

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE PERMANENT MEMORIAL COMMISSION

The Permanent Memorial Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, March 9, 2017 in the Council Chamber of the Newtown Municipal Center, Newtown. Chairman Lyddy called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and began with a moment of silence.

**PRESENT:** Kyle Lyddy, Joann Bacon, Joanne Brunetti, Brian Engel, Dan Krauss, Alan Martin, Agni Pavlidou Kyprianou, Sarah Middelmeer, Tricia Pinto  
**ABSENT:** Donna VanWaalwijk

**ALSO PRESENT:** George Benson, two members of the public and one member of the press.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** none.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Mr. Martin moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 15, 2017. Mr. Krauss seconded. All in favor.

**SITE SELECTION UPDATE:** Mr. Benson was present to discuss the map of SAC (att.) and answer questions. He said the map is done and the agreement for SAC has been signed. The acquisition will go to Planning & Zoning on March 16, the Board of Selectmen on March 20 and to the Legislative Council on April 5 (att.) There is an easement to access the property for all three properties – Newtown Underwater Search and Rescue, the Sandy Hook Fire Department and the Town of Newtown for the Permanent Memorial site, which is connected to Treadwell Park. The agreement allows for the entryway to be buffered. There will be more than adequate parking, approximately 40 spaces and overflow parking. Mr. Benson said it is part of the development plan to identify potential plants and wildlife that would need special care at the site. Mr. Benson has an additional map, with contours, that he will be able to share with the commission.

**DESIGN PHASE OF PROJECT:** Mr. Lyddy reviewed the timeline of the Guidelines for Submitting a Design (att.) Geryl yn Hoerauf is the owners representative for town projects and will be part of the process. Mr. Lyddy suggested incorporating Ms. Hoerauf and Mr. Ryan, of JMC, in the subcommittee meetings. Ms. Middelmeer said that the documents need to be ready for the guideline booklet. Ms. Pavlidou Kyprianou said the guidelines should include the Police Commission. Ms. Brunetti suggested including Parks & Recreation. There was discussion about the maintenance of the property and town land v. a 501c3. Mr. Lyddy said the property is town land and will be maintained by the town. Mr. Engel asked if it would be appropriate to follow up with the list of people who offered items for donation. Ms. Brunetti said there are approximately six solid offers of items or a service; the rest were suggestions as to what the memorial should be. Mr. Lyddy has followed up with some people with offers and will do that with the current list to keep people up to date as to where the commission is in the process. Ms. Hoerauf will be helpful with the RFP process.

**COMMUNICATION to COMMISSION:** A letter from First Selectman Llodra to Rev. Hodapp relative to the Rock of Angels was shared (att.). A phone call was received regarding a \$700 donation to the memorial commission. Ms. VanWaalwijk is compiling a list of individuals within corporations for fundraising. There was discussion on the cost of advertising the RFP and how the RFP's will be received. Mr. Lyddy suggested utilizing town departments.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business the Permanent Memorial Commission adjourned their regular meeting at 8:03pm.



Respectfully submitted,

Susan Marcinek, Clerk pro tem

*Attachment: map; timeline; design guideline timeline; letter*



**Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission  
SAC Field Approval Moving Forward**

Date	Group	Status
March 16, 2017	Planning & Zoning	Rob Sibley to discuss acquisition with P&Z
		
March 20, 2017	Board of Selectmen	First Selectmen to make recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to acquire the property
		
April 5, 2017	Legislative Council	On Legislative Council Agenda to authorize the acquisition.

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**Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission**  
**Draft of Guidelines for Submitting A Design (GSD) Timeline Moving Forward**

As of 03.09.17

Action	Individuals Involved	Date
<b>STEP #1 APPROVAL OF LAND</b>		
SHPMC Meeting / Land Use Office Confirms Updated Map	Land Use / SHPMC	3/9/17
Rob Sibley to discuss acquisition with P&Z under 824 referal by state statute	Land Use / P&Z	3/16/17
First Selectmen to make recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to acquire the property	Board of Selectmen	3/20/17
Acquisition on Legislative Council agenda to authorize the acquisition	Legislative Council	4/5/17
<b>STEP #2 FINALIZE GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING A DESIGN</b>		
Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission Meeting to Discuss Next Steps of Design Process	SHPMC	4/13/17
Circulate Working Document GSD to Appropriate Parties for Recommendations and Feedback		
a. 26 Families Feedback	Distribution to 26 Families	5/4/17
b. Land Use Feedback	George Benson	5/4/17
c. Geralyn Hoerauf Feedback (Owners Rep)	Geralyn Hoerauf	5/4/17
d. Jim Ryan (Conservation Commission/JMC)	Conservation Commission /JMC	5/4/17
e. Newtown Police Commission Feedback	Police Commission	5/4/17
f. Newtown Legal Feedback	Town of Newtown Legal Review	Ongoing
Presentation of Feedback to SHPMC	SHPMC	5/11/17
Revised GSD Completed with Feedback/Updates as Appropriate	Design Selection Sub Committee	5/12 - 5/26
Final GSD Presented to SHPMC by sub committee & voted on	SHPMC	6/8/17
<b>STEP #3 DESIGN OUTREACH &amp; SELECTION</b>		
Distribution Lists and Publication of GSD Finalized	SHPMC	6/8/17
Committee of Submission Review Aligned On (Inclusive of 26 Families)	SHPMC	6/8/17
Design Open for Submissions	SHPMC	6/22 - 7/20
Review of Submissions	SHPMC / Committee	7/21 - 7/28

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E. Patricia Llodra  
First Selectman  
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## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

February 22, 2017

Rev. Canon Tim Hodapp  
290 Pratt Street, Box 52  
Meriden, CT 06450

Dear Reverend,

I am following up with you regarding the issue of the Rock of Angels and the offer to donate to the Town of Newtown the property upon which that memorial sits. Since we last spoke, I met with our Interfaith Clergy group to discuss the possibility of any of those represented organizations taking possession of the memorial and relocating it to a spot associated with that faith body. We discussed how the memorial came to Town, our sincere appreciation and valuing of the compassion and kindness of the Maine craftsmen, the honorable treatment of the memorial and comfort offered its visitors by St. John's, the informal plans put forth by some associated with the memorial to develop the site with additional benches, and more. Every participant in the conversation engaged in an effort to help problem-solve the circumstance we face. Ultimately, however, none of the members of the Interfaith Clergy group expressed an interest in 'ownership' of the Rock of Angels.

I also met with our Permanent Memorial Commission, a body appointed by the Board of Selectmen several years ago with the charge to determine the site and nature of a permanent memorial honoring the victims of the Sandy Hook School tragedy. That Commission carefully considered whether the Rock of Angels could somehow be incorporated into their plans for a memorial in a different location and of a different type. The Commission ultimately voted to not include the Rock of Angels as part of their plan.

Seemingly, we are left with no place to turn for further consideration, in terms of a local option. Several folks have suggested to me that the original Maine craftsmen may have ideas for relocation. Some have stated that there were other sites considered before the memorial came to Newtown. I have not determined the veracity of those statements but offer it as a possibility for you to investigate. Still others suggest that the Episcopal Church of Connecticut likely has church locations that could accommodate the memorial.

I feel saddened by this turn of events. We offer no disrespect to the Maine craftsmen and consider the Rock of Angels to be a beautiful tribute to those we lost. We cannot, however, force-fit a local solution as to its location. I am hopeful that you, Reverend Hodapp, can help find a way to honor the memorial by locating it suitably within the Episcopal domain.

Sincerely,

E. Patricia Llodra  
First Selectman