

**NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION**  
**Posted Meeting of January 10, 2024, at 3:00 pm**  
**DPW Conference Room, 188 Madaket Road, with Zoom Connectivity**

**FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Allen Reinhard (Chair), Lee Saperstein, and Barbara White; Charlie Polachi, DPW.

**1. Call to Order.**

Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm. He reminded participants that the session was being recorded:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PShEa5\\_35bQ&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhIyX1ozdd1bZ3zV8kXFp8M&index=43](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PShEa5_35bQ&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhIyX1ozdd1bZ3zV8kXFp8M&index=43). A roll-call of attendees showed that a quorum existed.

**2. Public and Commissioner Comments.**

With no members of the public present, there were no public comments. Allen Reinhard said that Frances Karttunen's comments were best placed at this point in the agenda instead of waiting for the New Business item. He asked her to talk about the proposed video that would enable a virtual tour of the Historic Coloured Cemetery. She said that she and Barbara White have given very well enrolled tours of the cemetery and, in doing so, talked between them about creating a video tour of the cemetery to coincide with the bicentennial of the African Meeting House on Nantucket. She learned very recently from Mary Bergman, Executive Director of the Nantucket Preservation Trust, that the "Community Foundation for Nantucket will manage the new Offshore Wind Community Fund, which is the first of its kind in the nation. The fund will be available initially to support community projects and initiatives related to protecting, restoring, and preserving cultural and historic resources, coastal resiliency, climate adaptation, and renewable energy" (from the Trust's web site). Mary Bergman thought that Mark White should direct the readings for the video.

They envision recording local citizens who are related to people interred in the cemetery and to insert edited versions of these discussions as the camera passes each relative's headstone. She suggested that the Cemetery Commission apply for a grant from this fund to pay for this video. Mary Bergman said that the deadline for submissions was the last day of January. Frances Karttunen reached out to Mary Novissimo of Novation Media for an estimate of cost, which she could insert into the grant application and was told that \$10,000 would cover expected costs. Saying that this project fit well into the goal of "preserving cultural and historic resources," Barbara White moved that the Commission should endorse the proposed application. In seconding the motion, Lee Saperstein suggested that the finished video be shared with the Black Cemetery Network. The motion was approved unanimously.

Frances Karttunen reminded the Commission that she had previously noted the deterioration of the sign on Prospect Street pointing to the Cemetery, the absence of guiding signs at the fork in North Mill Lane, and the poor condition of the roadway leading up to the cemetery. Charlie

Polachi said that he would contact Ray Sylvia, who is in charge of signage for the DPW, to get these fixed. Mention was made of the parking spaces in the hospital's driveway that were supposed to be dedicated to the cemetery, which do not have signs identifying them as there for cemetery visitors. Charlie Polachi will contact the hospital also.

### **3. Approval of Minutes from December 13, 2023.**

Frances Karttunen moved approval of the minutes of December 13, 2023, meeting, Barbara White seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous roll-call vote of those present.

### **4. Approval of Lot Sales Since the Last Meeting.**

No lots have been sold; hence, no approvals were needed.

### **5. Monument Restoration Project Update.**

Charlie Polachi reported that the contractor, Ludlow Memorial, had to postpone work until they could repair their on-Island truck, which will happen in the next week or so. They will start with the Quaker Cemetery. Lee Saperstein said that we had discussed inviting the newspaper to watch the work with the hopes that they will produce a story about the restoration project. To this end, he asked Charlie Polachi to let the Commissioners know when the work will be underway.

### **6. Newtown Cemetery: Plan for Consolidation Update, and Future Projects to Improve the Cemetery such as Parking, Layout of Lots, Flagpole, Brush Removal, etc.**

Allen Reinhard said that activity from the Town on confirming the status of Newtown as a legal cemetery remains absent. He did have a discussion with Maureen Coleman, Public Records Compliance Officer, about the lack of progress and how it inhibits badly needed work on the Cemetery. Lee Saperstein said that the Chair should ask the Town Manager for an appointment to discuss when action can begin. As a matter of history, Frances Karttunen said that a large number of Civil War veterans have been buried in Newtown and that this fact might be used by the Commission to enlist the Island's veteran groups to lobby for a resolution.

Charlie Polachi noted that the flagpole had been installed and that they are researching solar-powered lights that are federally required if the flag is to fly for 24 hours a day. This is preferred to trying to lower and raise the flag each day. He said that they will try to comply with the new Town regulations on night-time lighting. Responding to a question about brush cutting, Allen Reinhard said that some had been done along the southwestern fence but not too aggressively because the vegetation makes a good visual screen against the school-bus parking lot.

### **7. Corner Markers for New Lots at Polpis.**

Allen Reinhard reported that the remaining corner markers would be put in the ground as soon as Scott McIver returns on Island. He shared with the Commissioners his working map of Polpis that had been created by Phyllis Ruguarus, DPW Permit Service Coordinator, when she was staff

for the Commission. It is an excellent resource and he would like to have it available on the web site and will work with the IT staff to do so. It is a substantial part of the improved filing system for Polpis. He added that he would like to create an instructional file, available to all Commissioners, on how to sell a cemetery lot to a prospective buyer. It would capture his experiences over the years in meeting people at the cemetery and walking them through both the cemetery and the purchase procedures.

It was asked if the tree that was gifted to the Town and planted at Polpis late last year had survived depredations by local deer and, sadly, it had not.

## **8. Old, New, Other Business and Final Comments.**

Barbara White returned to the issue of adding members to the Commission; she suggested that it become an agenda item for the February meeting. She also reminded the Commissioners that her e-mail of December 15, 2023, relayed advice from H. Rayport on changing a commission's membership and suggested that it be read before the next meeting.

## **9. Adjournment.**

Adjournment was at 3:48 pm by acclamation.

**Next regular meeting: Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 3:00 pm, in the DPW conference room at 188 Madaket Road. For those who wish to attend virtually, a Zoom link will also be sent to Commissioners.**

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_; Date: 1/11/2024  
Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary

### **Nantucket Cemetery Projects List:**

- Consolidation of lots at Newtown Cemetery with recordable ground survey: Awaiting action.
- Begin Monument Restoration at the Historic Coloured and Quaker Cemeteries.
- Ongoing, D-2 treatment of monuments.
- Fencing at the Historic Coloured Cemetery.
- Fencing, and brush removal at New and Old North Cemeteries.
- New map needed for Polpis addition of new lots.
- Installation of new lot corners at Polpis.