



## **Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission Site Visit Meeting Minutes**

### **Potatuck Club / Nunnawauk Way**

**Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6PM**

**In Attendance:** George Benson (Land Use), Bruce Clark (Potatuck Club Manager), Kyle Lyddy, Alan Martin, Donna Van Waalwijk, Steffan Burns, Joanne Brunetti, Tricia Pinto, Sarah Middeleer

#### **Potatuck Club**

Commission members met with Bruce Clark, Club Manager of the Potatuck Club to talk about the usage of their land, which is adjacent to one of the locations being considered for the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial.

The Potatuck Club has a private, exclusive membership consisting of 50 individuals who fish and hunt on-site. The land is used for skeet shooting, deer hunting and pheasant hunting. Skeet shooting takes place in skeet fields on the property throughout the year. The frequency of the shooting is unknown as there is no consistent schedule. Pheasant and deer hunting is limited to 5 weeks in the fall and winter months.

An auditory test of shooting from the skeet fields to the proposed location of the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial was completed. A little over a dozen test shots were fired in an effort to understand the audible impact of the shots from the proposed site location. (Nunnawauk Road). It was determined that shots could be heard, although faintly and in the distance. Some were more prominent than others.

Shooting is heavier in the fall and winter months and with the potential for trees being a bit more bare, it could have a larger impact.

It was discussed that the mentality of being at a memorial and having the potential of hearing gun shots would be extremely concerning. It was also noted that wherever the memorial may be in the Community has the potential of hearing shots fired from hunters and recreation use in town.

It was discussed that the Memorial Commission has no intent at this time of asking the Potatuck Club to change their culture to accommodate us. The informational session was about grounding the Commission on the location being considered and fully grasping the pros and cons to the land.

We're appreciative of Bruce Clark and the Potatuck Club for accommodating our group and being open and informative.

### **Nunnawauk Road Site Visit**

After getting a tutorial of the Potatuck Club, the Commission made its way to Nunnawauk Road. Here some Commissioners entered the wooded area where a memorial is being considered. Some individuals described the location as quaint and would be an appropriate location with accessible infrastructure as needed.

The further you walk up toward Wasserman Way (toward the prison), the quieter the land gets from the Wasserman Way vehicular noise.

It was discussed that there would be some concerns about the memorial being so close to the prison.

George Benson touched on the soil testing needed to be done on the land as there is an incinerator that live son the property. Should the Commission not deem this site to be appropriate due to the activities on the surrounding land, the Commission will not move forward with soil testing.

The Commission will regroup at their next meeting (9/8) to discuss findings from the site visit.

### **Respectfully Submitted:**

Kyle Lyddy, Chairman of the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission