



**SHPMC Open Forum – The Greater Newtown Community Minutes
Newtown High School Lecture Hall
January 29, 2015 at 7:00**

In Attendance: Joann Bacon, Steffan Burns, Brian Engel, Daniel Krauss, Chairman Kyle Lyddy,
Vice Chairman Alan Martin, Tricia Pinto and Donna VanWaalwijk
Staff: Lynn Kovack

Kyle opened Forum going over the Commission's process and where they are at this point. He explained there is no timeline to work off of. We need to understand the best process for Newtown and the 26 Families. We need to get this right. We have been getting great insight with the small groups. Kyle went through our phases:

Phase I: 26 Families

Phase II: Staff employed on 12/14/12, Parents of students enrolled on 12/14/12 and EMS (NPD, State Police, EMS and SHFD)

Phase III: The Greater Newtown Community

Phase IV: 26 Families

Kyle stated we have trends that are starting to show at this point:

92.5% of people think there should be a memorial

People would like a physical environment, not something that honors the event, but honors the people.

People want a destination, not something you have to drive by everyday

Running water or fountain

Make sure it is a year round memorial as it will be visited in the winter months

These are just some of the trends coming out after the survey and open Forums that have been held to date.

Bob Gaines of Sandy Hook asked if 92.5% of people want a memorial why hesitate? Kyle explained we want to make sure all phases are complete before deciding. We need to make sure all people have been heard from. He also stated that no matter what, all won't be happy and we are still in the gathering stages and then go onto design and funding. Funding has not begun yet but we have approximately \$80,000 earmarked for a memorial that came in shortly after 12/14/12.

Kyle went through some thoughts and designs that have come in so far. Vice Chairman Alan Martin discussed how the Sub Committee has to determine and set up potential sites. The Sub Comm will continue looking. There is a lot of interest in Sandy Hook and lots of limitations but we will look at every possible sight and come back with approximately 3-5 sights to choose from. He explained there are lots of potential sights through the Conservation Comm, Fairfield Hills Holding, State and Town owned

property and possible private sights. We will need public access and security will be issues we have to deal with. FFH has also come up but Sandy Hook is an overwhelming favorite but we need to understand the full inventory of sights. So the Location is still an ongoing process.

Paul Babbage asked if Surveys had gone out to the Community? Kyle explained not at this time and still trying to figure out besides Forums if a survey is a good idea. That is to be determined. He also stated he thought that design should be first as property picked may not accommodate the design. Still an ongoing process

Kyle told of approximately half dozen people who have done presentations so far and we have a presentation scheduled for the next meeting. He explained the Commission can not endorse anything at this time. Richmond Jones attended the Forum with his Sandy Hook Memorial Park idea. He came to get input and answer any questions anyone may have.

The President of the Newtown Alumni Association stated they had advocated the space called "High Meadow" in Fairfield Hills for the SHPMC. He also stated that his team would like an opportunity to present their plan but they are not ready at this time. We told him of the Monthly meeting dates and times and he may ask to be put on the agenda when ready to present Commission with their design.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM

Kindly submitted by Lynn Kovack

These minutes are subject to approval by the Commission