

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of March 11, 2020, at 3:00 pm
Department of Public Works Office, 188 Madaket Road

DRAFT MINUTES FOR APPROVAL AND REVIEW

Attendance: Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Scot McIver, Allen Reinhard (Chair), Lee Saperstein, and Barbara White.

1. Call to Order.

Chair Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. There was a quorum at all times.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes from February 12, 2020.

Barbara White moved approval of the minutes from February 12, 2020, and Frances Karttunen seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous.

4. Memorial Stone at Quaise: Cost, Approval Process and Next Steps.

Allen Reinhard asked Scott McIver to give an update on the proposed monument at Quaise. He shared a sketch of the inscription to go on it (sketch is attached to these minutes); he also shared a photograph of a similar monument to show how it would look. He said that a more rustic look, in Barre Granite with steeled finish on the face and a rock face on the edges, would be \$2000 cheaper than previously discussed. The price, installed, would now be \$7000.00. Allen Reinhard discussed funding and suggested that we use the Community Preservation Committee, CPC, grant that was made to the Cemetery Commission. He will investigate the selection of the appropriate grant and how to draw funds from it. There was consent to proceed and it was formalized by a motion to purchase and install the monument, which was made by Frances Karttunen, seconded by Barbara White, and passed unanimously.

With respect to managing cemetery funds, Lee Saperstein suggested that we pursue the creation of a Town-based fund for cemeteries. We can ask Rob McNeil and Brian Turbitt to help prepare the steps for Town approval of a fund that receives proceeds from the sale of lots and may be used to pay for cemetery improvements. These funds were discussed with Brian Turbitt when he attended a Commission meeting and we have approved a split for deposits of funds received between this new fund and the Perpetual Care Fund. Inasmuch as this would be a formal step, Lee Saperstein suggested that approval of the request should go in the next agenda. [Actions, Scott McIver to proceed with ordering the approved monument; Allen Reinhard to meet with Rob McNeil and Brian Turbitt on use of the CPC grant and on creation of a Cemetery Fund Account.]

4. Work Plan Priorities: Fencing, Brush Removal, Monument Restoration.

Allen Reinhard reviewed earlier discussions about work needed at the cemeteries. He noted that, in general, they are in great shape. Frances Karttunen asked about removal of encroaching brush and Allen Reinhard replied that all cemeteries will be trimmed but he is particularly concerned with New North, where brush has grown around monuments. Frances Karttunen added that the Historic Coloured Cemetery should be a high priority in that the Commission has promised the families that maintenance will be done soon. Allen Reinhard added that he stays in contact with the Hospital to ensure that they will provide their promised landscaping. Lee Saperstein reminded commissioners that fencing will be replaced or repaired in the spring along Island roadways and the cemeteries will be included in this project.

Scott McIver reported on the monument restoration project that, he said, will proceed after the DPW contracts for a survey of monument conditions. He said that he will pursue completion of this contract with Rob McNeil, the Cemetery Administrator. [Actions: Allen Reinhard to discuss maintenance with Rob McNeil; Scott McIver will discuss the monument survey with him.]

5. Polpis and Newtown Cemeteries Update and Next Steps.

Allen Reinhard reported that not much has happened with either cemetery. With respect to Polpis, negotiations have deteriorated and the land swap does not seem to be likely. The landowner's attorney has written e-mails to Ken Beaugrand, Real Estate specialist, but they convey delay. The commissioners agreed that we should send the encroachment letter that was approved at the last meeting, the land survey should be undertaken, and that the maintenance work for fencing, and brush and shrub cutting should happen as soon as possible. Barbara White asked about the status of letters exchanged and deadlines given. Allen Reinhard repeated that Ken Beaugrand has exchanged e-mails with the attorney. The commissioners then repeated their request that the Town pursue removal of the encroachments, including building, through a formal letter. Allen Reinhard committed to ask Ken Beaugrand and Rob McNeil to send a definitive encroachment letter from the Town. He said that this appears to be our only recourse now that negotiations have broken down. He will ask for copies of correspondence on this matter for our files. [Action. Allen Reinhard to ask for an encroachment letter to be sent immediately. He will ask for a land survey and will follow up on maintenance work.]

Allen Reinhard was asked if the Town sent the Quaker Cemetery letters to the Winn Street owners asking them to refrain from throwing garden waste into the cemetery. He said that he would check on it with Ken Beaugrand. [Action. Allen Reinhard and Ken Beaugrand to check on status of Quaker Cemetery letter.]

Lee Saperstein said that he had a casual comment from Ken Beaugrand that the Newtown decision has gone from back burner to middle.

6. Digitizing NHA and Town Burial Records.

The commissioners agreed that we need to engage the company recommended by the Cemetery Administrator, Rob McNeil (Newcom Technologies, CMS), as soon as possible. Lee Saperstein reminded the commissioners that we now have the index to the Lewis Records on file, which is a good start. Scott McIver, who converted the PDF to an Excel file, will try some sorting procedures for surnames and cemetery name. [Action. Start digitizing project with appropriate contract steps.]

7. Commissioners Comments, Old, New and Other Business.

Frances Karttunen reminded the Commissioners that the DPW committed at last month's meeting to include daffodil bulbs for planting in the fall in a proposal to the Nantucket Garden Club for trees.

Scott McIver reported that he had a request from Jane Kenyon for approval of a memorial. She is asking to include three names on one stone plus a reference to Portuguese Water Dogs. He felt that it could be done on one stone, 12" by 24", because it would go on a single Polpis plot that could have been subdivided into four, smaller ones. He asked for commissioners' opinions on including the reference to dogs. After hearing general disapproval, he moved for approval of the text without a dog reference; Frances Karttunen seconded the motion and all agreed. He will prepare the appropriate application and include the approved text; based on the approval just voted upon, Allen Reinhard will sign the application and arrange for its filing.

8. Adjourn.

Adjournment came by acclamation at 3:55 pm.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 2020, at 3:00 pm in the conference area of the DPW Office, 188 Madaket Road.

Secretary's note: Concern for infection from the coronavirus has led the Town to cancel meetings. Please watch in early April for announcements about this meeting.

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

FINAL RESTING PLACE
RESIDENTS OF THE QUaise FARM ASYLUM
FOUNDED 1822
AMONG THOSE KNOWN TO BE INTERRED HERE
BENJAMIN DAVIS 1757 — 1841
ELIZA MORRISON D 1841
TEN VICTIMS OF THE QUaise ASYLUM FIRE
FEBRUARY 21 1844
SOPHIA BEEBE B 1788
LYDIA BOWEN B 1810
JONATHAN CATHCART B 1784
ABIEL DAVIS 87 B 1757
WEALTHY DAVIS B 1791
WILLIAM HOLMES JR B 1784
THOMAS HULL JR B 1776
WILLIAM HUTCHINSON (UNKNOWN)
PAUL JENKINS B 1777
PHEBE JONES B 1762