



**TOWN OF NEWTOWN**  
**SANDY HOOK PERMANENT MEMORIAL**  
**MINUTES-SPECIAL MEETING**

NHS- Lecture Hall  
November 12, 2014  
12 Berkshire Road- Newtown  
7:00 – 9:00 PM

**In Attendance: Commissioners Bacon, Brunetti, Engel, Krauss Chairman Lyddy and Pinto**  
**Staff: Lynn Kovack**

Meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM

Chairman Lyddy went through the Charge that was presented from the Board of Selectman and how the Commission was chosen. Once the nature, location and funding if chosen it will be presented to the Board of Selectman. We are still in the gathering phases only. We are archiving all ideas for now until decisions are made. There is not a handbook for this process so there is no timeline on the completion of the process. The Commission has been meeting for approximately the last 13 Months. We have our regularly Monthly meetings on the Second Thursday of the Month at the Municipal Center at 7:30PM. Monthly meetings have been attended by more people each Month with our progress.

We are here to solicit ideas for consideration. We will work with Town departments in determining available/appropriate locations. Conduct inquiries as needed. Conduct public meetings with each group (EMS , State Police, Newtown Police,etc ). Commission has spoken to several commissions like 9/11, Virginia Tech and Columbine. They told us what they did and didn't do and what worked and didn't work for them. We are being careful on how all this is playing out. We are in steady contact with approximately 17 families at this point. We have met with a few of them on the specifics and we make it a point to update them monthly on where we are at. We can't endorse anything at this point. Out of the 600 Surveys sent out to Parents of Students on 12/14 we have received about 190 back. Out of the 85 sent out to staff we have received about 35 and we received about 40 from the other first responders it was sent out to. Many of the responses have been very creative and insightful and we will be combining all ideas from the survey in the next Month or so.

Locations like Fairfield Hills and Sandy Hook Center have been ideas for the Memorial. Some would not mind Fairfield Hills but would like in a private area and not something you have to drive by and see every day. A Gentleman liked the way he felt when he is down by the Sandy Hook Center Water and Fairfield Hills can feel like a fish bowl. We have heard many ideas for the nature of the memorial like fountains, water, trees, etc. There have been many mentions of benches, trees and abstract. A gentleman thought a bench would be nice to sit and pray, contemplate, etc. Would like something he can bring his children to is they wanted to go. He did not want to see a MerrygoRound or a rock wall which a few have suggested. They would want to invoke positive thoughts and good memories and to be left with something to spark their memories in their own way. Commissioner Engel mentioned the school sign saying a child may say "Hey I remember that" and maybe feel and attachment and familiar with the situation. Want you to walk out feeling hopeful. Mrs. Mattioli stated when she thinks of James' playground she thinks happy when she sees the kids playing. She doesn't expect the memorial to be fun. She would like to feel Hope, resilience, soothing and relaxed. There is no specific yes or no as to the date of 12/14 or the number 26 being present on the memorial. No comments on the process of the design. One family stated they would want the most top notch person in the world to construct it. Another was a 6<sup>th</sup> grader Ben who did a presentation in last month's monthly meeting of his rendition of the memorial in his eyes of which we wanted to see. It was a fabulous presentation. The families decision is the most important decision in the process.

Our Mission Statement is as follows:

The Mission of the Permanent Memorial Commission is to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectman for a Permanent Memorial that remembers, honors and celebrates those 26 who died as a result of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting and serves to provide comfort to those who loved and were touched by them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.