

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE PERMANENT MEMORIAL COMMISSION

The Permanent Memorial Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, October 13, 2016 in the Council Chamber of the Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street. Chairman Lyddy called the meeting to order at 7:30pm and began with a moment of silence.

**PRESENT:** Joanne Bacon, Joanne Brunetti, Steffan Burns, Brian Engel, Dan Krauss, Kyle Lyddy, Sarah Middelmeer, Agni Pavlidou Kyprianou, Tricia Pinto, Donna VanWaalwijk

**ALSO PRESENT:** Director of Planning and Land Use, George Benson, five members of the public and one member of the press.

**ABSENT:** Alan Martin

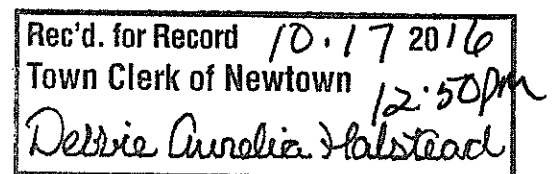
**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** **Walter Dolan**, 26 Riverside Road lives next to SAC field and had questions about construction, traffic, parking and security. **Gene Rosen**, 22 Riverside Road thanked the commission and specifically Kyle Lyddy for meeting with the neighbors and for sending a letter. He thanked the commission for all the work they've done.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Ms. VanWaalwijk moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of 9/8/16. Ms. Brunetti seconded. All in favor.

**UPDATES TO TOWN COMMISSION'S/FEEDBACK:** Mr. Lyddy summarized the Police Commission and Legislative Council updates (att.). Ms. Middelmeer asked if the Police Commission thought the area should be fenced in. Mr. Engel pointed out that the Sandy Hook Fire Department and school are lit up like daylight; he assumes the neighbors wouldn't want another location lit up. The memorial will be closed at night, with motion lights, so the lights will be off for the most part. There was discussion relative to different access points; there will be further discussion to address these areas. The police did not express concern with the proximity to the school. Ms. Brunetti would like to pursue grants and is concerned the commission may be missing opportunities. Mr. Burns agreed, saying the decision to become a 501c3 needs to be made. The Legislative Council questioned the process of transferring from the commission to the Town of Newtown. Mr. Lyddy said it is beneficial to continue conversations with Parks & Recreation, Cultural Arts and Conservation.

**SITE SELECTION DISCUSSION: Recap of Walk Through of SAC Field:** Mr. Lyddy said the parcel is 6+ acres of land that include a parking area, two ponds and trails that go to Treadwell Park. Ms. Brunetti thinks it's great the location is in Sandy Hook; the entire six acres could be used as a buffer and allow for the memorial to be set back further away from nearby residence. Mr. Benson said the idea is to use all six acres and not use the land for anything else; this is easier to accomplish if it's town property. Mr. Krauss thinks it is a good location. Mr. Burns believes the entire six acres is needed, the pond takes up unusable space. The site should be town property along with Treadwell Park so nothing else can be put there. There also needs to be enough land to buffer. Ms. Middelmeer thinks it's a very nice site that allows for buffering so there will be little impact to the neighbors. She asked that caution be used not to disturb the wild life. Mr. Engel likes that it is in Sandy Hook and feels good about the location. Ms. Bacon said it was the best location looked at, she likes the lower meadow and that it is in Sandy Hook and somewhat close to the school. Ms. Pinto feels it is the right place, likes the seclusion and that you can get to it from Treadwell Park. Ms. VanWaalwijk is glad the location is in Sandy Hook and is a destination. Ms. Kyprianou likes the destination but has many questions about the adjacent properties. She is cautiously optimistic. Mr. Benson said they are looking at ways to split it up to keep the house and underwater search and rescue intact. There is open space behind the fire department; the Town cannot build on open space. **Feedback from Neighbors/Community:** (att.) Access points need to be discussed and determined. Anecdotal conversation included prepping the site for safety and security.

**ADD TO THE AGENDA:** Mr. Lyddy moved to add to the agenda an action item allowing for a vote on a site location at SAC field for the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial. Ms. VanWaalwijk seconded. All in favor.



Permanent Memorial Commission  
October 13, 2016

Mr. Lyddy moved to make a recommendation to allow the Town of Newtown to move forward with discussions surrounding the SAC Field parcel of land to be used for the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial. Ms. VanWaalwijk seconded. All in favor.

**COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSION:** (att.) Mr. Lyddy informed the commission of other options should the SAC field vote not pass. Any discussion was tabled until tonight's vote. Jim Ryan of the Conservation Commission has offered to survey the site at no cost.

**MISCELLANEOUS – DESIGN SELECTION GUIDELINES – NEXT STEPS -** Mr. Burns requested a preliminary site drawing that would note the location of the memorial and the buffers. Ms. Middleleer disagreed but agreed to discuss further. Ms. Kyprianou prefers to hold off design guidelines until a preliminary approval has been granted.

**ACCOUNT MOVING FORWARD:** Mr. Lyddy discussed fundraising options, at a strategic, high level standpoint. Ms. Brunetti said there are many new businesses coming to town that would likely be happy to donate. Ms. VanWaalwijk thinks it is important to gather information and get a subcommittee together. Mr. Lyddy would like to re-evaluate the inventory of contribution of services. Ms. Middleleer asked if pursuing the 501c3 status should be voted on at the next meeting. Mr. Engel thinks memorial funds that raised money over the years should be revisited. Ms. Pinto asked about the Newtown Alumni Association.

**George Lockwood**, 9 Pine Street, initially approached the board to say the land is not available but was then open to contributing the land to the memorial; not to the Town of Newtown. He agreed to go over the wills/deeds with the Town Attorney. Ms. Pinto stated said that Mr. Benson was waiting for the vote on SAC field to be passed before continuing conversation with Mr. Lockwood and attorneys.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business the Permanent Memorial Commission adjourned their regular meeting at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Marcinek, Clerk pro tem

*Attachments: Police Commission update/Legislative Council update; Feedback from Neighbors; memo describing yes vote/no vote; SAC Field Map*



## **Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission Update**

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the Permanent Memorial Commission is to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen 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.

### **1. Police Commission Update**

#### **a. Security / Safety**

- i. Ensure community members and neighbors understand this will be a secure and safe place
- ii. Process and protocols in place to control environment – S2 System and fiber infrastructure, lighting, sensors, cameras, etc.
  1. Gates, opening and closing times, roaming NPD
  2. ADA compliant for parking and access to the memorial
  3. Emergency Access
- iii. Ensure access points to school and firehouse is eliminated

### **2. Legislative Council Update**

#### **a. Commission / Town Turnover**

- i. Question arose specific to how the Commission will be turning over information/decisions to the Town and how the Commission will remain involved after a decision has been made
  1. Be certain we are following key learnings from the Community Center Commission
  2. 501c3 vs. Government Umbrella



## **Feedback from Neighbors for Consideration**

1. Construction Interference w/ Households
  - a. Entrance Point and Access / Treadwell Trails
  
2. Security Efforts
  - a. Foot traffic / Car Traffic
  - b. Access to School & FD
  - c. Lights / Cameras
  - d. Gates / Dawn to Dusk Hours
  - e. Conspiracy / Vandalism
  
3. Parking for Memorial

# VOTE



If vote is **NO**, we return to our search for a relevant location:

- Revisit Current Inventory
- Lee Samowitz: 40-50 Wasserman Way
- St. Johns Church
- Joyce Property Off Toddy Hill

If vote is **YES** to move forward with this location, we turn conversations over to Town of Newtown.

Conversations would occur with the Trustees of the land (John McCarthy, Fred Pendergast and George Lockwood Sr.) and Town Officials/Legal



Jim Ryan has offered to survey the site at no cost and will be approached by George Benson should conversations move forward.

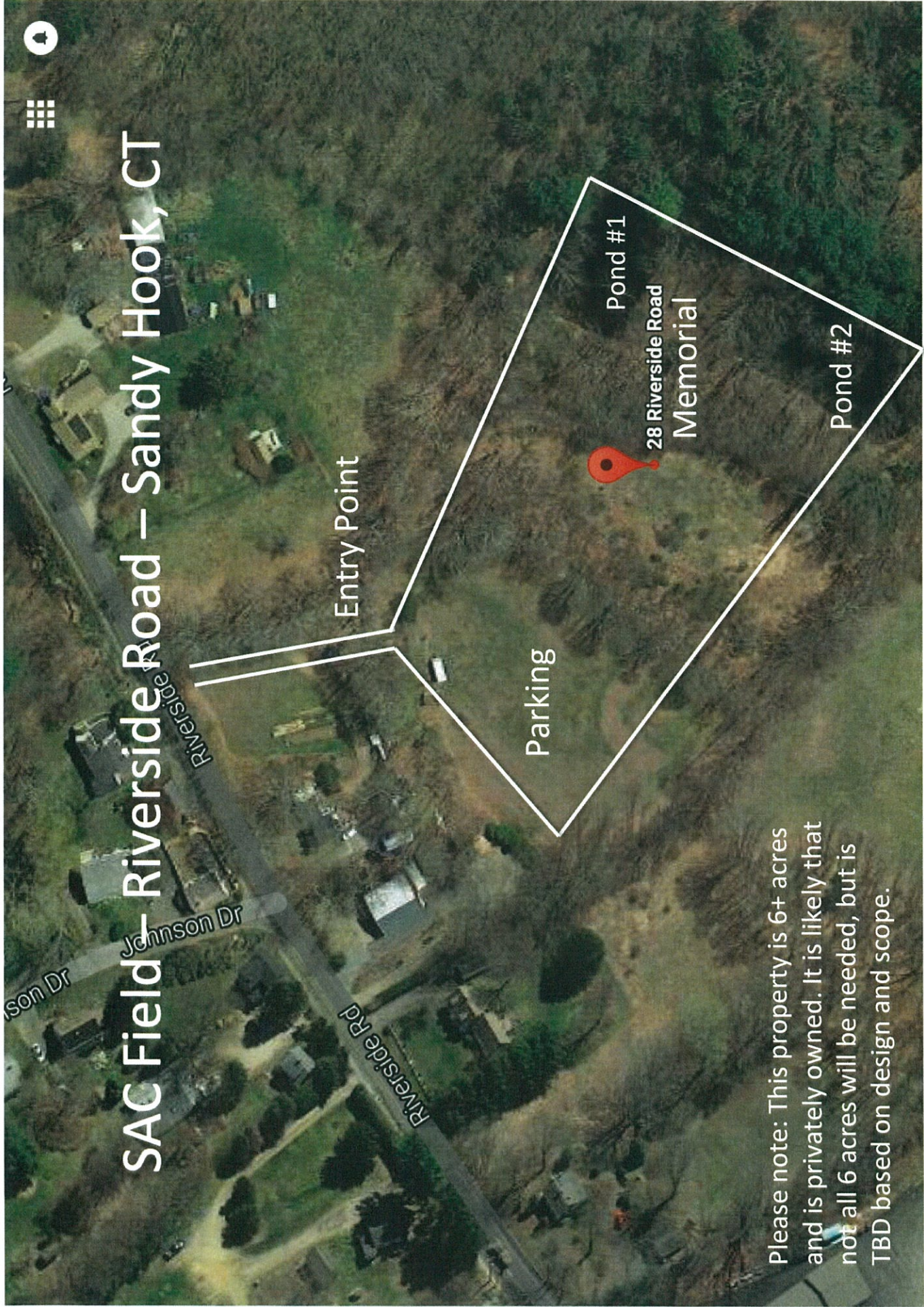


Design Selection Guidelines should begin to integrate this location with results from survey. Allow for town, 26 family and legal review for distribution.



**Sandy Hook**  
Permanent  
Memorial  
Commission





# SAC Field – Riverside Road – Sandy Hook, CT

Please note: This property is 6+ acres and is privately owned. It is likely that not all 6 acres will be needed, but is TBD based on design and scope.