



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission
Minutes

Parks & Rec Meeting Room – 3 Main Street
Thursday, March 26th 2015 @ 7:30 PM
Special Meeting Agenda

In Attendance: Brian Engel, Steffan Burns, Kyle Lyddy (Chairman), Alan Martin, Joanne Brunetti, Agni Pavlidou-Kyprianou, Tricia Pinto, Joanne Bacon, Scarlett Lewis, Sarah Middleer and Dan Krauss
Staff: Lynn Kovack (Clerk)
Called to order at 7:38 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: January 8, 2015 Approved (M) Martin (2nd) Brunetti with all in favor

Public Participation: Richmond Jones spoke of his idea for the Sandy Hook Memorial Park. He stated that at a recent FHA meeting he was told that open space is not available to him. He asked the Commission to please keep his idea in mind. He would like to turn the tragedy into something positive for the Community. The Commission told him we can not endorse his idea at this time but we will archive with all other ideas that have come in.

Updated & Consolidated Results of Phase I – Phase II and Discussion of Next Steps of Family Outreach- reengaging the 26 families (set a date/invite)

Kyle stated he has reorganized the trends and priorities that were discussed at the last meeting. He said this will be a good time to reengage with the families. He will send out an email inviting the families to a Special Meeting to update them on where we are in the gathering process. He said it is important to keep the families involved and included in everything that is going on. Communications with the families has been very well so far. The Commission has heard some negativity on getting information out to the Community. Several forums were held at the NHS lecture hall for Community members and has been advertised through-out website, social media, Hartford Courant, Newtown Bee, Newtown Patch, News Times and other social media. Commission discussed whether they should have another Q & A. That is an ongoing discussion.

Location Approach- Inventory/ Outreach Process

Alan gave an update on how the Location process has been going. He has talked to Bob Eckelrod who is President of the Newtown Forest Association. He stated that spring is coming and that he and the sub committee will meet again with Rob Sibley in Land Use to go over potential sites. They will start going out and looking at properties now that the snow is melting. He said there is significant land under stewardship to look into also. He has also spoke to Terry Segeti about properties also. He is hoping to have 3-5 possible sites to bring to the Commission for discussion. He stated there are significant limitations in Sandy Hook but every possibility will be looked at. It is still evolving. SAC field has been discussed but land is rough and close to the school. Dayton Street has horrible access but all avenues will be looked at.

Discussion of Design Criteria/ Consideration Process- Sarah Update and Presentations moving forward

Sarah went through her proposed process for selecting a design. She stated once process decided you will need to comply with the elements. Each would get a survey and then submit plans, etc. It will give you ideas of the criteria that should be required. We will need to take into consideration the grade of the property, trees cut down and planted, retaining walls, etc. Do we go with National or International stage because the Memorial deserves the best. All of these are just ideas for a proposed process and process has not been decided on yet. We are in the gathering process with the design criteria. A tight criteria component needs to be super clear. That will start excluding plans and help dwindle down to a short list. It should be an anonymous submission to avoid issues. This will be discussed further at the next meeting. Thoughts were to have the 9/11 Commission back to answer some more questions. Location and Criteria to be worked on simultaneously. Presentations coming in were also discussed and whether the Commission will continue having them. That will be voted on in the next meeting.

Miscellaneous- Our Charge vx. School Memorial

Kyle emailed both Dr. Erardi and First Selectman Pat Llodra regarding the school memorial. It is not a part of the Commissions charge at this time. It can be secondary once work in completed on initial Charge. The Commission will keep this open for discussion. They stated they will keep the 26 families engaged in the decision. We need to focus on the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial and anything else is secondary at this point.

Kyle read a letter that was received about what the memorial should be. It stated it should be a healing place with live habitat with birds, gazebo, benches, etc. It should have healing power, butterflies, etc. It would be nice at Dickenson Park where the pool used to be. He would love to show his design if Commission is interested.

The Commission will continue to communicate back to the Families and the Community on our status and where we are in the process

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m. (M) Lyddy (2nd) Engel with all approved

These Minutes are subject to approval by the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission
Kindly submitted by Lynn Kovack (Clerk)