



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission
Newtown Municipal Center, Council Chambers
3 Primrose Street, Newtown Connecticut
Thursday March 10, 2016 @ 7:30PM
Minutes

In Attendance: Joanne Bacon, Joanne Brunetti, Steffan Burns, Brian Engel, Agni Pavlidou Kyprianou,
Alan Martin (Vice Chairman) and Sarah Mideleer
Staff: Lynn Kovack (recording clerk)

Called to order at 7:32PM by Vice Chairman Alan Martin

Approval of February 11, 2016 minutes- Steffan Burns (M), Joanne Brunetti (2nd) with all in favor

Public Participation:

Elizabeth Lincoln of 34 Echo Valley Road, Newtown: Elizabeth stated she appreciated the strong commitment to the project to memorialize lives taken and the trauma to those who survived and First Responders. She stated that all wish to express our heartache but it is time to set limitations, priorities and goals. One step at a time, one project. The regifting of designated open space should not be allowed to set a precedence. The task was unimaginable and still is but life goes on with serious adjustments for all. Her thoughts are still no to the High Meadow. Her thoughts are maybe a treescape or designated area with the Community Center.

Renata Adler of 198 Hattertown Road, Newtown: Renata stated the Commission has worked so hard so far but it is unfair that anyone proposed this space to the Commission. The whole country looks to us for what we're doing. She suggests if the Memorial goes to the High Meadow it won't be the same and will be an altered space. We need to avoid controversy and anger from people. She states a mistake led to the one space where there will definitely be controversy. She states the survivors and the Commission won't be happy with it and seems it won't work. And she envisions it as a big news event. Her thought is that the whole campus could be a Memorial. If you do the High Meadow it would be a magnet for unstable people to come. Her great wish is that we will find another place. She envisions a forest on the Campus and people would love it. It should be a living Memorial and not a rock or sculpture. She stated to find something other than the High Meadow and everyone would be with you but not on the High Meadow space.

Stantec's Involvement and next steps/working with Planning and Zoning and SHPMC

Alan reviewed the Stantec Memorial Site Assessment. He stated as we review and consider this space we want to understand the potential of the site and continue to work with FFH Authority, Conservation Commission and Newtown Parks & Recreation at this point. Parks and Rec are very supportive of the plan at this point. Our share if moving forward would be \$10,000. The lighting issue would need to be discussed with security and police and the Land Use Dept. The Police Commission recommended lights so this is an issue and nothing is final. This is a study and need to make sure that parking could be done, can drainage be done and many other questions. Commission to discuss Stantec further and incorporate George Benson into the discussion. George would prefer to be involved in the conversation and not brought in afterwards. \

High Meadow Location Discussion- Land Use Participation/Restrictions/Alternative location submissions/plan moving forward

Kyle and Alan had met with Pat Llodra and George Benson on where we go from here. The final determination is not made yet but the High Meadow is the preferrable site at this time. George Benson gave Kyle a Memorandum with a Design Criteria to adhere to if we use the High Meadow. Alan went over the Memorandum with all that were present at the meeting. (see attached). Brian asked if anyone had spoke to the Conservation Commission about other sites. Alan Explained that the Commission had reached out to the Conservation Commission, Newtown Forest Association and FFH Authority and they had no other input at this time. Donna and Alan worked with Rob Sibley on many sites from the beginning.

Commission is moving forward with the High Meadow at this time, however will want to get clarification on the memorandum from George on some of the bullet points listed out. A separate meeting will be held to ask those questions.

Discussion of Design Selection Guidelines/Update on Design Selection/Consideration Process/inclusion of restrictions & Stantec updates/CC/Meadow Discussions/Timeline moving forward

Alan explained that the Commission is trying to have parallel activity take place to move on. It is still a work in progress. Commissioners had not had the Land Use document to work with until now. At some point we will need to have a group meeting again with all the Commissioners to discuss the design criteria. Steffan stated that we are close but need to stop and meet to get the final Design Criteria and review the land use document, site location and timeline at this point. The soft criteria will stay as is due to input from the families, first responders and the public. Alan stated the Commission has a lot to consider moving forward. A portion of the design criteria will be presented at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM- Joanne Brunetti (M) Steffan Burns (2nd) with all in favor

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Kovack (recording clerk)

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

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George Benson
Director of Planning

TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Land Use Agency

MEMORANDUM

March 9, 2016

Kyle Lyddy, Chairman
Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission

The following is a list of design criteria that should be incorporated into the Memorial if the High Meadow is chosen as the site. Following these criteria does not guarantee the final approval of the Memorial location. To comply with the passive recreation requirement of the open space declaration the design would at the very least have to comply with these criteria. This is a list of suggestions including but not limited to the following;

1. The first criteria is, "The Newtown Conservation Commission, acting as stewards of open space resources supports in principle, the Memorial Commission's use of lands adjacent to and within an area referred to as the "High Meadow", *providing appropriate sensitivity to the important ecological value of this area be taken into consideration during design and development of the permanent memorial.*"
2. No buildings would be allowed.
3. If proposed, structures would be limited, for example 4 foot walls.
4. The proposal could include the minimum driveway required by zoning and maximum parking limited to two handicapped and two conventional parking spaces.
5. No lighting would be allowed.
6. Memorial hours would be from dawn to dusk.
7. The proposal would include a conceptual site plan integrating the memorial into the surrounding landscape, with possible enhancements to the meadow habitat.