

Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission  
Minutes  
January 8, 2015 @ 7:30PM  
3 Main Street, Newtown

In Attendance: Joann Bacon, Steffan Burns, Brian Engel, Agni Pavlidou Kyprianou,  
Scarlett Lewis, Kyle Lyddy Chairman, Alan Martin Vice Chairman, Tricia Pinto and Donna VanWaalwijk  
Staff: Lynn Kovack  
Guest: Pat Llodra

**Approval of Minutes:**

October 27, 2014 Approved Martin(M) Engel (S) all in favor  
October 30, 2014 Special Meeting Approved Martin (M) VanWaalwijk (S) all in favor  
November 12, 2014 Approved Martin (M) VanWaalwijk (S) all in favor  
November 13, 2014 Approved Martin (M) Van Waalwijk (S) all in favor  
November 3, 2014 Special Meeting Approved Martin (M) VanWaalwijk (S) all in favor

**Public Participation-** No Public Participation

Presentation by Reed Bryant- Reed Bryant presentation put on hold until February meeting at Municipal Center to accommodate presentation needs.

**Consolidated Responses/Results on Phase I & Phase II Outreach**

Kyle went through the trends from the SHS Staff & SHS Parents questionnaires that were compiled recently. Approx 90 % of people want to see a Memorial. Approx 70% want it to be an outdoor Memorial. Attached is a copy of the Phase I & Phase II results. Kyle also pointed out trends from the 26 families and Emergency services responses. Running water was another big trend. Fairfield Hills, Scholarships were other trends noted. Kyle then went through Important themes/comments that have stuck out through meeting minutes, notes he has taken during meetings. He went through timelines again with the group. Joanne Bacon asked if the trends had been prioritized and Kyle said no. So he will prioritize these trends for the next meeting for review. What people want is starting to become clear and the commission is right on target. Commission will provide a link of the trends/status to families so we can stay engaged with them. This way they can look when they wish to.

**Discussion on Community at Large Outreach Format**

**Dates and Venue are set, Press release distributed:**

January 20, 2015 at 7:00PM and January 29, 2015 at 7:00PM at the NHS Lecture Hall. We will be having Fran Pennarola present as Mediator. Press releases went out to Newtown Bee, Hartford Courant, Newtown Patch, CT Post, Social Media and the SHPMC website.

**Discussion of Design/Nature considerations**

Commission discussed the design and location stage. Have looked at places in SHS but are not too many. Sub Committee has been looking all over Newtown/Sandy Hook with the help of the Zoning Dept and Rob Sibley. Sandy Hook is a large trend so Sub Committee will meet and get back out there in Sandy Hook and look at other options out there. Need to set up a design sub-committee to get started. This group will work on whether we want local or outside community talent and other tasks at hand. We need to understand peoples thoughts to move forward. We need to continue on Location, Location, Location to move on to the design aspect of the Memorial.

**Discussion of next steps: Re-engaging 26 families**

**Location Vs. Nature Priority (discussed above)**

Kyle and Tricia will be sending out a note reengaging families and let them know where we are at this point in the process. Will let them know the data collected is available for them to review and invite them to a meeting to go

over and answer any questions they may have for us. After looking over and reviewing the trends they may be ready to engage with us and have opinions after reading them. They can meet privately also if they do not want to attend a monthly meeting.

### **Items Contributed to the Town: 26 benches/Sam Mihailoff**

Sam has raised the money and produced the benches under the “WE ARE NEWTOWN” umbrella. They are in a safe storage location at this time under Sam’s supervision. The town had offered a location to host the benches. Sam had inquired if the Commission was interested in the benches. In previous conversations, Kyle had explained that the Commission wouldn’t be able to accept the benches at this time for the simple fact that the Commission is unsure of what and where this memorial would be. Kyle did probe the question to the Commission to understand thoughts regarding the topic of accepting the 26 benches as a contribution to the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial. Pat Llodra, in attendance at the meeting, suggested we wait to hear from the families first as the benches are engraved with names of the 26 lives lost on 12/14/12. Sam has provided a photo of the benches and Kyle will send a picture to the family members to make them aware that the benches exist.

It was discussed in the meeting about the process that Parks and Rec approached the Commission about regarding benches they had contributed to the town. The participation was strong from families. Sam is still actively searching for a location. It was discussed that if a location was found beyond the contribution to the Commission that Sam would allow the Commission to let families know where the benches are going to be placed. Through surveys and forums it has been a theme that different groups in the community do not want to have memorials spread throughout the entire community. The Commission will forward the image to the 26 families in its monthly correspondence to assure they are fully aware of the contribution. Mentioned over and over in the meeting by Commission members was that it is premature to say now that the Commission could accept this contribution until a Memorial is decided on. It is important to honor Sam’s intention and masterful outreach. Pat suggested asking Sam to keep them stored and if a decision is made on a location to please check with the Commission and families first about it. The town can store the benches should Sam’s current location become an issue.

Misc:

Q & A: Kyle discussed doing another Q & A. First Selectman Pat Llodra thought this was a good idea. She also stated for the Commission to keep up its confidence. She sees a solid and loyal group here. She stated to continue to keep outreaching to the public. She also stated it is not possible to honor everyone’s perspective so continue to have the courage to follow our process. She stated over 200 Q & A’S were put out at Town Hall and all went and there is a lot of traffic here. So Kyle will get more for us to put out.

Kyle will clarify with Pat Llodra and Dr. Erardi regarding the Memorial/Sacred area at the new Sandy Hook School as to who will be making the decision on that area. The Town asked the Commission to do it but there is some confusion so Kyle will confirm and will be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:08  
Kindly submitted by Lynn Kovack

These minutes are subject to approval by the Commission