

Nantucket Cemetery Commission
Minutes of January 18, 2017

A regular meeting of the Cemetery Commission was held January 18, 2017, at the Nantucket Department of Public Works and was called to order by Chair Allen Reinhard at 3:02 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Allen Reinhard, Chair, Lee Saperstein, Barbara White

Others Present: Kara Buzanoski, Cemetery Administrator

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Saperstein moved to approve the minutes of December 14, 2016. Seconded by Commissioner White and all were in favor.

The Commission addressed the following Agenda Items:

1. **Access to the Historical Colored Cemetery:** Once the brush along the roadway is trimmed access will improve.
2. **Access to Founders' Burial Ground:** Chair brought maps for the Commission for the discussion. The problem is that there is no vehicular access to the oldest cemetery on the island, so there is no legal way to get mowers there. The Chair explained two possible solutions. The first, and simplest, is to use the present access road and bridge the way through the existing easement at the northerly end of the Doerge property. This will require some grading. Ideally, the Commission would like a small parking area at the northwest corner. The Chair will accompany Richard Moore, Operations Manager at the DPW to survey and discuss what is necessary. Commission Saperstein will verify the easement in Town Records. The second option would require filling in a ravine and require Conservation Commission permission and would involve pipes for drainage. The Commission agreed to pursue the first option.
3. **Burial Plot at Newtown for Robert "Seaweed" Reed:** The chair has talked with members of the family. The family will fill out a lot application and proceed.
4. **Polpis Cemetery:** There are two separate issues concerning the Polpis Cemetery:
The first involves encroachment on cemetery land. Town Manager Libby Gibson gave permission to the Commission to send the information about the encroachment at 262 Polpis Road by the Swain's Neck Nominee Trust.
The second issue involves a planned land swap between the town and the property of Peter and Jeanne Hicks at 268 Polpis Road. The next step in the process is to get the two pieces of property in question appraised to ensure that they are of equal value.
5. **Newtown Cemetery:** The next step in the process of improving Newtown Cemetery is to get it cleared for the next round of Ground Penetrating Radar. (GPR) According to Commissioner Saperstein, the Commission has permission to proceed with the clearing from attorney

Shirrin Everett. Attorney Everett is an attorney with the KP Law. KP Law provides Town Counsel services to the Town of Nantucket. A work order will be issued from the DPW. The DPW will assess whether it is a job it can do, or whether it will need to be contracted out. The decision will hinge on the density of the growth. It was noted that the Commission has firm evidence that the parcels along Cow Pond Lane were used as a cemetery dating back to 1913, hence making the land a cemetery for over 100 years, and thus, a forever burial ground.

6. Cemetery Improvement Plans Update: Cemetery Administrator Buzanoski reported that the DPW has a list of the on-going tasks necessary for cemetery maintenance and the individual items that the Commission has earmarked for work. The work orders have been put into the system for scheduling. Chair Reinhard noted that Founders' Burial Ground has never looked better, congratulating the DPW for the work.

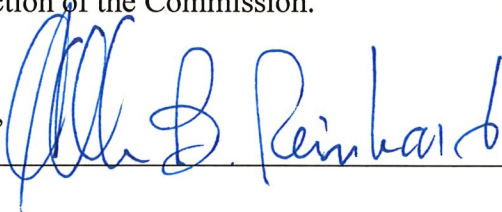
7. Cemetery Maps: Commissioner White, as per the December meeting, checked with the Nantucket Historical Association Research Library about the maps it uses. The NHA uses the town maps so will be of no assistance to the Cemetery Commission. Cemetery Administrator Buzanoski has contacted Kevin Flanagan of People GIS who does the maps for the town. Flanagan will identify the cemeteries. The Commission will have the town cemeteries surveyed and put into the mapping system. Eventually the Commission will have each cemetery plot identifiable by map with photos of the individual gravestones.

8. Other Business: Commissioner Saperstein recommended the cemeteries be properly recorded. His suggestion will be put on a future agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m. The next meetings will be February 8, 2017 and March 15, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Approved by action of the Commission.

Allen Reinhard,
Chair



Date:

Feb. 8, 2017