

## Memorial panel gets suggestions

John Pirro

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NEWTOWN -- A 12-member committee charged with establishing permanent remembrances of the tragic events of Dec. 14, 2012, will have no shortage of ideas to pick from, if some of the suggestions presented Thursday are any indication.

Several individuals and organizations pledged their cooperation in assisting the [Permanent Memorial Commission](#) in devising fitting tributes to the victims of the [Sandy Hook Elementary School](#) shooting, either in raising funds for the project or in designing and building them.

The commission, comprised of parents of children who were killed, architects, a grant-writing specialist, a public relations professional and a former school board member, were appointed by the [Board of Selectmen](#) in October and have been meeting monthly since then to come up with recommendations for one or more memorials.

"We need to figure out what we're doing and where we're going," chairman [Kyle Lyddy](#) said.

Perhaps the most ambitious proposal came from [John Norwell](#), head of the 1,000-member [Newtown Alumni Association](#), which has already been working for several months to line up companies and individuals willing to contribute their efforts.

Norwell said former Newtown resident [Travis Fulton](#), a Colorado-based designer who works in water and stone, has already agreed to design a memorial free of charge.

"It would be something very quiet and serene ... a place to reflect," he said.

Several other firms whose principals also have local ties have volunteered to donate greenery and other materials and to offer their expertise pro bono, he said.

Norwell suggested a fitting spot for a memorial would be the High Meadows area of the sprawling former Fairfield Hills campus, but he said whatever location is chosen would be a major factor in determining what a memorial would look like.

"What's right for one location might not be right for another," he said.

Norwell assured the commission that the alumni association wants to cooperate, not compete, with them.

"Please don't feel we're here to do the memorial. We want to work with the commission," he said.

Rick Mazzariello, representing the [Newtown Memorial Fund](#), said some people who donated money after the tragedy specifically earmarked it for a permanent memorial.

And Woodbury artist [Linda Boston](#), who makes art tiles, said she was familiar with a technique that could be easily mastered by children and used to create part of a memorial and would be willing to teach it to them.

"I would serve as a facilitator," she said.