

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
APRIL 18, 2016

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting Monday, April 18, 2016 in the Council Chamber of the Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street. First Selectman Llodra called the meeting to order at 7:30p.m.

PRESENT: First Selectman Llodra, Selectman William F.L Rodgers, Selectman Herbert C. Rosenthal.

ALSO PRESENT: Andrew Mangold and George Duncan (Fruit Trail), 1 Public, 1 Press.

VOTER COMMENTS: None

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: Selectman Rodgers moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of 4/4/16. Selectman Rosenthal seconded. All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS: First Selectman Llodra received a letter from the Garden Club, information on the Fruit Trail and information from CCM.

FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

The Newtown Fruit Trail Presentation: Andrew Mangold spoke about the Fruit Trail which would follow the new paved walking trail at Fairfield Hills. The idea is for a polyculture to line the walk with fruit trees, berry bushes, herbs, perennials and ground cover. It would be designed with ideas from the public and planted by volunteers, a community project. Mr. Mangold shared designs. He envisions a place that would be self-sustaining and used for education and harvesting. Mr. Mangold is involved in the group Greentek which has created polycultures in urban areas. More information can be viewed at www.newfruittrail.com (Att)

Fair Housing Resolution: Selectman Rodgers moved the Board of Selectmen adopt the Fair Housing Resolution as set forth in the document provided by the First Selectmen and reading of the entire resolution be waved. Second by Selectman Rosenthal. All in favor.

Appointments/Reappointments/vacancies/openings: First Selectman Llodra shared the current openings. (Att) She noted four of the five seats on the Design Advisory Board are open. The Board does not meet often but the members need specific skillsets such as architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, or urban planning. First Selectman Llodra suggested creating an emeritus position for Public Building & Site and move Joe Borst to the position. He has a wealth of information. The commission is taking on more and more responsibility, currently managing five projects. Rich Matschke would move up to a

Rec'd. for Record 4-20 - 2016
Town Clerk of Newtown 8:21
am
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

full member. He has been the point person for Sandy Hook School. Selectman Rosenthal motioned to authorize First Selectman Llodra to send a letter to Joe Borst on the emeritus position. Second by Selectman Rodgers. All in favor.

Driveway Bond Release/Extension: None

Tax Refunds: None

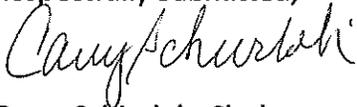
Add To Agenda: Selectman Rodgers moved to add as an item of new business, #6, discussion and possible action on a possible referral on CGS 8-24 to Planning & Zoning regarding the Community Center facility. Second by Selectman Rosenthal. All in favor. Selectman Rodgers moved the Board of Selectmen request P&Z consider a referral for the proposed Community Center facility to be located on the grounds of Fairfield Hills under CGS 8-24 as follows in a specific paragraph charge on a document from the First Selectman's Office dated April 18, 2016. Second by Selectman Rosenthal.

VOTER COMMENTS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: First Selectman Llodra stated she asked the pension board to meet with them on May 16.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carey Schierloh, Clerk

Attachments: Garden Club Letter, Fruit Trail information, Fair Housing Resolution, Openings/Vacancies, Planning & Zoning Referral



The Garden Club of Newtown

March 30, 2016

The Honorable Patricia Llodra
3 Primrose Street
Newtown, CT 06470



Dear Selectman Llodra,

For 60 years, members of the Garden Club of Newtown have come together for the common purpose of stimulating community interest in town beautification and to support conservation of our natural resources, environment, and wildlife.

While the Garden Club recognizes that a memorial for the victims of the Sandy Hook tragedy is an appropriate activity, we do question the wisdom of developing such a memorial in the 65 acres of open space known as the High Meadow at Fairfield Hills.

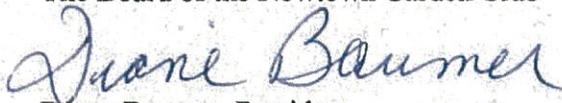
At a recent meeting the Garden Club of Newtown board voted to maintain the High Meadow in its current undeveloped and pristine condition, recognizing its unique habitats, ecological importance, and its value as a place to enjoy nature's beauty as a respite from the busy world in which we live.

These undeveloped, open fields provide an important refuge for migrating birds and native wildlife that require a rare and rapidly disappearing grassland habitat. Their various grasses and wildflowers offer a source of nectar for important pollinators such as honey bees, native bees and butterflies including the endangered Monarch butterflies.

The High Meadow is a protected Open Space parcel, set aside for its environmental value and passive recreation purposes. Development at this site, which would include a road and a parking area, is not consistent with those goals.

It is our hope that this rare meadow habitat will be protected and preserved for now and for the benefit of future generations.

Respectfully submitted,
The Board of the Newtown Garden Club


Diane Baumer, President

cc: William Rodgers
Herbert Rosenthal
Kyle Liddy

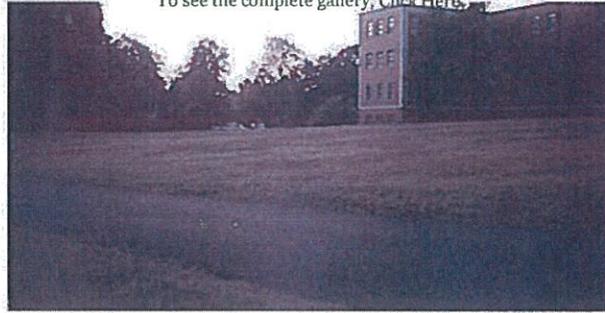
Existing Conditions

by Andrew M
August 23rd, 2015

Here it is, friends.

A tour of the newly installed walking trail at Fairfield Hills. Here are some highlights of the beautiful, potent new pathway.

To see the complete gallery, [Click Here.](#)



As I was taking these images, a few conversations seemed to strike themselves up with trailgoers.

"Why are you taking these empty photographs?" Well... because my friends and I are planning to get permission to plant the entire thing with fruit trees! We'll use these photographs to draw up lovely designs.



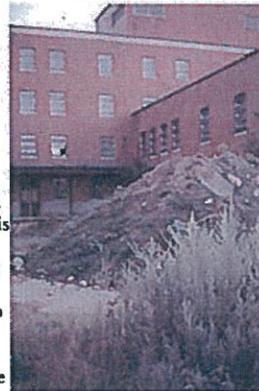
Responses from people across the park were one hundred percent positive. *"Edible plants!? You mean I could pick berries the whole time I'm walking? Oh yeah, count me in!"*

Those few souls who wondered why there was somebody walking so slowly, looking so closely at every plant and tree, taking pictures of seemingly empty scenes became genuinely excited at the mention of their lovely new trail being lined with edible, productive plants.

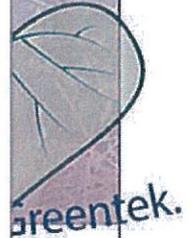
"Tell me when, and where, and I will be there to plant". Said more than one walker. *"I would gladly sponsor a tree, if that's something you plan to do!".* It is,

A friend from the local theater community, Mr. Watkins pledged. *"Have no doubt, I'll be right here with my shovel, and plant an apple tree in this very spot. That would be wonderful!"*

The power of this space is incredibly apparent walking around. It doesn't take much sensitivity to feel that there is more to this space than meets the eye. The park, the campus the trail... it's already a zone of connectivity. It already has a rich history, but its story is far from over and its potential is yet to raise. It's time to reveal the inherent promise of this campus. It's time to reveal the potential of our town, and ultimately, our world. A new chapter is dawning on humanity. Get ready. As long as we're here, it will be the most beautiful future that we have the power to build.

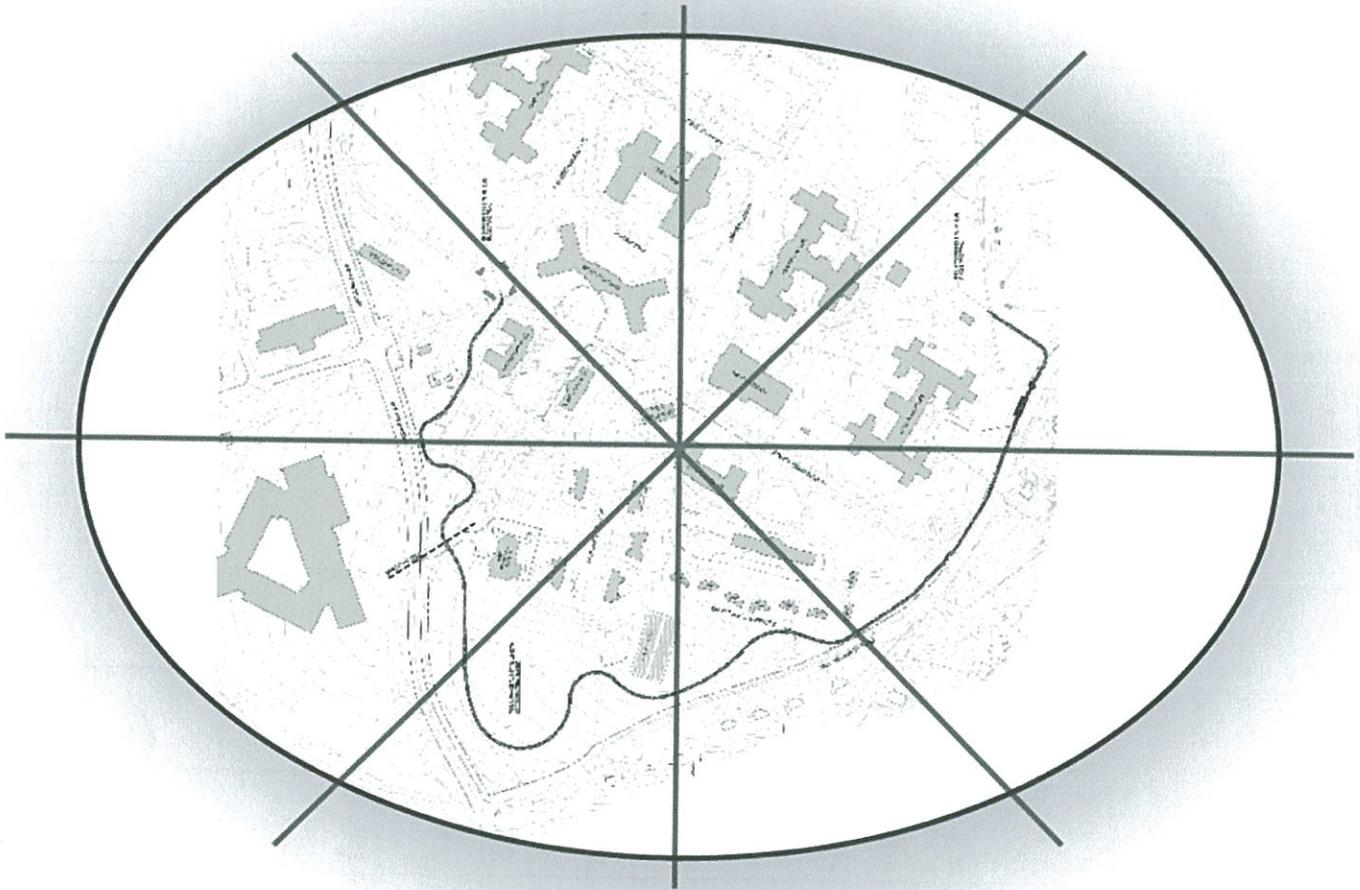


Let's see how far we can take this trail, and how far we can take this world.



Delination

- Eight Sections, Eight Teams -



- Upon completion of the final community design, the approved master map will be divided into eight sections.
- Eight teams of 10-20 people will be collected in advance of planting day.
Each team will assign a local point of contact, and one Greentek leader.
- All plants, tool, and materials will be delivered to the site in advance, and arranged at a staging zone during planting week.
- Each team will receive an installation plan for their section of the trail, and a handy planting guide.
- Lead by our leaders, we enjoy one major weekend of planting. We enjoy, celebrate, sing, eat, dance and share.
- Upon completeion of the planting event, we close each section by delinating a series of stewardship roles.
- Each team will remain, in part, responsible for thier section of the trail.
Roles such as watering, mulching, pruning and harvest will all be assigned to local heros, who's role is logged, and who receive a clear management guide for their specific task, within their specific section.
- Incentives will be awarded to these individuals, and several additional Newtown, Greentek members will maintain constant observations of the site. They remaining on-call for any meaningful responsiblity, or notable task that the town may request.
- The world rejoices at our health and success. The trail grows along with the children. We celebrate and spread further health.

The Newtown Fruit Trail

Introduction:

Hello, thank you for having us, and for exploring this material. We are coming to you from an organization called *Greentek*, and as local members of the Newtown community seeking approval for a project that promising to have incredibly positive impact on our town, and our world.

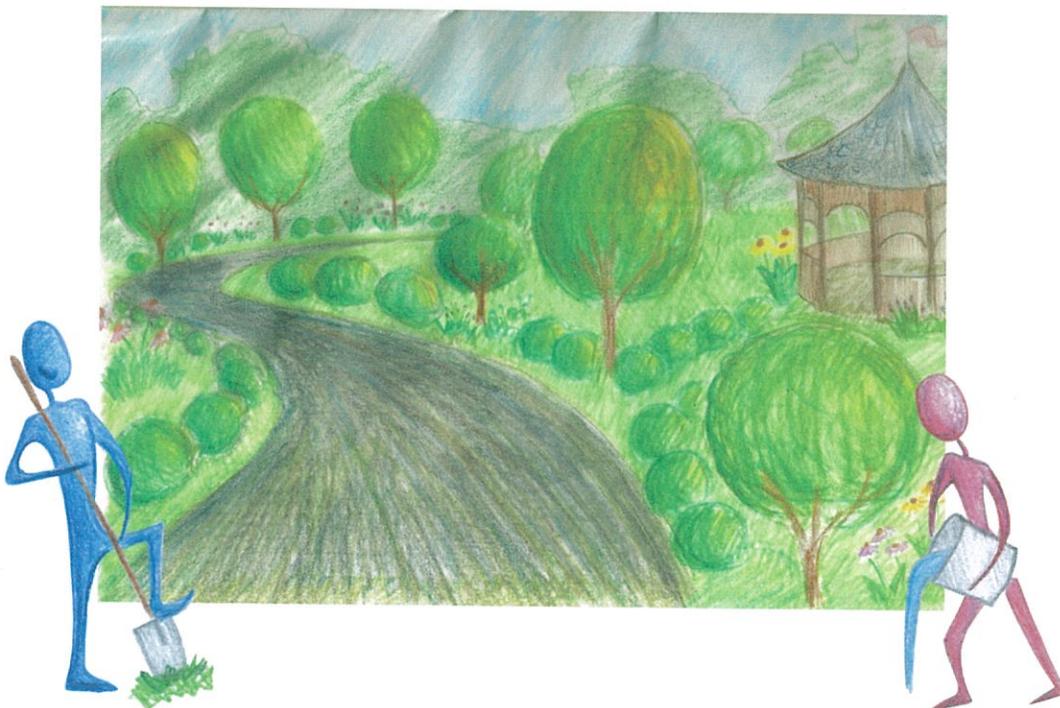
Background:

We have been installing edible, ecological plantings in cities throughout Massachusetts for the past three years. We are looking to scale our edible restoration model and take it OUT OF STATE.

It seems incredibly poignant that we take this first 'community farm park' to NEWTOWN, where three of our founding members were raised, and where it will have significantly higher impact.

There is a ton of energy, support and promise for this project. We are ready to release a major website and make announcements but we are here to ensure that everything is properly arranged and permission first.

We will derive our funds as necessary, and keep this project *hyper inclusive*- welcoming anyone's input and support to the project. This is for Newtown, by Newtown.



We have prepared a range of potential funding goals that will determine the extent and thoroughness of the planting.

Ultimately, these sort of installations are not very costly compared to other investments, yet the long-term social and *environmental* benefits enormous.

Tier One:

\$5,000 - 10,000 Basic Plant Stock

This range will allow us to purchase a variety of specimen fruit trees for the Trail. Each tree costs about \$35, including plant labels, plant protection, shipping and handling. This total provides trees that will make the foundation of the trail, as well as providing for BASIC plant stock and grounder SEEDS between the trees.

- 100 - 200 Fruit trees. About 2,500 - 5,000 linear ft.
- Labels and protection for all trees.
- Selection of *small, bare-root*, native bushes in bulk.
- Economical groundcover seeds to fill in-between trees
- \$0.00 Mulch sourced locally and freely from arbor companies, the transfer station, and from *Walsh* that has recently been sold, yet has a mountain of chips.
- \$0.00 Bulk NEWSPAPER to be sourced from the BEE, layer under mulch to suppress weeds.

Tier Two

\$10-25,000 Complete plant stock and signage

This total ensures that we have complete stock; not just bare-root seedlings, but a robust stock of herbaceous plants, mature fruiting bushes, and very fine trees. It also allows us to make some select investments of professional signage throughout the trail- making the space more accessible and interactive.

- Tier one items, *plus* a selection of several hundred mature fruiting bushes.
- A thorough acquisition of hearty native, perennial herbs/wildflowers to fill the space.
- A welcoming board, and professional print of the map. Series of informational plaques.
- Schedule of events and harvesting opportunities.

Tier Three

\$25- 50,000 Masterful Landscape.

This sum ensures the absolute highest realization of the trail. It allows fine borders, long-term, professional, plaques and informational plant tags. It allows the purchase of bulk, living ground cover plants to grow fully between every fruit tree, ensuring that the gardens are weed-free. It allows us to create a few interactive elements such homework-stations or sturdy benches that we may agree on.

- River stones, or other border material¹
- Bulk purchase ground-cover plants.²
- Long-term design elements

We are not looking for any lump sum from one single organization, but calling on a variety of sources to contribute in part to these funding priorities.

A few sources to approach: October Hills, Pax in Terra, FFHA, Parks and Recreations, a private funder, *Crowdsourcing*, and other philanthropists.

¹ All design elements to be confirmed by the town itself through thorough community involvement phase.

² Whenever possible, we source our plants/materials for free, inquiring local nurseries for donations.

Why:

This is about creating a space that provides the conditions for health, wellbeing, and community. It creates a space that encourages people to interact in a healthy way (*planting together, picking fruit together, learning together*), and brings people close to nature. It is thickly green and guarded trees, where people will feel safe, connected to their land and community. It is full of activities and signs that allow people to learn and cultivate new, meaningful interests. This is a solution that facilitates wellness. It ensures healthier, happier people, and therefore a safer, more exciting town. This is about creating strong roots, and sowing seeds of health.

It is near the schools. Going to the trail, students are nourished, surrounded by nature and feel that their interests are encouraged and cultivated. The trail provides direct connection with nature and creates healthy habits and hobbies. Who doesn't want to learn about plants and wild fruit?

The trail gives a safe place for youth to explore and be social that is NOT the center of town. Encouraging fresh air, exercise and contact with positive hobbies/activities.

Systematic versus symptomatic:

This is about looking at the core of our questions. This is a method of creating the conditions for health and wellbeing; the basis of health. THIS is what keeps people well, and safe.

From personal experience, the kids we know who got into trouble, were GREAT people with big hearts, but who had no safe or positive place to direct their energy. That is when they pick up silly habits like tobacco or other substances. That is when they start getting into trouble. This is a place where they will always KNOW that they can go, where there will be other potential friends and kind adults. It is where they will be called and inspired to spend their time, being further drawn in by signs, plant labels, harvesting events, spaces to do homework, places to take a date, or places where they might feel safe to be alone.

— —

Let Newtown become a leader in sustainability. This is an incredibly cutting-edge use of public space that will have a huge impact. People want to see such beautiful local productivity. This is the way that the world needs to go. If we want to realize a healthy, sustainable future, then it is time to take these endeavors seriously.

People are watching our town, and if they are going to look, then let's show them what Newtown can do! Let's show creative and collaborative our community can be. Let's show them what's really possible, and build an incredibly intelligent, impactful, free, fair, living paradise that is a good for the people as it is for the land. Let's show them what we've got!

Finally, this is going to have a huge impact on the kids themselves; our students will grow along with the trees. They will mature together. This is right across the road from the REED school. By the time that the elementary kids are in Reed, these trees will be ripe.

Let's give them the best that we can build.

If people are watching our town, let's show them how much good that Newtown can do.

Town Support:

There is a TON of enthusiasm for this project. We could easily be standing here with 100 people who back this project, however, we want to make sure that we are grounded, and have a through plan/procedure/permission to make this happen first.

Walking the trail: Everyone who we have connected with while *visiting* the site who catch wind of this project become incredibly excited. People have already promised to 'be there' when it is time to plant, and many individuals have even pledged- without prompting- to *sponsor a tree* or other financial/material support. This is going to take off. People want this.

Friends and Students: Having casually chatted about this in social settings, we have already observed a HUGE amount of potential support. There are entire circles of friends from high school, as well as local students from college who have asked to be kept as up-to-date as possible. They have offered their time, energy and creativity to this project. There are people of all ages who are willing to contribute in different ways. We are prepared to find a role for everyone's interests and talents, we just need to ensure that is good to go. We are throughout organized, and prepared to conduct installation/management in a very streamlined, yet inclusive manner.

Distinctions:**Hyper Inclusive:**

- three boards at public input month.
- make sure everyone what wants in gets in
- fliers to schools
- Bee article
- installed BY the town

Community Connections:

Groups/Individuals who we look forward to working with:

- Protect the Pollinators
- Rob Sibley (wetlands bylaws, ect)
- Sticks and Stones
- Trout Unlimited
- Parks and Recreation
- Cultural Arts Committee

Planting Date:

Goal: Spring. May/June

However, our intention is to allow things to unfold as properly as possible. If it requires additional months or weeks to properly prepare, then it is safe to plant in early summer.

About the planting: or PLANTING TYPE

All of our plantings following a 'forest garden' style.

It is easy to think 'fruit trail' and imagine something rather like a row of orchard trees. There *will* be trees growing like this, but the key distinction is that the trees will be of *mixed variety*, they will not be grown so close together, and most importantly, the spaces between and around the trees will be filled with additional bushes, herbs and flowers. *These addition plants help to HOLD BACK and *suppress* unwanted plants. We plant very thick *groundcovers*, such as thyme, bugle, clumping strawberries, and violets. These plants establish themselves quickly, and root in, beginning to spread before other unwanted plants have an opportunity to take hold.

Filling this ground over layer between the trees, we plant a mix of friendly herbs like sage, lavender, echinacea, and perennial onions, that will all be tagged and labeled for the benefit/interest of trailgoers.

Management:

-Trees take time to grow- by the time they fruit, we will have inspired a ton of inspiration. People will be eager to pick everything that grows.

-Updates: we will making live communications with the town through internet and application, alerting all interested individuals to ripe fruit, harvesting events, and even maintenance opportunities.

-Long term stewards assigned to small patches. Water, weed, prune, harvest, ect.

-ON CALL Greentek members in town are ready to tackle any reasonable project that the town deems necessary.

Process:

-Upon approval, we will release website, and gently introduce the concept to the town. See article, ect.

-For one-two months, there will be a public room rented on Mainstreet, where we hang three potential designs, along with a blank map for people to consider the possible direction, and add their input

-There will be a journal, plant catalogs, and a clearly defined selection of jobs/roles that people may sign up with in advance.

-We will also collect input from all public schools.

-We ensure that anyone who could possibly want say, or want an it, KNOWs about the project, and feels good about their involvement.

Maybe we'll find out that people are WAYY more interested in peaches than they are about asian pears. Fine, then we'll adult accordingly, maybe we'll discover that a surprising number of kids were including dragons or mountains in their design, in which case we may might invite a sculpture to build us a tasteful dragon element, or perhaps explore the practicalities of moving a very large boulder somewhere in the site to represent/ground children's mountain archetype.

All of the information is condensed into on master map to be approved.

On-Site Board with updated harvesting tips.

"hey, do you now what a red currant is? They are very popular fruits throughout european gardens, but not many people know about this interesting plant. especially not with all those questionable, red round berries. Well, you can use a special fork for harvesting them, and they are best used as jam. Join us for a harvesting session at 5:30 friday afternoon, and go home with a pail of fruit and instructions for making jam!"

How is this related to the Tragedy?

This project is for *all people*. It is a living vision of the most sustainable future that we are capable of creating. This project serves to bring *health* to our community; the basis of peace and wellbeing. It serves to connect people of all backgrounds and all ages. It allows our town to take a bold step toward restoration/production, and away from exploitation. It demonstrates how we can soften our impact on the environment *while* helping ecology, building diversity, and community connection, and *producing valuable resources at home*. Therefore, this project is not a dedication, but a direct response to the pain and confusion across the entire globe.

This is for the children of sandy hook, of course, how could it not be? But it is for all people; all who have been lost or hurt or suffered in some way. It is for all whose lives have been damaged by the systems across our planet. This is for anyone who has been lost from foolish wars, or who have died from hunger or cold or want. We can do better than that. They deserve better. We all deserve better. This is our first step toward *building* that better world. We can have a planet where all people are fed and clothed and taken care of- and where the land is healthy enough to provide for everyone's needs in a fun, fair, beautiful, healthy way.

This is our first step along that path. Let us transform this space into a living, breathing campus peace

We have all talked about *making the world a better place*. This is our plan to realize that world. We invite you, your inspiration, vision and support to join this cause.

NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER
3 PRIMROSE STREET
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT 06470
TEL. (203) 270-4201
FAX (203) 270-4205



E. PATRICIA LLODRA
FIRST SELECTMAN

TOWN OF NEWTOWN
OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION
TOWN OF NEWTOWN

- Whereas, All persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and
- Whereas, Federal Fair Housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and
- Whereas, Connecticut Fair Housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful sources of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and home ownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and
- Whereas, The Town of Newtown is committed to upholding these laws and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Town of Newtown hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase and obtain financing and enjoy all other housing related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

That the Economic Development Coordinator, Betsy Paynter, is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of illegal discriminatory housing practices in the Town of Newtown and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

E. Patricia Llodra, First Selectman

William F.L. Rodgers, Selectman

Herbert C. Rosenthal, Selectman

Adopted by the Town of Newtown on April 18, 2016

Town of Newtown, CT

3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470

Design Advisory Board

MINUTES

NAME	TERM	PHONE	ADDRESS
R-Phil Clark	11/01/14-11/01/16		153 South Main St
D-Donald Perry Strait	11/01/13-11/01/15	203-364-1924	150 Head of Meadow Rd
D-DeCanio, Jennifer	07/07/14-11/01/15		6 Pomperaug Rd

ALTERNATES

NAME	TERM	PHONE	ADDRESS
D-Ortali, Peter	08/18/14-11/01/15		45 New Lebbon Rd
R-Palmieri, Gus	03/16/15-11/01/15		21 Platts Hill Road

DESIGN ADVISORY BOARD ORDINANCE

Be it known that the Legislative Council for the Town of Newtown hereby recognizes the important role that community appearance and character has on the social and economic well being of the community.

Let it be further known that a Design Advisory Board (DAB) shall hereby be created for the purpose of reviewing proposed commercial developments within the Town of Newtown in designated design districts that are adopted by the Newtown Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC). The Design Advisory Board shall serve as an advisory board to the Newtown Planning and Zoning Commission.

Membership will consist of three volunteer members each of whom shall have expertise and knowledge in one or more of the following fields: architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, or urban planning. Members shall be appointed by the First Selectman with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to serve for a two year term. Initially, the First Selectman shall appoint two members for two year terms and one member for a three year term.

The Design Advisory Board shall be responsible for assisting property owners, design professionals and others to understand the specific elements of site design and building appearances that are desired within the various design districts located in the Town of Newtown as designated by the Newtown Planning and Zoning Commission. The Design Advisory Board shall recommend design guidelines to the PZC for each design district. The guidelines adopted by the PZC shall be made available to the public.

Adopted 9/1/04

Newtown Municipal Center
3 Primrose Street
Newtown, Connecticut 06470
Tel. (203) 270-4201
Fax (203) 270-4205
first.selectman@newtown-ct.gov
www.newtown-ct.gov



E. Patricia Llodra
First Selectman

TOWN OF NEWTOWN
OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

April 18, 2016

TO: Planning and Zoning Commission
FROM: Board of Selectmen
RE: Community Center facility

The Board of Selectmen requests that the Planning and Zoning Commission consider a referral for the proposed Community Center facility to be located on the grounds of Fairfield Hills, to the right of the Newtown Youth Academy, in the former location of Litchfield Hall and Yale Lab under CGS 8-24 as follows:

"The project anticipates a facility of some 43,000 square feet comprised of two main features, including at least 13,000 square feet of flexible, programmable space for general community use and an aquatics component with two pools, a lap pool of up to 50 meters and a zero-entry pool. The facility will be located on the Fairfield Hills Campus, adjacent to the NYA. Site work, parking and support features such as locker rooms, offices, and bathrooms are included in the project."