



-APPROVED-
Thomas Darling House Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 4:30 pm via WebEx

Meeting Video (Due to technical issue, the first few minutes of the meeting was not recorded):

<https://woodbridgect.webex.com/woodbridgect/lsr.php?RCID=0f93ae442a9e4d4e9cad23bc64acf9f4>

Present - Committee Members: Richard Blackwell-Chairman, Stephanie Ciarleglio, Leland Torrence, Donald Menzies (joined approximately 4:32 pm), Chris Sorensen (joined approximately 4:35pm)

BOS Liaison: Sandra Stein

Preservation Architect: Richard Wies

State Historic Preservation Office: Todd Levine

First Selectman: Beth Heller

1. Meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.
2. **September 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes:** Dick Blackwell motioned to approve minutes; Stephanie Ciarleglio seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
Vote: Yes - Richard Blackwell, Stephanie Ciarleglio, Donald Menzies,
Abstain: Leland Torrence
3. **Grounds Update/Timeframes:** Chris Sorensen reported that Town staff and AWHs staff met on September 22, 2020 to identify the scope of work needed at the TDH property relating to rotting tree removal, limb removal and landscaping. Based on the agreed to scope of the project, Chris Sorensen advised that he is prepared to move forward following BOS approval. He expects to complete the project by the end of the month, weather permitting. Dick Blackwell noted that he made the \$3000 donation to cover the expense associated with this work.
4. **Schoolhouse Removal & Disposal from Cow Barn Update / Interested Parties / Timeframes:** It was noted that there has been five parties interested in the old schoolhouse, three of which are not interested in moving forward and the outcome of two appointments remain pending. Sandy Stein advised there will be flexibility with the

November 1 date to remove the schoolhouse if serious interest is expressed. It was noted the cost to remove the schoolhouse would be the responsibility of the party taking the schoolhouse. While the schoolhouse has not been tested for hazardous materials, it was noted that there is a plan in place. Todd Levine will share with Dick Blackwell the contact name at the Preservation of CT as a possibility to publicize the schoolhouse availability in the bi-monthly magazine.

5. **Proactive Volunteerism:** The process for volunteering was discussed along with how to promote volunteer opportunities at the Thomas Darling House site. Don Menzies noted that the AWHHS website has a specific application and screening process to help the public determine where they might fit in. It was noted that mentoring and training are a part of the process and that some projects require a professional rather than a volunteer.

Regarding the picket fence project that Dick Blackwell and family volunteered to complete, it was noted that a professional would be needed to replace the rotted wood as a first step. Dick offered to donate funds for a professional to handle this task and Don Menzies will attempt to help identify an appropriate professional.

Todd Levine noted that when dealing with historical fabric, the federal guideline is to retain and repair, or replace in kind if it is not possible to retain and repair.

6. **Perspective:** Todd Levin noted that it is a great opportunity for the TDH Advisory Committee and the AWHHS to work together. He mentioned that the State is a great resource with funds available to help the municipality and the non-profit with preservations projects. Todd suggested a formal written process be established to move projects forward. Rick Wies volunteered to reach out to Alexia Belperron from the AWHHS to define a process that would work going forward.

Don Menzies updated the group that the Survey and Planning Grant would be submitted within the next few days. Don was not aware of all other grants that are in the works or being pursued by the AWHHS as he is not a part of the Grant Writing Committee. Regarding grants as well as funding sources, it was suggested that the Committee and the AWHHS may be able to identify new opportunities by working together. It was suggested that Alexia Belperron be contacted to determine the possibility of sharing grants being pursued by the AWHHS as well as AWHHS funding sources for the last five years. Todd noted that going overboard with sharing information would benefit the working relationship.

Don Menzies suggested that New Business be added to the meeting agendas. Before doing so it was suggested that the Town attorney be contacted to ensure this addition is not in conflict with FOI guidelines.

7. Meeting adjourned at 5:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted: *Toni Belenski*