availability as well.

Don Menzies noted that all contents in the Cow Barn (other than the school house) belong to the AWHS.

Motion: Leland Torrence motioned to recommend to the BOS to have Chris Sorensen, through his insured company under proper guidance by Tony Genovese, remove the school house from the Cow Barn for storage in an on-site rented metal container starting November 1 and if no takers for the school house

by March 15, the structure would then be disposed. Donated funds would be used to rent the storage container. Richard Blackwell seconded. Motion passed.

Vote: Yes - Richard Blackwell, Leland Torrence; **Abstain** - Donald Menzies

- Hazardous Materials Update:** Discussion took place regarding the necessity for hazardous material (lead) testing. A few key reasons were identified: to ensure safety when the AWHs resumes educational activities involving children, a soil analysis would be needed prior to an archeological study of the grounds; a current analysis would identify risk and serve as a guideline for future restoration work. The initial assessment phase was roughly estimated to be in the area of about \$3000. Based on the assessment a remediation plan could be developed.

Motion: Leland Torrence motioned to recommend to the BOS to have the Town initiate a RFP to conduct hazardous waste (lead) assessment by three different environmental firms identified by the Committee; Richard Blackwell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Yes - Richard Blackwell, Leland Torrence, Donald Menzies

Following the vote, Richard Wies mentioned that the Survey and Planning Grant (related to the Cow Barn) may cover hazardous materials testing and thought the AWHs may want to determine if this assessment could be a part of the grant. Don Menzies would bring the information forward to the AWHs.

- Landscaping and Outbuildings Clean-Up Update:** Discussion took place as how best to proceed with these projects with funds that will be donated for these projects. To move forward, the removal of the rotting trees and limbs (Project List-Urgent Project #3, p1) will be addressed separately from projects for landscaping and clean-up of outbuildings (Project List-Volunteer Projects 4 & 5, p2).

Motion: Leland Torrence motioned to recommend to the BOS to have Chris Sorensen remove rotting trees and limbs that present a safety hazard to individuals and property buildings using donated funds; Richard Blackwell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Yes - Richard Blackwell, Leland Torrence, Donald Menzies

Don Menzies noted that the AWHs Grounds Committee has a plan to clear overgrowth and weeds throughout the property grounds noting it is their legal responsibility. First Selectman Heller requested that the landscaping and outbuilding clean-up plan in place by the AWHs be shared with the Committee and inquired about project completion timeframes.

Motion: Dick Blackwell motioned to recommend to the BOS that under the supervision of the AWHS to address weed/overgrowth projects as identified in the Project List (Volunteer Projects #5, p. 2):

Remove Weeds and Overgrowth (project funds to be donated; targeted completion date is Oct.1)

- picket fence outside original front door of house
- 18 inches from the foundation of the house, outbuildings & barns
- stone wall along east side of Litchfield Tpke. (leave Maple Tree)
- vines from Cow Barn
- overgrowth by apartment
- overgrowth throughout Heritage Rose Garden
- prune lilac tree

Leland Torrence seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Vote: Yes - Richard Blackwell, Leland Torrence; **Abstain** - Donald Menzies

6. **Volunteer Projects Update (boy scouts, Garden Club, roofer):** There was discussion involving volunteer reach out and the manner by which Eagle projects were initiated in the past.

Motion: Leland Torrence motioned to recommend to the BOS that a list of projects appropriate for Boy Scout Eagle Projects be prepared by the AWHS; Richard Blackwell seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Yes - Richard Blackwell, Leland Torrence, Donald Menzies

Under the supervision of the AWHS, Dick Blackwell volunteered himself and family members to paint the picket fence located on the property. Don Menzies will communicate his offer to the AWHS.

7. **Ongoing Project Review:** As Leland Torrence had to leave the meeting, the topic of how best to handle ongoing maintenance (Project List-Ongoing Projects, p. 3) was tabled to next meeting as there was not a quorum.

8. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting was proposed for Tuesday September 15 at 4:30 pm. Availability of Committee Members will be confirmed.

9. The meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted: *Toni Belenski*