



# Q&A #1- Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission

The Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission has begun its outreach process and will be communicating with different groups in the community over the next several months. Although it has yet to be determined if a memorial will be constructed in the community, the Commission will continue its information gathering regarding this topic. We are committed to collaborating and involving the 26 families who may want to be a part of this process, while honoring the sensitivity of the topic. We will continue this series of Q&A's as information becomes available, however we welcome the public to reach out with any questions that are not answered on this initial document. You may do so by emailing [SandyHookPermanentMemorial@gmail.com](mailto:SandyHookPermanentMemorial@gmail.com).

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>What is the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission is a group of twelve Newtown residents appointed by the Newtown Board of Selectman in September of 2013.</li> <li>• The twelve residents are expected to lead the community through the process of determining if a permanent memorial should be constructed and if so, making a recommendation on the nature, location and funding of a permanent memorial(s).</li> </ul>
<p>What is the mission of the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mission of the Permanent Memorial Commission is to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectman for a Permanent Memorial that remembers, honors and celebrates those 26 who died as a result of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting and serves to provide comfort to those who loved and were touched by them.</li> </ul>
<p>Who will the Permanent Memorial Commission be soliciting information from regarding this topic?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase I: The Commission's priority is to assure the 26 families are fully engaged in our process. The Commission communicates updates to the 26 families on a monthly basis and will keep them engaged from start to finish on how plans progress.</li> <li>• Phase II*: Gathering of information and engaging the Teachers &amp; Staff who were in Sandy Hook Elementary School on 12/14, Parents of Students in Sandy Hook Elementary School on 12/14 and First Responders (NPD, Dispatchers, EMS, SHFD &amp; CT State Police).</li> <li>• Phase III*: The Newtown community will have an opportunity to share thoughts on the topic in public settings</li> <li>• Phase IV: The dialogue and collaboration will continue with the 26 families at this time. Discussions on our information gathering will take place prior to the Commission making a recommendation to the Board of Selectman</li> </ul> <p>*These phases have been positioned to assist in our information gathering stage. The phases are fluid and will</p>

	<p>overlap. There will be multiple opportunities for each group to collaborate with our Commission. Those groups positioned in Phase II and Phase III who want to participate will have adequate public warning as to when our Commission is prepared to discuss these matters.</p>
<b>What is the timetable of the commission's work?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission is moving at an appropriate pace and there is no timetable associated with the completion of our work.</li> </ul>
<b>Has the Commission endorsed any plan that has been presented?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite many plans and ideas presented there has not been any design or location for a Permanent Memorial endorsed by the Commission.</li> </ul>
<b>Are the meeting minutes posted after each meeting?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, meeting minutes are posted under the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission section of the Town of Newtown website after each meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>How frequently does the Commission meet?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The commission meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30PM in the chamber at the Newtown Municipal Center. The meetings are open to the public.</li> </ul>
<b>How can I contact the Commission?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are multiple ways for you to communicate with the Commission as listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ You may email <a href="mailto:SandyHookPermanentMemorial@gmail.com">SandyHookPermanentMemorial@gmail.com</a> to correspond directly with the Chairman of the Commission, Kyle Lyddy.</li> <li>○ You may keep in touch through social media on Twitter (<a href="https://twitter.com/SHPermMemorial">@SHPermMemorial</a>) and Facebook (<a href="https://Facebook.com/SandyHookPermanentMemorial">Facebook.com/SandyHookPermanentMemorial</a>).</li> <li>○ A website is currently being built and will be posted when it has been published.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



## Q&A #2- Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission

The Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission has been established since September of 2013 and has spent its time over the past 20 months collecting information and forming a process on how to proceed through this difficult charge. The Commission has completed Phases I – III of its “Information Gathering Stage” in an effort to collect information from specific groups, including that of the Greater Newtown Community. Phase IV outlined below – will be ongoing. The Commission continues to communicate and involve those who lost a loved one who want to be part of this process, while honoring the sensitivity of the topic. Those who would like to communicate with the Commission, who may not have found an answer they were looking for on this document, can do so by emailing [SandyHookPermanentMemorial@gmail.com](mailto:SandyHookPermanentMemorial@gmail.com).

\*Please note, some of the questions on this Q&A are duplicates from Q&A #1 to assure this information stays top of mind.

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<p><b>What is the mission of the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mission of the Permanent Memorial Commission is to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectman for a Permanent Memorial that remembers, honors and celebrates those 26 who died as a result of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting and serves to provide comfort to those who loved and were touched by them.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What are some of the results from the information gathering stage?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please see the attached spreadsheets that detail our findings from Phase II – III. Please note that the information solicited from the 26 families is an ongoing process and results are not complete at this time.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What is the timetable of the Commission’s work?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission is moving at an appropriate pace and there is no timetable associated with the completion of our work.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Is the Commission accepting ideas or plans at this time?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission has put all design contributions on hold at this time in an effort to find the best way to accept presentations in a fair and thoughtful manner.</li> <li>• Approximately half a dozen plans have been submitted thus far, however the Commission has set up a sub committee to vet through the selection process and how it will work moving forward.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Does the Commission have a location in mind for the Memorial?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission has begun to create an inventory of options in the community to understand where may be the best location for a memorial. A sub committee has been set up to understand the pro's and con's of these available locations.</li> <li>• The sub committee has had conversations with the Town of Newtown, Newtown Forest Association and the Fairfield Hills Authority Commission to understand availability. The hope is to finalize a list of 3-5 locations to share with the 26 families.</li> <li>• Despite results from surveys showing that majority of people would like to see a memorial in Sandy Hook, the Commission has found that land availability in Sandy Hook is minimal. The Commission will however continue to search for the most appropriate location!</li> <li>• If you are a private land owner in Newtown with interest in contributing property to the Town of Newtown for this project, please reach out to Commission Chairman Kyle Lyddy at <a href="mailto:SandyHookPermanentMemorial@gmail.com">SandyHookPermanentMemorial@gmail.com</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Are the meeting minutes posted after each meeting?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes, meeting minutes are posted under the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission section of the Town of Newtown website after each meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Does the Commission communicate with the 26 families?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are four family members who lost loved ones on the Commission. Beyond that, the Commission made contact with all families in May of 2014 to get initial feelings about the topic of a memorial. Since then, the Commission has sent out monthly updates to the 26 families on topics of discussion. We have also met with a few families in person, others attended open forums and we have received surveys and corresponded through email from others.</li> <li>• One of the main goals of the Commission is to assure communication is transparent with these families and to assure those who want to be involved in the process, have an opportunity to do so. A trend from Phase I – III's information gathering stage insisted that we communicate and listen to the families – we will continue to do so.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How frequently does the Commission meet?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The commission meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30PM at the Newtown Municipal Center. The meetings are open to the public and the agenda is posted at least 24 hours prior to each meeting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Does the Commission have funding to build a memorial?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission has not directly fundraised any money for the Permanent Memorial at this time.</li> <li>• After 12/14, there was \$130,000 contributed and earmarked for a memorial and is being held in an account by The Town of Newtown. Because the scope is unknown at this time, it is not known how much a memorial will</li> </ul>

cost to construct.

- Those interested in contributing can do so by reaching out directly to Chairman Kyle Lyddy at [SandyHookPermanentMemorial@gmail.com](mailto:SandyHookPermanentMemorial@gmail.com) to learn how.

#### How can I contact the Commission?

- There are multiple ways for you to communicate with the Commission as listed below:
  - You may email [SandyHookPermanentMemorial@gmail.com](mailto:SandyHookPermanentMemorial@gmail.com) to correspond directly with the Chairman of the Commission, Kyle Lyddy.
  - You may keep in touch through social media on Twitter (@SHPermMemorial) and Facebook (Facebook.com/SandyHookPermanentMemorial).
  - A website has been created and can be accessed at <http://www.SandyHookPermanentMemorial.com>

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