

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of February 9, 2022, at 3:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video Conference

DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Attendance: Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Allen Reinhard (Chair), Lee Saperstein, and Barbara White; Ken Beaugrand, Real Estate Specialist (left at 3:08 pm), Phyllis Ruguaru, DPW Office Manager.

Absent: Scott McIver.

1. Call to Order.

Chair Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. He reminded participants that the session was being recorded. A roll-call of attendees showed that a quorum existed.

2. Public and Commissioner Comments.

There were no public or commissioners' comments.

3. Approval of Minutes from January 12, 2022.

Barbara White moved, Frances Karttunen seconded, and the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting of January 12, 2022. The vote was by roll call.

4. Approval of Lot Sales Since Last Meeting.

Allen Reinhard reported that Samantha Sandler had applied and paid for lot G-18 in Polpis Cemetery and that it was ready for Commission approval. Lee Saperstein moved approval of this lot sale, Barbara White seconded, and the Commission voted unanimously by roll call to approve the sale. Allen Reinhard also reported that the interment on Saturday, January 15, 2022, of Amy Brock in lot HH-22 in the family plot in New North Cemetery had gone well. He had observed the digging of the grave and had also visited afterwards to check on its refilling. The family paid for the interment and the bulk of that fee went to Prospect Hill for their effort to inter the casket. Five hundred dollars of that fee went to the Town of Nantucket for digging the grave. Allen Reinhard will work with the Town to see that the sum goes into the correct cemetery account. [Action: Allen Reinhard to work with the Finance Department or the Town's Procurement Officer to arrange for deposition of the \$500 check into the correct cemetery account.]

He also reported on his latest message to the Tarlov family about placing a memorial for Mrs. Tarlov, mother to the correspondent, in the Quaker Cemetery. He had apologized to Dr. Tarlov for his earlier incorrect statement, which has been corrected to inform him that the Commission would accept a larger grave stone to accommodate the additional name or to have her name

inscribed in the original stone but that a second stone was not acceptable. The Tarlov family is working with Neil Paterson, Inc., to pick between these choices.

5. Polpis Cemetery Latest Developments.

Ken Beaugrand reported that the land swap is high on his list of priorities and that Town Counsel will be looking carefully at the conveyance documents. He has told Counsel of the concern for rapid action and expects it soon. Allen Reinhard related that there are only 19 lots left unsold in Polpis and that there is a pressing need for the new space. Ken Beaugrand left after his report.

6. Layout of New Lots at Polpis: Steps, Property Transfer, Layout of Lots, Order Toe and Corner Markers.

In a continuation of comments on Polpis Cemetery, Allen Reinhard said that the conveyance will require a boundary survey. He has asked the Water Company if their surveyors can layout future lots at Polpis and was told that they are extremely busy now. He added that when it is time to do the boundary survey, the Commission will find out if the surveyor can do the lot layout or whether the Water Company staff will be available. When the new boundaries are established, the Commission should schedule a meeting at Polpis to determine the best locations for new lots. It will also be time to order new toe and corner markers for the new lots.

7. Lot Sale Procedures and Forms Review.

Allen Reinhard asked Phyllis Rugaru to share her screen so that the Commissioners could view the latest version of the flow chart for application procedures. He noted that it was simple and effective and did have a space for Commission approval of each application. That step comes after all application paperwork and payment has been received.

8. Monument Restoration Project Report Discussion and Next Steps.

Allen Reinhard reported happily that he now had a copy of the consultant's report of the condition survey of monuments in five town cemeteries: Historic Coloured Cemetery, New North Cemetery, Newtown Cemetery, Old North Cemetery, and the Quaker Cemetery. He noted that commissioners had received digital copies of the report and that the DPW had created a printed version for him. He was extremely impressed by the thoroughness of the study. He did add, though, that he was disappointed that there were no cost estimates included in the report, something that he had asked the consultants to provide.

He noted that the report speaks to the difference between conservation of monuments and their total restoration. The report and the consultant, whom Allen Reinhard saw when she was on Island, speak in favor of conservation. Scott McIver has sent an e-mail to commissioners suggesting conservation. Frances Karttunen said that, while she was generally in favor of conservation, there may well be stones that are so broken or fragmented that they need to be restored. She is concerned that the history in the markers be preserved. If severely damaged stones cannot be restored, she suggests that the fragments be given to the Town Clerk or the

Nantucket Historical Association for safe keeping. If put into storage, the specific location of where the stone was found, both cemetery name and GPS coordinates, should be recorded.

Frances Karttunen and Barbara White both spoke positively of the thoroughness of the study and then pointed out that the report was filled with errors, both factual and typographical, that should be fixed before the report is accepted by the Town. While many were minor, the mislabeling of Historic Coloured Cemetery with its older name was particularly troubling. Because the version that was received was in PDF format, they could not use “Track Changes” to locate and repair the errors. They suggested that the Town ask for a “Word” version that they could edit. If they cannot edit the text, they offered to create an errata sheet.

Once we have received an emended report, the Commission needs to work with the Town’s procurement officer in the Finance Department to create a request for bids to do the actual work that includes a schedule of work as well as priorities for where the work is to be done: cemetery by cemetery or each category of damage across all cemeteries. The Finance Department can advise on how best to pay for the study as well as the actual conservation work. It was noted that the Community Preservation Committee grant should be tapped first. [Action: Allen Reinhard to contact the consultants to ask if we may edit the text of the report and also if they can provide an estimate of costs to conserve, and restore where needed, the grave markers in the five cemeteries. He will also advise Town Administration of this request.]

9. Black Cemetery Network.

Lee Saperstein reported that the Black Cemetery Network has accepted our application for membership for, specifically, the Historic Coloured Cemetery. He has received several messages from their web log that spoke well of our effort to preserve and protect this cemetery. Any messages that he receives that are of general interest, he will forward. Frances Karttunen said that she would attend their on-line meeting on this day.

10. Old, New, Other Business, and Cemetery Issues Update.

During the discussion of the monument restoration project, Frances Karttunen noted that she had been told by a colleague that the plot of Whale Oil Gus’s inurnment had not been grassed over. Allen Reinhard said that the same thing was true of the Amy Brock interment site. He had been reassured that turf replacement would occur once the ground was warm enough to support grass growth.

Updates to the cemeteries, reported Allen Reinhard, include new split-rail fencing at New and Old North cemeteries. Reporting on condition problems, Frances Karttunen said that she has seen soil erosion at the Quaker Cemetery where people walk into it, presumably to cross, at Upper Vestal Street. She said that a worn path should not be allowed to develop. Allen Reinhard said that he would look at this site. She said also that we should schedule the inurnment of the cremains held in the Clerk’s Office. Phyllis Rugaru said that the DPW will dig the holes once the weather is warmer. With respect to the dedication of the new monument at Quaise and the commission’s request for the DPW to renew the corner fencing before the dedication, Allen Reinhard reported that the DPW needs to be able to get equipment to the site

and that this needs cooperation from the Nantucket Conservation Foundation. Allen Reinhard said that he would check with the Foundation on this need. Lee Saperstein suggested that the inurnment and the dedication be returned as agenda items. [Action: Allen Reinhard to work with the NCF to provide access to the DPW to the Quaise Asylum Burial Ground. He will also follow up with the DPW on the inurnments of the unclaimed remains in the Clerk's Office. He will inspect the Quaker Cemetery for erosion. These activities will go on a future agenda.]

10. Adjournment came by consensus at 4:11 pm.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 3:00 pm by Zoom Video Conferencing. If regular face-to-face meetings resume, a notice will be sent with the agenda for the March meeting. The Zoom link remains the same.

Respectfully submitted: _____; Date: _____
Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary

Nantucket Cemetery Projects List.

- Cemetery monument condition survey.
- Consolidation of lots at Newtown Cemetery with recordable ground survey.
- Split rail fence at Polpis Cemetery.
- Survey to lay out additional lots at Polpis.
- Toe and lot corner markers for new Polpis lots when laid out.
- Dedication of new monument at Quaise Asylum Burial Ground.
- Fencing at the Historic Coloured Cemetery.
- Fencing and brush removal at New and Old North Cemeteries.