

Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at 7:40pm
Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT
Council Chambers

In Attendance: Kyle Lyddy, Pat Llodra, Alan Martin, Joann Bacon, Steffan Burns, Brian Engel, Agni Pavlidou-Kyprianou, Scarlett Lewis, Tricia Pinto, Donna VanWaalwijk, Pat Llodra, Mark Mattioli, Lynn McDonnell, Jeremy Richman, Jen Richman, Krista Rekos, Dean Pinto, Sarah Middeleer, David Wheeler

Mr. Lyddy explained that they are here to listen to the families and went over the charge of the commission (Attachment A). Mr. Lyddy also explained there is no timeline for this. They want to get it right and not rush it.

Mr. Lyddy also reviewed the Commission Snapshot (Attachment B) which explains the mission statement created by the commission and how they are operating as a commission to complete their work.

Benchmarking – they have made different contacts with 2 main groups, the 911 Memorial Commission and Columbine Memorial. They have been in contact with Virginia Tech but their memorial was done by the school, not the families.

Outreach – Phase 1 was asking the families for input, phase 2 was communication with the staff of the school, parents of students and emergency services and phase 3 was communicating with the community. Phase 4 is coming back to the families.

Communication – They send out a monthly e-mail and are on Facebook and Twitter as well as a website. They want people aware that they can participate. A Q&A had been done and another one will be completed to bring everyone up to date.

Attachment C is the results of the information gathering phase. There was a digital survey and also 2 open forums. In the commissions charge is the solicitation of ideas. However the 26 families are the priority. The commission understands they will not be able to please all of the families.

They have a subcommittee consisting of Mr. Martin, Ms. Pinto and Ms. VanWaalwijk, working with Rob Sibley in Land Use to find available property in Newtown for the memorial (Attachment D). Mr. Martin reviewed the properties that were looked at and the criteria they use to determine if a property is desirable. They ranked the properties on accessibility, free from

noise, natural settings/views, proximity to Sandy Hook and infrastructure (roads, water, size of land, electricity and parking). The committee still needs to meet with the Fairfield Hills Authority and the Forest Association to see if there is additional land available. There is also an area in FFH which was designated for the "Tech Park" that is owned by the state and would be adjacent to the Catherine Hubbard Sanctuary that needs to be looked at. They want to bring the list of 3 to 5 properties back to the families to then determine which is the most desirable.

There has been 6-8 been people who have come before them to present their idea for design to the commission. They will not move forward with a design until the property has been identified. The 911 memorial had a competition but that was not desirable for those present at the meeting. Mrs. Llodra suggested using the RFQ or RFP process. It is an invitation to participate and it is up to the commission to set the standard of what they are looking for and allows them to decide which proposal to move forward with.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

APPROVED BY
BOARD OF
SELECTMEN
9.16.13

NEWTOWN PERMANENT
MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Charge to the Permanent Memorial Commission

Approved by the Newtown Board of Selectmen

The Board of Selectmen shall appoint a commission of twelve (12) residents to lead the community through the process of determining the nature, location, and funding of a permanent memorial(s) to honor the memory of those lost in the Sandy Hook School shooting on December 14, 2012 in order to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen and provide interim requests for information as required.

It is expected that the Permanent Memorial Commission shall:

- Solicit ideas to be submitted for consideration and review offers and suggestions received from many interested persons and organizations including those which have been archived by the Cultural Arts Commission and other town departments;
- Directly solicit input and meaningfully engage with: families of victims and survivors, Sandy Hook School faculty and staff, and Sandy Hook School parents;
- Conduct public meetings with the Cultural Arts Commission, Library Board of Trustees, and other organizations as appropriate to solicit input;
- Conduct public hearings for community input;
- Work with Town Departments in determining available/appropriate locations;
- Conduct all of its review and decision-making consistent with public processes.
- Recommend to the Board of Selectmen, Commission findings related to the nature, location, and funding of a memorial(s).
- Conduct inquiries as the Commission deems necessary.



Commission Snapshot April 28th, 2015

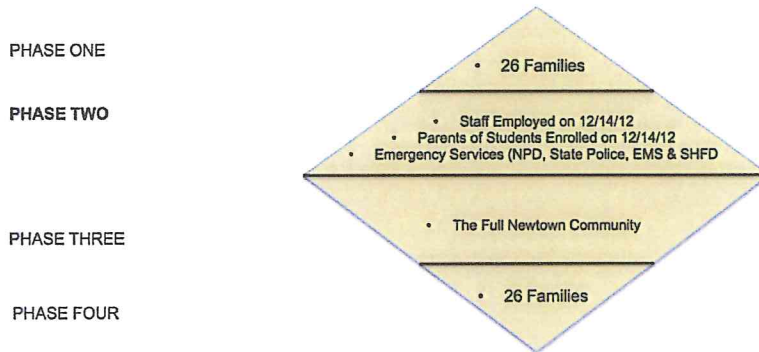
Mission Statement created by our Commission:

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.

Benchmarking:

- **9/11** Memorial Commission President Joe Daniels came to speak with our commission regarding key learnings and insights
- Direct contact with **Columbine** Memorial Commission surrounding process and key learnings
 - A thesis was written specific to the Memorial Commission and key learnings associated with their group
- Communicated with **Virginia Tech** Commission Members who have provided us insight on the memorial their school had built

Information Gathering Pyramid



Communication

- Monthly emails have been sent to each family member on updates specific to progress
- Consistent communication on social channels – Facebook, Twitter & website
- Local newspapers assistance in getting word out regarding outreach
- One Q&A has been published thus far

Location

- A sub committee has been created to run through an inventory of different land options to be discussed this evening

Design Moving Forward

- Thought process / Discussion on design selection process
- Columbine : Open Public Committee / Families Participation in design (3 rounds)
- 9/11: Competition held by Commission (Jury)
- Virginia Tech: School handled with minimal impact from families
- Aurora: Design Committee including family members

Attachment C



Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission
Phase I & II Results / Trends



DIGITAL SURVEYS									
Phase I / Phase II Groups	Should there be a memorial?	Physical or Abstract?	Outdoor / Indoor or Both	Different Themes to Honor Victims?	Overall Feeling of a Memorial	What type of memorial would you NOT like to see	Certain Elements to be Included	Certain Elements Not to be Included	Trends/Comments
Sandy Hook Staff 41 Responses Digital Survey	90% Yes 10% No	95% Physical 5% Abstract	74% Outdoor 0% Indoor 26% Both	59% Yes 41% No	Reflective Linked to Nature Inspirational Peaceful	Dramatic Sad Heavy	Gardens Running Water Trees Stone	Metal	
Sandy Hook Parents 243 Total Responses Digital Survey	95% Yes 5% No	88% Physical 12% Abstract	71% Outdoor 2% Indoor 27% Both	54% Yes 46% No	Hopeful Reflective Solemn Inspirational Peaceful Serene	Dramatic Sad Heavy	Gardens Running Water Trees Stone	Wood Metal Sculpture	
Sandy Hook Staff 41 Total Responses Digital Survey	81% Secluded 19% High Traffic	Free From Outside Noise 64% Yes 36% No	Expansive Views or Inwardly Focused Expansive 71% 29% Inwardly	Separate Destination or Included into town setting 55% Seperate 45% Included	Easily Seen if not intended to go? 42% Yes 58% No	Most appropriate location 71% Sandy Hook 9% Newtown 20% Gave a specific location			1. Should embrace those lost and honor survivors. 2. A sense of community should be felt 3. Rock of angels was discussed 4. Concerned about security and maintenance 5. Fairfield Hills was a common location 6. Scholarships should be considered
Sandy Hook Parents	88% Secluded	67% Yes	65% Expansive	60% Seperate	33% Yes	80% Sandy Hook			1. Assure 26 families are involved in decision making 2. Celebrate community in this memorial 3. Should have a single theme

243 Total Responses Digital Survey	00% High Traffic 12%	04% No 38%	03% Inwardly 35%	07% Included 31%	05% No 67%	08% Newtown 12% Gave a specific location	03% Have a single theme 4. Memorial should be tied to nature 6. Fairfield Hills was a common location 7. Consider the winter months when discussing the memorial
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HIGHLIGHTS		TRENDS	
<p>26 Families In Person, Written Surveys</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A few families did not want to be part of the process as it was too soon back in May of 2014 Would like to celebrate the lives lost and not the event Nothing religious should be shared. Emotions and opinions will change as time goes on from the initial time information is solicited. One family is not in favor of a memorial. Assure whatever is constructed is simple and not overly complicated. The memorial should include reflection of the 26 individuals lost. 26 bells each with their own unique tone A key phrase or verse that is associated with each name. Should not include anything joyous or that evokes "play" Four seasons should be considered - potentially indoors Shielded from as many noises as possible. Surviving child shouldn't go to a memorial to honor surviving self, but instead to honor their sibling that was killed People should feel through this memorial - but should leave with peace and hopefulness This should not be a play place or educational place. Would not like to see the #26 or 12/14, but instead should focus on the individuality of each victim. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> It should be about the 26 lives lost only and not the actual event (5). Emotion and opinions will change as we move forward (4). The memorial should be somewhere we choose to visit - an intentional visit, not something we are forced to pass (4) Nature should be a large part of a memorial (3) Weather should be taken into consideration - consider an indoor component (2) 	
<p>Emergency Services SHFD, NPD, EMS, State Police, Dispatchers Written Surveys</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Priority should be 26 families in this process. No political accents that represent mental health or gun control No souvenirs or anything to purchase Memorial should be respectful. Safety needs to be considered for this. One thematic that should be considered is "Hopes & Dreams" 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Priority should be 26 families in this process. 	

HIGHLIGHTS	
Open Forums / Public	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Families should be considered when discussing the design2. Location needs to come first in this discussion3. There are groups in the community willing to assist us with funds when it comes down to the fundraising component4. Security / Night time / Winter time need to be considered when discussing the memorial5. More input will be given from the community once we get into the design and location stage6. Discuss Fairfield Hills as an option, but do your diligence and look into Sandy Hook/private locations7. Communicate "love" in the memorial, as that is what has helped define Newtown



Site Selection Consideration

*Please note: At this time we are simply creating an inventory of locations. This list will expand as our Location Sub-Committee meets with the different groups in the community to understand what land is available for use.

Ranking: 1 (Least desirable) - 5 (Most desirable)

Parcel / Site	Accessible	Secluded / Free from Noise	Natural Settings / Views	Proximity to Sandy Hook	Infrastructure (Roads, Water, Size of Land, Electricity, Parking)	Status (+ or -)
Sandy Hook Athletic Club - SAC (6 acres)	4	1	3	X Contiguous to School/Fire Dept	4	-
Dayton Street Bridge/Field (1/2 acre)	5	3	4	5 (Near Sandy Hook Center)	4 (Parking limited/small size)	+
Laurel Trail (360 acres)	1	5	5	3 (Southbury side)	1 (Very rugged terrain)	-



Sandy Hook
Permanent
Memorial
Commission

Parcel / Site	Accessible	Secluded / Free from Noise	Natural Settings / Views	Proximity to Sandy Hook	Infrastructure (Roads, Water, Size of Land, Electricity, Parking)	Status
Pole Ridge Preserve (60 acres)	2	5	5	3	1 (Very rugged terrain)	-
Edmond Town Hall Back Lot (2 acres)	5	2	2	4	5	+
Shepards Hill Road (18 acres)	4	5	5	1 (Other side of town)	5	+
Upper Meadow/ "Tech Park" (36 acres)	4	4	5	4 (Fairfield Hills Property)	5	+

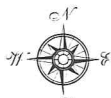
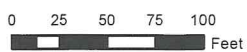
Town of Newtown, Connecticut - Assessment Parcel Map

Parcel: 40-3-7

Address: 22 DAYTON STREET



Approximate Scale:



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Map Produced July 2013

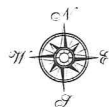
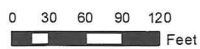
Town of Newtown, Connecticut - Assessment Parcel Map

Parcel: 26-3-27

Address: 45 MAIN STREET



Approximate Scale:



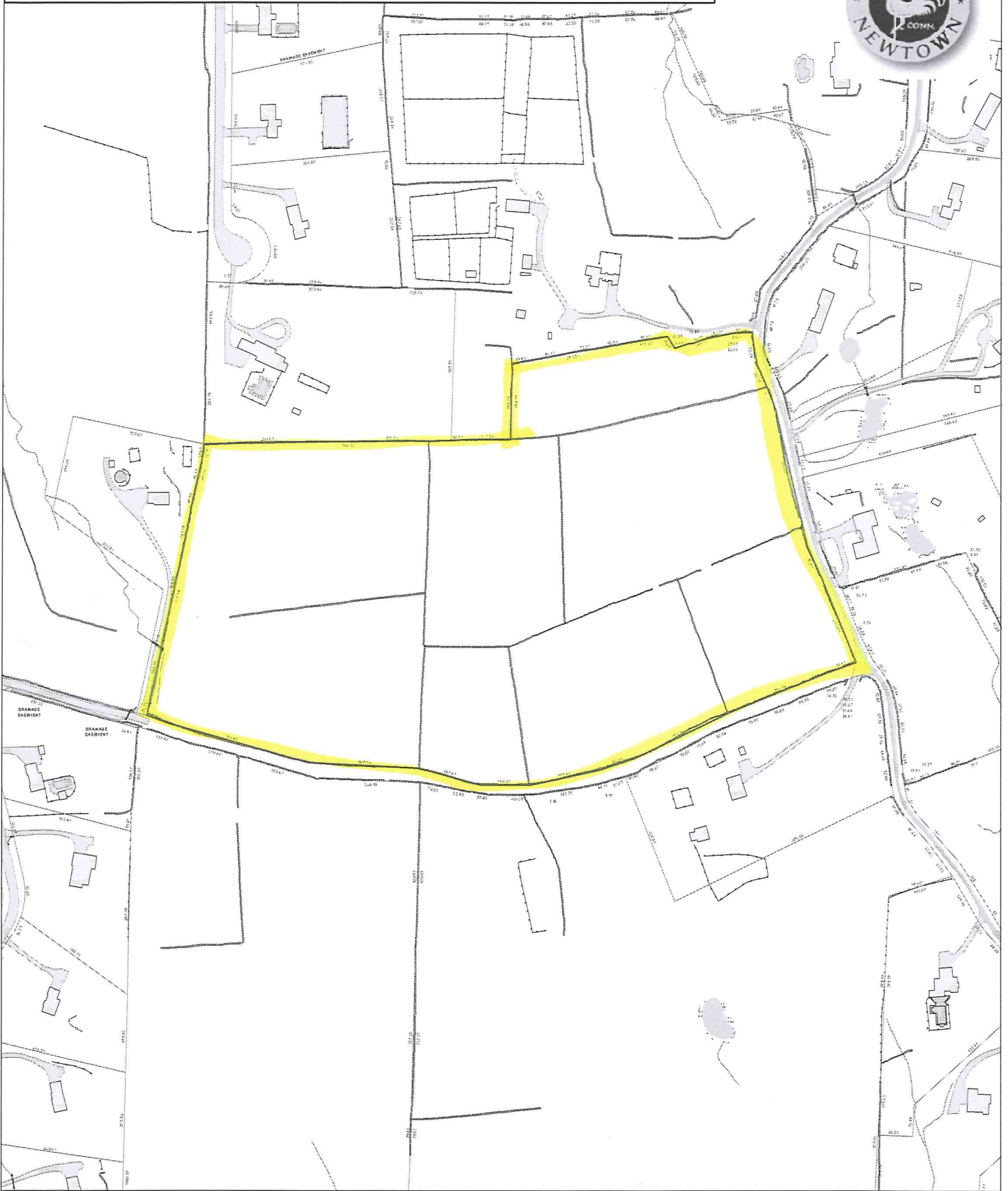
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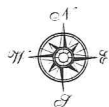
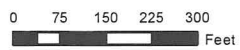
Town of Newtown, Connecticut - Assessment Parcel Map

Parcel: 14-4-14

Address: 30 SHEPARD HILL ROAD



Approximate Scale:



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Map Produced July 2013