Newtown plans hilltop memorial for Sandy Hook victims

By Rob Ryser, NEWSTIMES

Updated 12:44 am, Tuesday, January 5, 2016

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NEWTOWN — A two-year search for an accessible yet out-of-the-way spot for the Sandy Hook memorial has ended at a scenic and secluded hilltop meadow overlooking the Fairfield Hills municipal campus.

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A 12-member group in charge of the memorial will now undertake a similarly deliberate process of setting the design parameters and seeking proposals.

"We are going to put a specific timeline in place with dates that we would like to see the proposals by," said Kyle Lyddy, chairman of the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission. "So we expect to see something in 2016, but we have always said that there is no timetable, so if we need to change plans, we will."

The group, which includes family members of victims killed at the school, has already met with the town's Conservation Commission, Police Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission about a preliminary proposal that would use less than an acre of the hilltop for the actual memorial, and a path leading to several parking spaces.