



## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission  
Newtown Municipal Center- Council Chambers  
3 Primrose Street, Newtown Connecticut  
Thursday, February 11, 2016 @ 7:30PM  
Minutes

In Attendance: Joann Bacon, Joanne Brunetti, Steffan Burns, Brian Engel, Daniel Krauss (7:38pm),  
Agni Pavlidou Kyprianou (7:48PM), Kyle Lyddy (Chairman), Alan Martin (Vice Chairman),  
Sarah Middelmeer, Tricia Pinto and Donna VanWaalwijk  
Staff: Lynn Kovack (recording clerk)

Called to order at 7:32PM

Approval of January 14, 2016 Minutes- Alan Martin (M), Donna VanWaalwijk (2<sup>nd</sup>) with all in favor

### Public Participation:

Holly Kocet of 2 Karen Boulevard, Newtown: Holly stated many in town are in opposition of the Memorial in the High Meadow but won't come forward. She stated it should be preserved and protected for enjoyment of all people in the Town. She said to please keep that in mind.

Dottie Evans of 1 Reservoir Road, Newtown: Dottie stated that she is also opposed to the Memorial with additional parking, lighting, etc. The High Meadow is refuge for birds and animals that thrive and the Town has set aside for purposes. She stated what if the Memorial were a walking trail. She stated there is a 2 Mile trail through FFH already. Along the trail 50 apple trees were planted in 2013 for those who were lost. Why not complete the last portion of the trail, add some benches and call it Angels trail. Brian asked her where she was talking about. She stated by Danbury Hall and the last stretch would end at the Cul-de-Sac.

Elizabeth Lincoln of 34 Echo Valley Road, Newtown: Elizabeth is opposed to the High Meadow also and stated the alternatives are many and that Dottie had the right mind set with a living Memorial instead. You need to treasure the open space as in future terms the value of the open space is more valuable than those who died. When she walks up to the Municipal building she feels it is vacant of trees and more trees could be planted and designated to each lost life. She stated someone needs to protect the open space. Other opinions shared through emails, letters, etc are attached. (Attachment #3)

### High Meadow Location Discussion/Legal Update/Conservation Commission Communication Update

Pat Llodra stated that subsequent to her conversation with Kyle the Month before that she wanted Dave Grogin's to speak and help us understand all the legal issues.

Mr. Grogin's went over his letter he had sent to Pat Llodra (Attachment #1). He stated he was asked what his opinion was regarding the proposal to establish a permanent memorial for the victims of the Sandy Hook School Shootings in the High Meadows on FFH Campus. He stated that the parcel in question shown on a map entitled "Limited Property Survey Prepared for the Town of Newtown, Connecticut" dated November 1, 2013 and was filed in the Newtown Land Records. No formal declaration of dedication to "Open Space" other than the aforesaid map has been adopted by the Town. In his opinion the primary jurisdiction over the use of the parcel is vested in the BOS. FFH Authority may offer non-binding recommendations relative to the use of the parcel but such decisions relative to the matter of use is the BOS. Another question raised as to the effect of Section 7-131n of the Connecticut General statutes on the proposal to use this parcel as stated. In his opinion no "taking" has occurred by the proposal. The parcel is therefore, not subject to the provision of this statute. The parcel is owned by the Town and may be used as determined by the BOS. Also in his opinion the Conservation Commission has no authority over this parcel as it has not been delegated such authority over this parcel as it has not been delegated such authority by the Legislative Council as is required by Section 7-131a(b) of the CT General Statutes.

George Benson of P&Z and Land Use Agency stated that P&Z had filed a map for open space but legally didn't take the next step. He also stated that Conservation Commission automatically doesn't get jurisdiction of open space. People can give you open space for different uses and that is in the Zoning Regulations. Every piece of open space is different. This is open space in a parcel and

you have to look at every piece differently. Open space can be used as a variety of things and has to go through the proper steps. For example, passive recreation is allowed on Open Space. There are also driveways and parking lots in parks all across the country that are determined as open space.

Conservation Commission can consult and comment on things proposed to be done but not a regulation agency. We are just trying to get clarity on what the pathway is and needed to understand it. It's complex and perspectives will be shared and countered. Pat Llodra was also confused as well and did not realize it was an incomplete process. The BOS stands as decision maker on how that land can be used. Kyle then stated that we all need to work together to make it work.

Jim Ryan of the Conservation Commission stated after what was said tonight it makes things a lot clearer to him. He stated there are different opinions in the Conservation Commission but they will work with the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission to plan moving forward. They want to work in conjunction with our group while in the early stages and want to continue to be part of it and give input when appropriate and looking forward to working with us. They just don't want to compromise the area. Hopefully all can be happy with the outcome.

The Conservation Commission will be bringing in specialists to enhance that land and there is an opportunity for both missions to co-exist in that space. Right now the land is considered a hay field, which does have ecological value, that is mowed a few times a year. There is an opportunity to enhance that land further to create a true meadow.

#### **Stantec Involvement Discussion:**

Gary Sorge, Vice President of Stantec spoke regarding the Memorial Site Assessment. Pat Llodra had asked that we include Parks and Rec in our discussion to make sure we work together. Gary did the Assessment and went over it with the group to help understand how we can make it come to life. He stated that he has worked for years on the trails. He worked on things like ADA Accessibility, roads, pathways, how drainage would work, parking, electric, etc. So he put together this document to bring the infrastructure to the Memorial (Attachment #2).

Kyle will be communicating with Amy at Park & Rec to move this proposal along. Kyle also mentioned one of the biggest components those who oppose the space, is specific to the driveway and parking area as to not divide the land up. We are going to be asking Stantec to come back with alternative suggestions as to how this could work, to minimize the impact on the space.

#### **Discussion of Design Selection/Consideration Process/ Sub Committee Report: Update on Design Selection/Consideration Process:**

Sarah and Steffan discussed the status of their draft. Sarah stated they are using drafts from other communities on how they worked. They are continuing to work through their draft and working with each other. They have nothing to present yet but they are close. They wanted to wait regarding conversations with others but they are making great progress. They need to know quite a bit on location to really proceed. Need to see surveys, meetings with families, etc to incorporate and move forward with the progress. Should have something to share at the next meeting.

Kyle mentioned that this is the time for our Commission (and others) to create and customize these Guidelines for the Memorial and be as specific as we'd like, with as much ecological value as we'd like. When we receive something back that may be contrary or outlandish to what we are looking at in this space, it will be obvious to eliminate. We want to be able to work with the Conservation Commission and the resources they bring in, to create a living memorial.

Kyle mentioned this needs to be a collaborative effort and that we will continue to listen to individuals who have concerns. The charges for the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission are in fact different from the Conservation Commission's charge. We have an obligation to create a memorial that is inclusive and we're aware through benchmarking that in projects like this not everyone will "get what they want" throughout this process. This can't be "all or nothing" and it isn't right for us to think in that manner. This can't be "Us against Them".

The Commission is going to continue down the path of pursuing the High Meadow as the location for this memorial with the understanding that we should be inclusive and look into ways to work with the Conservation Commission (and others) to enhance the land, and in turn find entrance and parking alternatives that will have minimal impact to the space.

The Commission will also be in consistent communication with the Fairfield Hills Authority, Park and Rec Commission and Police Commission to ensure we are being transparent with our progression.

#### **Miscellaneous/Monthly Communication to Commission/Plan, Website Updates/ Clearly outline process moving forward:**

Kyle stated he has incorporated a drop box. It will put all emails into this box for Commissioners to review and only appropriate material will be put here. San Bernardino reached to Pat regarding our process and we will act as a resource as they get organized for their memorial process. Kyle will continue an ongoing relationship with them. The website will be updated as need and anything

that will help us communicate our message out there. There is misinformation out there we should attempt to correct regarding where we are in the process and how we got to this location. Our Commission needs to stay focused on our charge and continue down that path.

Kyle will not be at the next meeting in March, however Alan will cover off on running the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35PM- Kyle (M) Alan (2<sup>nd</sup>) with all in favor

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Kovack (recording clerk)

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SANDY HOOK PERMANENT MEMORIAL COMMISSION

DAVID L. GROGINS, ESQ.  
Please Reply To Danbury  
E-Mail: [DGrogins@cohenandwolf.com](mailto:DGrogins@cohenandwolf.com)  
Phone: 203-792-2771  
Fax: 203-791-8149

HERBERT L. COHEN  
(1928-1983)

January 28, 2016

AUSTIN K. WOLF  
RICHARD L. ALBRECHT  
JONATHAN S. BOWMAN  
IRVING J. KERN  
NEIL R. MARCUS  
G. KENNETH BERNHARD  
DAVID L. GROGINS  
GRETA E. SOLOMON  
ROBIN A. KAHN  
RICHARD SLAVIN  
DANIEL S. NAGEL  
RICHARD J. DI MARCO  
DAVID B. ZABEL  
MARK A. KIRSCH  
DAVID M. LEVINE  
JOSEPH G. WALSH  
MATTHEW C. SUSMAN  
DAVID A. BALL  
JOCELYN B. HURWITZ  
STUART M. KATZ  
MONTE E. FRANK  
PATRICIA C. SULLIVAN  
VINCENT M. MARINO  
JULIE D. KOHLER  
ARI J. HOFFMAN  
COURTNEY A. GEORGE  
BARBARA M. SCHELLENBERG  
RACHEL A. PENCU  
JASON A. BUCHSBAUM  
L. JOYELLE MAINI  
DAVID M. MOROSAN  
LAUREN G. WALTERS  
MARCIA M. ESCOBEDO  
DAVID DOBIN  
PHILIP C. PIRES  
DYAN M. KOZACZKA  
ROBYN H. DRUCKER  
RACHEL A. SCHWARTZMAN  
JORDAN L. FIELDSTEIN  
SHANE R. GOODRICH  
JASON A. KLEIN  
JARED L. SHWARTZ  
ALEXANDER COPP

Hon. E. Patricia Llodra  
Newtown Municipal Center  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT 06470

Re: Sandy Hook Memorial at Fairfield Hills

Dear Pat:

You have requested my opinion regarding the proposal to establish a permanent memorial for the victims of the Sandy Hook School shootings in the High and East meadows of the Fairfield Hills Campus.

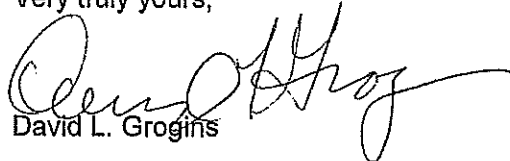
The parcel in question is shown on a map entitled "Limited Property Survey Prepared for the Town of Newtown, Connecticut" dated November 1, 2013 Prepared by Brautigam Land Surveyors, P.C., which was filed in the Newtown Land Records as Map 8194 on March 11, 2014. No formal declaration of dedication to "Open Space" other than the aforesaid map has been adopted by the Town.

It is my opinion that the primary jurisdiction over the use of this parcel is vested in the Board of Selectmen, pursuant to Section 3-20a and Section 3-30(b) of the Town Charter. The Fairfield Hills Authority may offer non-binding recommendations relative to the use of this parcel by virtue of its authority granted in Ordinance No. 83, now Section 10-23 through 10-27 of the "Code of Ordinances". As such the decision of the Board of Selectmen is all that is required relative to this matter.

A further question has been raised as to the effect of Section 7-131n of the Connecticut General Statutes on the proposal to use this parcel as stated above. It is my opinion that no "taking" has occurred by the proposal. The parcel is therefore, not subject to the provision of this statute. The parcel is owned by the Town and may be used as determined by the Board of Selectmen.

Finally, I am also of the opinion that the Conservation Commission has no authority over this parcel as it has not been delegated such authority by the Legislative Council as is required by Section 7-131a(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Very truly yours,

  
David L. Grogins

OF COUNSEL  
PETER A. ARTURI  
EILEEN LAVIGNE FLUG  
ANN L. FOWLER-CRUZ  
THEMIS KLARIDES  
ROSAMOND A. KOETHER  
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JACK E. MCGREGOR  
JOHN PATRICK C. O'BRIEN  
ALLAN J. ROSEN  
MARTIN F. WOLF

DLG/cgh

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TEL: (203) 792-2771  
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320 POST ROAD WEST  
WESTPORT, CT 06880  
TEL: (203) 222-1034  
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657 ORANGE CENTER ROAD  
ORANGE, CT 06477  
TEL: (203) 298-4066  
FAX: (203) 298-4068

**2011 Connecticut Code**

**Title 7 Municipalities**

**Chapter 97 Municipalities: General Provisions**

**Sec. 7-131n. Taking of land previously intended for use as park or for other recreational or open space purposes.**

**Sec. 7-131n. Taking of land previously intended for use as park or for other recreational or open space purposes.** If any municipality takes any land, for highway or other purposes, which land was purchased for park or other recreational or open space purposes, or for which bonds were issued for such purposes, or which had been dedicated for such purposes, such municipality shall provide comparable replacement land at least equal in value and per unit area size to the value and per unit area size of the land taken; provided before such municipality takes such land for highway or other purposes it shall hold a public hearing in addition to any public hearing required by section 13a-58 or by any other section of the general statutes or by any special act or city charter. At such public hearing and in the notice thereof, the municipality shall set forth the description of the land proposed to be taken and the proposed use of such land, any reasons for the proposed taking of the parkland rather than other land and the description of the replacement land to be provided. The municipality shall give notice of the time and place of such hearing by publication in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in such municipality, such notice to be given at least twice, at intervals of not less than two days, the first not more than fifteen days nor less than ten days and the second not less than two days before such hearing and such hearing shall be held within a period of not more than thirty and not less than fifteen days after any other public hearing required by section 13a-58 or by any other section of the general statutes. For purposes of this section "municipality" means any town, city or borough, or other political subdivision of the state.

(P.A. 75-534; P.A. 77-172.)

History: P.A. 77-172 required that description of replacement land be provided at public hearing.

**Chapter 10: Authorities****Article V: Fairfield Hills Authority**

[Adopted by the Legislative Council 7-6-2005 (Ord. No. 83)]

**§ 10-23 Authority established.**

The Town of Newtown hereby establishes a municipal development agency pursuant to the provisions of Public Act 05-33 to be known as the "Fairfield Hills Authority" to implement the master plan for development of Fairfield Hills Campus adopted by the Newtown Planning and Zoning Commission on March 17, 2005, effective March 28, 2005, as from time to time amended.

**§ 10-24 Membership; terms; vacancies.**

The Authority shall consist of eight regular members appointed by the First Selectman of the Town of Newtown, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen. Each such member shall be an elector in the Town of Newtown. The terms of three of the initial appointees shall expire one year after the date of such appointment; the terms of three of the initial appointees shall expire two years after the date of such appointment; and the terms of two of the initial appointees shall expire three years after the date of such appointment. Thereafter, the term of each member shall be three years. Any vacancy on the Authority shall be filled immediately for the unexpired portion of the term by the First Selectman, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen. The provisions of the Charter of the Town of Newtown concerning minority representation shall apply to the membership of the Authority.

**§ 10-25 Officers; quorum.**

The members of the Authority shall be sworn to the faithful performance of their duties. At its first meeting, the members of the Authority shall select a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson and a Clerk. The Clerk shall keep a record of the votes and other business of the Authority. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Authority. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson will preside. At all meetings of the Authority, five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, which shall require a minimum of four affirmative votes for action.

**§ 10-26 Jurisdiction.**

The Authority shall exercise the powers granted to it by this chapter and in accordance with the master plan, with respect to the land generally known as the "Fairfield Hills Campus" (the "premises") and located primarily off Wasserman Way and Mile Hill South in the Town of Newtown and more particularly bounded and described as follows: a certain piece or parcel of land constituting approximately 185 acres, more or less, designated as "Parcel 5" on a certain map entitled "PERIMETER SURVEY & SUBDIVISION MAP, STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, A-N CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC. 505 WILLARD AVENUE NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT, project FAIRFIELD HILLS HOSPITAL PROPERTY DISPOSITION MILE HILL RD., QUEEN ST. & MILE HILL SOUTH RD. NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT," Project No. B1-A-335, date August 5, 1987, scale one inch equals 100 feet, drawing numbers 2 of 9, 3 of 9, 4 of 9 and 7 of 9, on file as map numbers 7663, 7664, 7665 and 7668 in the office of the Newtown Town Clerk.

**§ 10-27 Powers and duties.**

A. The Authority shall have the power to:

- (1) Implement the master plan for the development and operation of the premises, including, without limitation, the power to clear, to demolish, repair, rehabilitate, construct and insure real property in its possession;
- (2) Make site improvements essential to the preparation of land for its use in accordance with the provisions of the master

plan;

- (3) Install, construct and reconstruct streets, utilities and other improvements necessary to carry out the master plan;
  - (4) Negotiate leases for all or any part of the land and buildings of the premises, in the name of the Town of Newtown, in accordance with the provisions of the master plan, provided that any lease shall be subject to approval of the Board of Selectmen; and where the lease requires expenditures by the Town as a condition of the lease, the lease shall be subject to the provisions of Section 6-30 (Special and Emergency Appropriations) of the Newtown Charter relative to the required expenditures.  
[Amended 7-6-2011]
  - (5) Employ a staff and fix their duties and retain by contract, or employ private contractors necessary to implement the master plan at the discretion of the First Selectman, Board of Selectmen or Purchasing Authority of the Town as those bodies deem appropriate; and
  - (6) To the extent necessary, expend funds available to the Authority, at the discretion of the First Selectman, Board of Selectman or Purchasing Authority of the Town as deemed appropriate, to implement the master plan in accordance with the powers granted to the Authority.
- B. The Authority shall meet monthly or as required. Within six months of its initial appointment, the Authority shall prepare and submit a schedule for reporting progress on the implementation of the master plan to the Board of Selectmen and the Legislative Council. Thereafter, the Authority shall report at least semiannually to the Board of Selectmen and the Legislative Council as to its progress in carrying out the provisions of the master plan.

### **3-20 BOARD OF SELECTMEN, GENERAL POWERS, MEETINGS AND REGULATIONS**

(a) The Board of Selectmen shall generally supervise the administration of the affairs of the Town, except those matters which by the General Statutes or this Charter are exclusively committed to the Board of Education or other departments.

(b) The Board of Selectmen shall be responsible for coordinating the activities of all the departments of the Town and for reviewing the present and future needs of the Town. It may, by resolution or regulation, require such reports and joint meetings as may be useful in the performance of its duties.

(c) A majority of the Board of Selectmen shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business. The Board may make regulations for the conduct of its meetings and for the execution of its duties. It shall by regulation provide for regular meetings and a procedure for calling special meetings.

### **3-30 BOARD OF SELECTMEN, SPECIFIC POWERS**

(a) Except for the power granted to the Board of Education by the General Statutes, the Board of Selectmen shall have the sole power, subject to the provisions of the General Statutes and of this Charter:

(1) To incur indebtedness in the name of the Town and to provide for the due execution of contracts and evidences of indebtedness issued by the Town, subject to the provisions of subsection (g) of Section 6-90 of this Charter;

(2) To take, purchase, lease, sell, or convey real or personal property of or for the Town, subject to the provisions of Section 7-90 of this Charter;

(3) To institute, prosecute, defend or compromise any legal action or proceeding by or against the Town, subject to the approval of the Legislative Council and, when relevant, the affected department, commission or board.

(4) To defend the Town by legal action or proceeding;

(5) To apply for any financial assistance by the State of Connecticut and the United States Government including grants to fund any appropriation, subject to the provisions of Section 6-60 of this Charter; and

(6) To accept public highways, to approve the layout of public highways and related drainage, slope or other easements, to approve the acquisition of real property or interests in real property for the purpose of widening or realignment of existing public highways, and to grant utility easements across Town owned property for the good of the Town.

(7) To submit annually to the Board of Finance a proposed Budget for the next fiscal year.

(b) The Board of Selectmen shall have such other powers and duties as are provided for boards of selectmen by the General Statutes and this Charter, and may exercise any of the powers conferred on towns by Section 7-194 of the General Statutes, to the



extent that the Legislative Council has not already acted by ordinance or resolution on such subjects and to the extent that such powers have not otherwise been granted or limited by this Charter to other boards, commissions or Town officers.

#### **3-40 CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

The First Selectman, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, shall appoint a clerk of the Board of Selectmen who shall keep minutes of meetings and record all motions and votes and other actions of the Board of Selectmen and shall perform such other duties as the Board of Selectmen shall direct.

### **CHAPTER 4 APPOINTIVE BOARDS**

#### **4-01 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

(a) The First Selectman, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, shall appoint, whether for full terms or to fill vacancies, the members of all appointive boards and commissions required by Chapter 4 of this Charter or hereafter created by ordinance, except the Board of Fire Commissioners, subject to the provisions of Section 4-20 of this Charter. A First Selectman, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, whose position as First Selectman will end as a result of not being re-elected or has chosen to vacate the office, shall not make appointments from the date of the Town Election to the end of his/her term.

(b) All members of appointive boards shall be electors and residents of the Town and shall vacate their positions on ceasing to be electors or residents of the Town.

(c) Appointive boards other than those required by this Chapter 4 may be created, abolished and consolidated; their powers and duties established, altered and repealed; and the number and terms of office of their members established and changed by ordinance.

(d) Appointive boards required by this Chapter 4 other than the Board of Fire Commissioners and the Board of Ethics may, in their discretion, appoint associate members, with voice but without vote, for terms no longer than the terms of members of the appointing board.

(e) The First Selectman with the approval of the Board of Selectmen may, by resolution, establish such advisory or study committees as they find desirable in the discharge of their duties.

#### **4-10 TERMS OF OFFICE**

(a) The terms of appointment to any appointive board, except the Building Appeals Board, shall not exceed 4 years and shall be established to expire, as nearly as is possible, at regularly staggered annual intervals, unless otherwise provided by this Charter or by the General Statutes.

(b) The terms of office on all appointive boards and commissions shall commence on January 7th, unless otherwise required by law. The length of terms shall be as hereinafter specified.



Stantec Consulting Services Inc.  
55 Church Street Suite 601, New Haven CT 06510-3014

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January 12, 2016

Ms. Amy Mangold  
Director, Newtown Parks and Recreation  
3 Main Street  
Newtown, CT 06470

Dear Amy,

**Reference: Memorial Site Assessment; Fairfield Hills, Newtown, CT**

We appreciate this opportunity to assist the Town of Newtown and the Sandy Hook Elementary School Memorial Committee with the memorial design perimeter plan. Per our meeting, discussion and subsequent site walk, we prepared this work plan to guide the Town and the Committee in advancing the design process, perimeter access, and the memorial design and its installation.

Our scope shall include the following tasks:

1. Site walk with representatives of the Memorial Committee and the Town of Newtown;
2. Preparation of dedicated pedestrian entry path and vehicular access concept alternatives for the memorial site;
3. Memorial siting alternatives in concept form with opportunities and constraints annotated on the concept plan;
4. View-shed assessment from hilltop vantage points;
5. Determination of utility needs and preparation of a service schematic (water and electric service);
6. Preparation of a conceptual grading and drainage plan; and
7. Meet with the Memorial Committee and Town of Newtown to present concepts and deliverables followed by presentation to the Fairfield Hills Authority.

Not-to-Exceed fee for Tasks 1-7, above, inclusive of expenses is \$12,000. - SHPMC

8. Preparation of construction-ready documents for a pedestrian and vehicular link to the existing Kent Hall parking area to the turn-around at the end of the driveway at the foot of the memorial site access path and Phase 3 trail link from this location toward the former Danbury Hall location (DG Beers Boulevard and Keating Farms Avenue intersection);

Not-to-Exceed fee for Task 8, above, inclusive of expenses is \$5,800. - NPR

9. Meet with and assist the Memorial Committee with a design consultant selection strategy, consultant invitation and procedural guidelines, and determination of design and construction document requirements for the selected designer (two meetings).



January 12, 2016  
Ms. Amy Mangold  
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**Reference: Memorial Site Assessment; Fairfield Hills, Newtown, CT**

Not-to-Exceed fee for Task 9, above, inclusive of expenses is \$1,000. - SHPMC

10. Provide construction-ready design documents for perimeter elements (memorial site access paths and roads, any additional parking, utility services, and drainage) once the memorial site is selected and the general layout is determined.

Fee for Task 10, above, shall be determined.

In addition to the design and support tasks defined above, we would be honored to collaborate with the Memorial Committee to develop memorial design concepts for the selected location at Fairfield Hills. In terms of our immediate scope, we would be pleased to modify these tasks and associated fees to best meet the Town's needs. Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact me. Thank you.

Regards,

**STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES INC.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Sorge", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gary Sorge, FASLA, CSLA, AICP  
Vice President  
Phone: (203) 495-1645  
Fax: Fax Number  
Gary.Sorge@stantec.com

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Melinda Reynolds  
19 Cemetery Road  
Newtown, Connecticut 06470

December 1, 2015

Mr. Kyle Lyddy  
Chairman  
Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission  
SandyHookPermanentMemorial@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Lyddy:

I am writing to express my concern with the selection of High Meadow at the Fairfield Hills Campus as the proposed location for the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial. I have been a Newtown taxpayer since 1988 and have walked the High Meadow paved trail for 7-8 years. High Meadow is a natural sanctuary and the construction of a memorial at that location would interfere with the beauty of the meadow. If I recall correctly, it was only recently that the Conservation Commission succeeded in establishing protection for High Meadow. Why tamper with the Commission's wise decision?

In regard to the criterion for the memorial to be "free from noise," my experience as a walker at Fairfield Hills has been that the closer one gets to Wasserman Way the greater the audible road noise. The lower area of High Meadow along Wasserman Way is not a quiet area. How far up into the meadow would the driveway, parking lot, and memorial have to be placed to escape the road noise? Another concern I have is that of security for the memorial. Is it possible to protect a "secluded" memorial at High Meadow from vandalism? Will the police have to patrol the High Meadow location at night?

I respect the dedication required by the members of your Commission to achieve a consensus regarding the design and location of a memorial. A driveway and parking lot leading to a memorial at the center of High Meadow would change forever the expansive nature of the meadow and interfere with the serenity of the place. High Meadow is perfect the way it is and needs nothing more. I ask that you look for another location.

Sincerely,

cc: Mr. William A. Darrin, Jr. / Conservation Commission  
Mr. Edward J. Marks / Parks & Recreation  
Mr. Thomas Connors / Fairfield Hills Authority  
Mrs. E. Patricia Llodra

To The Editor, Newtown BEE  
From Sandra R. Motyka  
5 Kent Road, Newtown, CT 06470  
January 31, 2016

Newtown has within its grasp, the potential to provide a unique and priceless legacy to future generation: a pristine and untouched High Meadow.

Fortunately, High Meadow is currently designated open space, which most people understand to mean that it will remain forever untouched – a safe and protected refuge where birds, pollinators, and small creatures can flourish.

Unfortunately, as recent proposals for using part of this property prove, open space protection is not as iron-clad as most people think. If an exception is made now, for however good the reason, why not more exceptions and development in the future for other good reasons!

What better way to honor the memory of 12/14 than to continue to protect the integrity of High Meadow. No roads. No vehicular traffic. No parking places. No lights. No security apparatus. No artificial man-made constructs, except for a singular plaque to identify the site.

Think what a legacy this will be for generations to come. A bit of heaven here on earth, created by God and Nature – a most fitting memorial for 26 angels and so much more meaningful than anything Man could ever devise.

Sandra R. Motyka