



**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 special meeting on Monday, July 30, 2018 at the Municipal Center, Council Chamber, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown. Dan Krauss called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Dan Krauss, Joann Bacon, Joanne Brunetti, Brian Engel, Pat Llodra, Sarah Middelcer, Agni Pavilidou Kyprianou, Tricia Pinto, Donna Van Waalwijk.

ABSENT: Alan Martin.

ALSO PRESENT: Land Use Director George Benson, advisory members Bob Mitchell, Allison Bials, Tom Tavella, two members of the public and two members of the press.

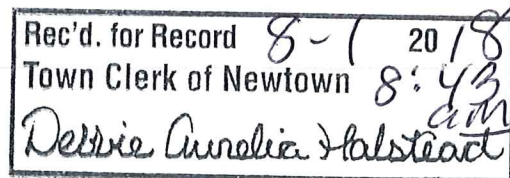
Approval of minutes: Ms. Van Waalwijk moved the minutes of July 12, 2018. Ms. Brunetti seconded. Ms. Middelcer questioned the Aug. 9 date in the minutes. Ms. Llodra stated that was presented as part of the referenced draft 'project to completion' timeline. Ms. Middelcer added, under Next Step, relative to fees, she feels that asking for team fees to get through construction drawings is not sufficient; there will be added costs and expenses presented by the firm following the completion of construction drawings, which is common to every design project. All in favor of the minutes as amended. Ms. Middelcer moved the minutes of July 17, 2018. Ms. Llodra seconded. All in favor.

Public Participation: Mr. Krauss shared an email from Joan Day, 40 Watkins Drive, Sandy Hook, thanking the commission for their hard work on the memorial. She was struck by SH37 and the similarity to the 9/11 Memorial in New York; peaceful with the water and the names around it. This design would get her vote.

Design Discussion:

SH37: The commission was appreciative that the team came back with requested modifications, were well prepared, respectful, responded thoroughly, and answered all questions presented to them. Elements of the design that the commission liked included the core concept of the sycamore tree, the way in which the names were presented, the simplicity of the design and that there is a true memorial element with complete use of the land. Mr. Benson said it is calming and does not physically alter the ponds. The team was emotionally balanced, humble and professional. The design had a New England feel that fits well with Newtown. Ms. Middelcer had concerns about the sycamore tree languishing, or dying, and wondered if the tree could be taken out of the water and put on the edge. She suggested a London plane tree instead of a sycamore. Mr. Benson would like to look more closely at the plans for the tree. Mr. Tavella isn't as concerned about the sycamore but believes a London plane is a tougher for urban environments. Mr. Mitchell said there is no element of failure; if not the sycamore, another tree can be chosen. There was a question about the bridges and the security of the tree; Mr. Benson said bridges over wetlands are possible. The commission expressed confidence in this team. Ms. Pinto stated this design was in the top three of all the families of loss that shared their opinion; overwhelming the family majority was for SH37.

SH108: Although this design is beautiful on paper and commission members liked the individual memorials, the commission had concerns which included maintenance, the switchbacks and the idea of the fountains looking alive and colorful in the spring and dormant in the winter. Part of the memorial addressed the community as a whole; the commission needs to discuss this further to decide exactly who this memorial is for. The view over the memorial was favored but overall the commission had less confidence in this design, questioning the ability to execute.



SH240: Some positive expressions from commission members included that supplemental materials were extraordinary, the ecological assessment was impressive, the design had many beautiful features including the overlook. Overall the commission did not like the idea of a 27th chair. The memorial wall felt like an afterthought, many questioned where the memorial was, saying there was no central concept. The emotional aspect wasn't there. The design has a park feel and doesn't inspire a reaction.

Mr. Martin supported dropping SH108 and requesting cost analysis for SH37 and SH240.

Vote to move design(s) forward: Ms. Pinto moved that the commission move SH 37 forward to the Aug. 9 meeting. Ms. Pavilidou Kyprianou seconded. Ms. Bials pointed out that as the commission goes through the construction cost exercise this design may be value engineered. Firm's fees are negotiable. The project fees are subject to public bid. There will be two packages of numbers: construction cost and the fee from the design team and consultants. All in favor.

Mr. Krauss will notify the finalist and the two other designers of the decision. He will also ask SH37 to inform the commission of the project design team's fees to bring the project to completion, what the estimated construction costs are and what is the firm's readiness to take the project on.

A motion will be made, on Aug. 9, to recommend the design to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Krauss will be meeting with the First Selectman to discuss the CIP also. There is currently money in the CIP and additional funding sources outside the town government. There was discussion on where and when the commission charge comes to an end. They will ask the Board of Selectmen to continue their charge.

ADJOURNMENT: The special meeting of the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial Commission was adjourned at 2:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Marcinek, clerk