



**Sandy Hook**  
Permanent  
Memorial  
Commission

**Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission  
Newtown Municipal Center, Council Chamber  
3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT**

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE PERMANENT MEMORIAL  
COMMISSION

The Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission held a working session on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at the Newtown Municipal Center, Council Chamber, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown. Alan Martin called the meeting to order at 7:08pm and began with a moment of silence.

**PRESENT:** Alan Martin, JoAnn Bacon, Sarah Middeleer, Pat Llodra and Donna Van Waalwijk.

**ABSENT:** Dan Krauss, Brian Engel, Joanne Brunetti, Agni Pavilidou Kyprianou and Tricia Pinto.

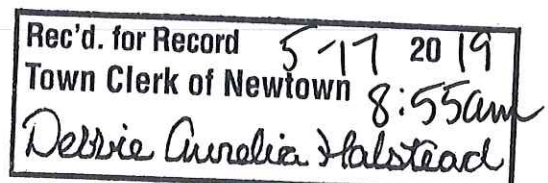
**ALSO PRESENT:** First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, Ben Waldo & Daniel Affleck, of SWA, via phone and one member of the press.

As there was not a quorum, this meeting was held as a working session.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** not applicable.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** none.

**DISCUSSION OF REVIESED DESIGN OPTIONS:** Ben Waldo and Daniel Affleck attended the meeting by phone to answer questions given to them by the commission. They recommend bringing on a professional cost estimator. Crushed stone in the parking area is not recommended. SWA has relationships with area nurseries and can speak with them relative to donations or price reduction. There will be enough lighting for code compliance. SWA will defer security fencing decisions to the Town. There may be schools or students that can do the ponds. SWA would make recommendations before bringing in any type of non-profit. The ponds are interconnected; what's done to one is done to the other, what's not done to one is not done to the other. The decision on bathrooms will be deferred to the Town; however, bathrooms are the most universally desired facility and not a significant cost difference. The mobilization cost includes the infrastructure for construction, preserving the ecology, large equipment, safety and the construction trailer. SWA can provide a more specific description of mobilization costs vs. site development. First Selectman Rosenthal will look into what, if anything, the Department of Public Works can do on site. The 18% contingency is typical at this stage. Colored asphalt is \$1 more per square foot. Other benches can be used but there is a cohesiveness in this design. The parking lot is designed for an average day; sixteen spaces. First Selectman Rosenthal mentioned the possibility of using the property behind the firehouse for access, saying it may change the cost dynamic significantly; he will discuss further with the Land Use Department. Utilities will come from Dickinson Drive. The bridges are an essential component. It is not easy, with the topography, to fit a circular shape that crosses over one pond, but not the other. SWA doesn't want to diminish the impact of the component by making it much smaller. In changing this there would be cascading cost involving infrastructure. The pavilion adds so much to the project that SWA feels it is worth keeping. The Obama quote is part of the pavilion. SWA is trying very hard to keep the integrity of the design at the new budget. They are protecting the central water feature cost. Plantings cost can be reduced by using hydro seed. This could take time to establish. The storm water pollution prevention plan may be a state requirement. As far as grading SWA thinks that with design development, construction documentation phasing the number will be reduced to zero. Surface drainage is planned in certain areas. An entry gate is a question



related to security. Gravel for the walking path feels more natural than asphalt, but may be problematic as far as maintenance. Self-binding gravel was part of the original design, which is easier to maintain. The signage cost has been extremely reduced. George Benson is an expert in lakes and can be a very helpful resource. Pond rehabilitation is subject to more discussion. Irrigation cost can be reduced in option 1. SWA will reach out to a bridge manufacturer. SWA stated the benches were not considered in the original design because their concern was that some victims might be located in an area that may not have been agreeable to the family. They didn't the appearance of preferential or uneven treatment. The water feature designer believes reducing the size of the water feature any more would reduce the impact. In option 2 & 3 the paving was changed to concrete pavers; they prefer the stone, it is durable. The bicycle rack is a minimal cost but can be eliminated. Asphalt is the cheapest product. Irrigation can be reduced but SWA wants to keep something for the sycamore and plantings.

S. Middeleer isn't comfortable with the \$4 million number. She proposed trimming costs judiciously and find outside fundraising. First Selectman Rosenthal said the higher the number goes the commission needs to be cognizant of the voters, as this will a referendum project. P. Llodra reviewed by building up from the bottom up, rather than the top down, identifying the core elements of the project she thinks are must have's and suggested all commission members do the same. S. Middeleer feels the entire design works together. SWA said that even wealthy communities engage in public/private partnerships. Reducing from \$11 million to \$7/\$8 million will result in more return on investment. J. Bacon will discuss with T. Pinto; T. Pinto will follow up with families of loss. A. Martin asked the commission members to identify all elements/features each feel critical to the integrity of the design and also identify any elements/features that can be eliminated or reduced. He asked that this be submitted to Dan Krauss by May 23.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The working session of the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission was ended at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Marcinek, clerk