

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE PERMANENT MEMORIAL COMMISSION

The Permanent Memorial Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, January 12, 2017 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 Brunetti, Brian Engel, Dan Krauss, Kyle Lyddy, Alan Martin, Sarah Middelcer, Agni Pavlidou Kyprianou, Tricia Pinto (7:44pm), Donna VanWaalwijk

ALSO PRESENT: First Selectman E. Patricia Llodra, Director of Planning and Land Use, George Benson and three members of the public.

ABSENT: Joanne Bacon

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. VanWaalwijk moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of 10/13/16. Ms. Brunetti seconded. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF 2017 MEETING DATES: Mr. Martin moved to accept the 2017 meeting dates (att) changing the start time of the meetings to 7:00pm. Ms. Brunetti seconded. All in favor.

ROCK OF ANGELS – RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN: First Selectman Llodra was present to discuss, on half of the Board of Selectmen, an offer of land to the town, which includes the Rock of Angels memorial (att.). St. Johns church has closed and the building will be sold. The Town has been offered the land on which the Rock of Angels sits. There was not a collaborative effort in receiving the memorial, at the time, and there are mixed feelings around the memorial. Ms. Brunetti suggested another house of worship in town may be interested. If the town accepts the land, it accepts the memorial. Mr. Engel stated that as a committee member he recalls some families not wanting anything with a religious connotation or anything with angels. Some of the teachers felt the memorial was something important. First Selectman Llodra asked the commission to decide if the memorial can find a home at the site of the permanent memorial, stating she is confident it can be moved. She will also bring this forward to the interfaith community. Mr. Engel said in addition to the religious aspect the families may have an issue with the way the names are presented on the memorial. Ms. VanWaalwijk asked what happens to the memorial should the commission decide against accepting it. First Selectman Llodra said the memorial only becomes the responsibility of the town should the town accept the donation of land; otherwise it is the responsibility of the church. Mr. Lyddy said prior to the memorial arriving in town another community was interested in it. At this point the First Selectman is only talking with the church and doesn't get the feeling the memorial has a religious overtone. Ms. Pinto said that although there was no mal intent in the donation there was controversy surrounding the donation and the families were not consulted. First Selectman Llodra noted that St. Johns has been very honorable. There are also 26 benches that were intended to be part of the Rock of Angels site. These benches can be used at the site of the permanent memorial.

SITE SELECTION DISCUSSION: In October, 2016, the commission voted unanimously to approve SAC field as the site for the permanent memorial. A site survey was completed at no cost. The site map and legal paperwork has begun (att.). Mr. Benson reported the survey has been complete, the property lines need to be finalized before the final disposition of property. The lot at the front, with the house, will go to the Sandy Hook Fire Department. The area is one acre zoning and cannot be used for anything commercial. The memorial will be approximately six acres, within two parts. Negotiations are moving along with the SAC Board of Trustees. Mr. Benson reported the map is expected to be complete next week, the deed is ready and waiting the map description. First Selectman Llodra anticipates the approval through the Board of Selectmen and Legislative Council to be complete by April. Mr. Martin clarified that this decided upon site is donated land. Language can be included in the easement agreement to include a buffer of trees. Mr. Benson will look into access to water at the site.

Rec'd. for Record 1-17 20 17
Town Clerk of Newtown 9:30am
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

DESIGN PROCESS: This item is on hold until further confirmation.

Design Selection Guidelines; Town Review of Guidelines: Ms. Mittleleer and Ms. Pavlidou Kyprianou reported this will take many weeks and may be better to start sooner rather than later. They are interested in seeing the site plan to get a better understanding of the topography. They requested a full size document of the site plan.

JMC Services Offer (Entrance & Parking): Jim Ryan, of JMC, has offered, free of charge, to design the entrance and parking lot of the memorial. Ms. Pavlidou Kyprianou thinks the subcommittee should be meeting with Mr. Ryan. Mr. Lyddy also noted that GERALYN HOERAUF, the owners representative for the Community Center, has offered to review the guidelines document.

FUNDRAISING:

Letter Created for Outreach: The commission discussed a fundraising letter targeted to high level donors. The contributions are tax deductible. Having a post office box for the commission was discussed. Ms. Pavlidou Kyprianou feels those donating would prefer to make checks payable to the Permanent Memorial Commission and not the Town of Newtown. Ms. VanWaalwijk feels it is important to talk to people face to face relative to donations rather than solicit by mail. There should be in person outreach. Corporations will likely want recognition; that can be done in the form of a plaque or further discussed at the time.

501c3 Discussion: Mr. Lyddy reviewed questions and answers relative to creating a 501c3 under the government umbrella. Mr. Lyddy will follow up with the First Selectman relative to all that needs to be considered such as a bank account, the formation of a Board of Directors and the filing fee's involved. Ms. Brunetti stated that there needs to be a 501c3 in order to apply for grants. It appears the only downside is the cost. A maintenance plan needs to be developed and the responsibility of maintenance determined. The next steps is to talk to the First Selectman about the benefits, receiving donations, maintenance and grants for maintenance and to get an idea of the timeline of the process.

COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSION: A letter from Orlando was shared with the commission (att.). Ms. Brunetti volunteered to work with Mr. Lyddy on this.

Family Liaison Feedback: Ms. Pinto has not received any negative feedback on the site. Fundraising is a tricky area, as so much money had been raised and now there is a need to fundraise.

MICELLANEOUS:

Website Design Updates: The town has a new website. The memorial content can be updated by the commission. Mr. Lyddy will work with a third party vendor to update content. He asked the commission to review the website and suggest anything that needs to be added or updated.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business the Permanent Memorial Commission adjourned their regular meeting at 9:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Marcinek, Clerk pro tem

Attachments: 2017 meeting calendar; Rock of Angels –St. Johns Church; SHPMC location process, 1/12/17;



PERMANENT MEMORIAL COMMISSION

NEWTOWN MUNICIPAL CENTER

3 PRIMROSE STREET, NEWTOWN, CT 06470

2017 MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, in the Council Chamber, and begin at 7:00pm.

JANUARY	12
FEBRUARY	9
MARCH	9
APRIL	13
MAY	11
JUNE	8
JULY	13
AUGUST	10
SEPTEMBER	14
OCTOBER	12
NOVEMBER	9
DECEMBER	14
JANUARY	11 (2018)
FEBRUARY	18 (2018)



Rock Of Angels – St. Johns Church

**** Please note that this discussion is to not denigrate the honorable intentions of the donors. There was serious compassion and sensitivity shown by the individuals involved in this process. ****

History of Contribution:

- Called the "Rock of Angels," it was designed by sculptor Richard Gray and a team of stonecutters from rock dug from a gravel quarry in Maine.
- A 13-ton granite stone, it is equipped with LED lights and carved with the names of the victims of the Dec. 14 shooting. It now stands behind St. Johns Episcopal Church Sandy Hook.
- Approximately 100 community members attended the unveiling of the rock.
- Fundrazr: \$2,227 was raised by 61 contributors (\$36.50 average)

Location: St. Johns Church – Sandy Hook Center

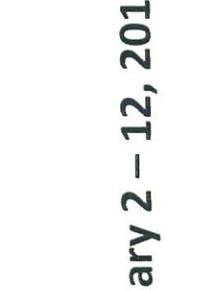
- A few private citizens stepped in and arranged for the delivery of the memorial
- St. Johns has been a wonderful host – welcoming community members and families, lighting the area and creating some seating.

Where We Are Now:

- Bishops that oversee St. Johns Church have formally offered the Town of Newtown the property that lies to the rear of their building on Washington Avenue.
- The Board of Selectmen has to consider and make a recommendation to the Legislative Council whether or not to accept the donation of the land
- The Board of Selectmen is asking for our thoughts and to provide insight into this issue.



Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission Location Process – 01/12/17

Date	Group	Status
October 13, 2016		Voted Unanimously to Approve SAC Field As Location To Allow Town To Proceed With Next Steps
December 7 – 14, 2016		Site Survey Completed at no cost to town or commission by JMC (Site Development Consultants)
January 2 – 12, 2017		Site map and legal paperwork / Negotiations with SAC Board of Directors Have Begun

To whom it may concern,

Good morning, my name is Caylah Hall, employee of the City of Orlando reaching out on behalf of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, his Chief of Staff Frank Billingsley and Deputy Chief of Staff Heather Fagan.

As you are probably aware, on June 12, 2016, our City suffered the loss of 49 lives during the Pulse Night Club shooting. Our community has demonstrated resilience, strength, and above all, unity in the healing process. As we are about to begin the new year, we are beginning the process of researching and coordinating our permanent memorial efforts, and are seeking the recommendations of those who have also taken on the task of executing a permanent memorial.

We would like to gather information regarding creating mission statements, defining key priorities, properly engaging the community, organizational structure, costs and the overall process and timeline for creating a memorial. If you have a contact person(s) you could refer me to regarding this subject, please let me know. I am looking forward to speaking with your team.

On behalf of Mayor Dyer, thank you for your attention and assistance in helping us begin this project.

Best,

Caylah Hall
Business Development Division
400 South Orange Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801

#OrlandoUnited

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