



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission

Minutes

November 13, 2014 @ 7:30 PM
Municipal Center – Council Chambers
3 Primrose Street, Newtown

In Attendance: Commissioners Bacon, Brunetti, Engel, Krauss, Chairman Lyddy,
Vice Chairman Martin, Middleler, Pavlidou Kyprianou, Pinto and VanWaalwijk
Staff: Lynn Kovack

Called to Order at 7:37PM

Approval of Minutes- October 9, 2014 Approved Martin(Motion to Accept) Brunetti (Accept)
Lyddy (2nd) all approved

Public Participation: No public participation

Presentation by Richmond Jones (Author of proposal for Memorial Park)

Mr. Jones lives in Southbury and grew up in Newtown. He graduated NHS and his Mother taught in the Newtown School system including SHES. He is a photographer, political cartoonist and has done a piece for the 9/11 memorial. He thought of what he could do that would be appropriate with a positive message. His park was inspired by Stonehenge (Something that can remain way beyond history). His park is designed to be seen by air. Its circle the piece sign will be within is approximately 3 kilometers. Can be used as a running track. He originally conceived it would be at SHES but knows that is not realistic. It could possibly become a centerpiece for a much larger campus and envisions an educational area. Wants to find attractive land and fill it with a living memorial people can enjoy. Possible buildings that can come along are a children's museum, an amphitheater, educational building, etc. Kyle asked about a secondary location since SHES is not an option. Mr. Jones stated he hadn't thought of any other location but has seen during previous meetings that there are many options of space were available. He said the park represents a good place to walk, think and remember. He has trees and towers incorporated into his design. No idea of the cost. States the site has a lot to do with it (Master Plan, concept). He would like to create an educational campus that would be very abstract. Thanked Commission for hearing his presentation.

Presentation by David Merrill

His thought for his presentation began at Howard Lashers last year in January. (Howard Lasher is man who lives on Route 302 with flag painted on trees in his yard since 9/11). His presentation is a mural with an oak tree which represents resiliency and a symbol of strength. It would have 26 doves on it (each family can choose to put name on dove or not). The trunk will read Sandy Hook Elementary School with the Date of 12-14-12 on it. It can be on a wall at ETH, the Municipal Center or anywhere the Commission would like it to go along with the 26 families. Just wants it to be simple and to the point. Will be done in acrylic paint which lasts

longer indoors. The flags painted on the Lasher property still looks good but has to be touched up every 5 years. So indoors may be a better choice. Thanked Commission for hearing his presentation.

Consolidated Responses/Results on Phase I & Phase II outreach.

26 Families and First Responders (CT State Police, SHFD, Newtown Police and EMS)

Kyle has sent 2 or 3 reminders regarding the Survey deadlines. He has sent out approximately 608 total emails. The 26 families are an ongoing process and get Monthly updates and can contribute ideas to the Commission at any time. First Responders has until October 31st to respond. Survey responses are as follows: 4 from Ct State Police, 9 responses from SHFD, 5 from Newtown Police and 0 from EMS. Kyle went through Sandy Hook parents and staff survey results to date. Consensus from both groups were that there should be a Memorial. Some responses from the Survey results were as follows: Both groups agree it should be a physical place (staff 96.5% & parents 86.5%) 75.9% of staff and 72% of parents thought an outdoor Memorial is more suited than indoors. Both groups like the idea of a secluded location. The staff and parents have until the end of December to submit their survey before final combined numbers are available. Sub Committee will be Commissioners Krauss, VanWaalwijk, Brunetti, Middleleer and Pavlidou Kyprianou will sift through trends to see if and what sticks out.

Discussions on Community at large outreach

Set dates for Community discussions and Survey

Kyle will research dates in January for the NHS Lecture Hall for Commission at large Open Forums. We Will set a couple of dates to start for scheduling purposes. Based on Number of participants we can determine if we need to schedule additional meetings. We will advertise on our website, the Patch, The Newtown Bee, News Times, Social media, etc to get the word out. Sandy Hook Foundation did a forum recently and we will reach out to their contact person Jennifer at the foundation to see how advertising was done for their forum.

For the Community at Large: Commission has decided to incorporate a Communication Plan for Vote:

Instead of the digital survey, only open Forums will be done to gather information and take part if they want to. Commissioner Martin made motion to accept with Pavlidou (Accept) and Krauss (2nd) all approved

At these meetings we will have people state their Name and Address for the Commission. If a survey is requested at the forum one will be given to them to complete and send back.

Discussion on Nature & Design of a Memorial

Sub Committee/Process

Sub Committee to begin next step after gathering consensus in January. Description on scope of project will depend on responses. Need to take all results and consolidate to 1 list of ideas. Seems difficult to move along without a site being picked out and others agree a design needs to be done before a site is picked out. After lots of discussion this topic will be put back on the Agenda in January to continue discussion. We have to develop a program with the general ideas of people to bring back to the families to help with decision. Just seems early to choose a location at this point.

Items Contributed to the Town- Public presentation of items

First Selectman Llodra stated these are items that want to be presented to the Town. First Selectman Llodra asked Kyle to check with the Commission on whether to accept or not. Commission decided these items should be archived with everything else that has come in until decisions are made.

Miscellaneous

Kyle discussed with Commission open space at SHES. No current Memorial is set for the School. Kyle asked as it may ultimately be left up to Commission and 26 families if one is done. Commission may be willing to take on as Secondary to the current process. Voice should singularly be the families decision. Commission will think about it and discuss at the next Monthly meeting. A timeline on deciding if a Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial should be done has been asked. We will let process work through and will discuss with the families before the Community on whether a decision is make. We are following the process we were asked to do.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM

Submitted by Lynn Kovack and subject to approval by the SHPM Commission