



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

SANDY HOOK PERMANENT MEMORIAL
MINUTES- SPECIAL MEETING
NHS- Lecture Hall
12 Berkshire Road-Newtown
4:30-6:30

In Attendance: Commissioners Bacon, Brunetti, Burns, Engel, Krauss, Kyprianou, Lewis
Chairman Lyddy, Vice Chairman Martin, Pinto and VanWaalwijk
Staff: Lynn Kovack and Moderator Fran Penarola

Meeting was called to order at 4:38PM

Chairman Lyddy opened meeting with having Commissioners introduce themselves. He told them this is the first of two meetings we have scheduled with the Staff of SHS. The next one will be next Monday November 3, 2014 at 4:30 at Newtown High School in the Lecture Hall.

Commissioner Lyddy and Krauss went through a series of slides. They explained our Mission Statement. The process of meetings and timelines and what the BOS expects of the Commission. Comm. Krauss explained the Commission was formed approximately 1 ½ years ago with 12 members and a Secretary. We are here to make a recommendation to B.O.S., conduct public meetings and hearings for community input. Solicit input and meaningfully engage with the families, SHS parents and Staff. The first 4 or 5 Months the Commission came up with the Mission Statement.

Ways of contacting the Commission are as follows:

www.sandyhookpermanentmemorial.com
sandyhookpermanentmemorial@gmail.com
[facebook.com/sandyhookpermanentmemorial](https://www.facebook.com/sandyhookpermanentmemorial)

Fran Penarola went through the rules and how the meeting will work and he will answer any questions if needed.

Kyle explained the timelines for each group to get back to us. These timelines can be extended. They were just put in place to keep the Commission moving along in the process. Kyle stated out of approximately 75-80 emails sent to the SHS staff approximately 30 were returned. Comm will put together a consensus of answers to keep track of particular wants if any. We do not have a manual to go by and have met with other Memorial Commissions to help us get started.

Comm Pinto explained how the families have a wide range of ideas. Some families want a memorial and others do not. Some still not ready to talk. Comm Pinto thinks as time goes on and if families see a memorial will be built (if decided) they may want to talk. Consensus is very abstract right now.

Comm Brunetti explained the process is like a relationship. We need to build trust and gather information. Communicate and help give people what they want.

Attendees commented on how well the Survey was put together. They stated the survey is getting people speaking. Some locations they discussed were FFH with a children's museum, Carousel at Dickenson Park, something very subtle at the school. Several of the attendees mentioned the Rock of Angels that is behind St. Johns Church on Washington Avenue. They stated they like to go there because it is very peaceful, quiet and secluded. They thought it would be nice to incorporate the Rock of Angels into the Memorial if one is decided on. They would like to see lights so it is never dark. Would like to see water included. Research shows that water is known to reduce stress and be very peaceful. FFH was mentioned as a location. Comm Martin explained there are limitless sites. FFH, Newtown Forest Association, private properties, etc. But we need to know what if any memorial will be built and the design to know what amount of property will be needed. Hard to state a location when you don't know what it is. Still in the gathering stages.

Comm Engel asked if there was something special they want done at the school. Things mentioned were a duck pond, butterfly garden, 26 trees, etc. Would be nice to see in one of the new courtyards and not labeled. Don't want to be a tourist attraction.

Comm Lyddy explained the final decision will be made by the 12 Commissioners. They will bring and present to the BOS if and when decided on.

Adjourned at 5:36PM

Submitted by Lynn Kovack and subject to approval of the Commission