

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of April 3, 2019, at 3:00 pm
Department of Public Works Office, 188 Madaket Road

DRAFT MINUTES FOR APPROVAL AND REVIEW

Attendance: Commissioners Frances Karttunen, Scott McIver, Allen Reinhard (Chair), Lee Saperstein, and Barbara White and Rob McNeil, Cemetery Administrator

Guest: Priscilla Saperstein

1. Call to Order.

Chair Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. There was a quorum at all times.

2. Public Comment

There was none.

3. Approval of Minutes from March 13, 2019.

Frances Karttunen moved and Scott McIver seconded approval of the minutes from the meeting of March 13, 2019; approval was unanimous.

4. Access to Historic Coloured Cemetery, Latest Update.

Allen Reinhard reported that he had met this morning with Jason Graziadei, the Nantucket Hospital Public Information Officer, and Dennis Patnaude, Facilities Director, to discuss access to the Historic Coloured Cemetery from the hospital's grounds. They went outside and looked at the site from the reserve ambulance parking spaces; assurances were given that the hospital intended to fulfill its commitment for access. The reserve spaces can be used for cemetery visitors because it is unlikely that they will be needed routinely for ambulances. It was noted that people who would use the hospital entrance to the cemetery would likely be on foot. The hospital personnel said that they will provide a way over or around the oil-tank vault that is between the parking spaces and the helipad. It will lead to gate in the fence. Several questions were posed; Barbara White wanted to know about signage and Allen Reinhard said, yes they would take care of it and we would follow up. He also said that it will be professionally landscaped. Once the entrance is installed, it is planned to replace the split-rail fencing around the entire cemetery. Frances Karttunen asked if we can get a date for completion so that we may schedule a formal re-dedication. Scott McIver said that he knew the landscaper who works with the hospital and will chat with him about the work. Rob McNeil said that we need to be realistic about dates because of the backlog of work needed to be done around town.

5. Polpis Land Swap Update.

Allen Reinhard said that he has continued to call the office of the attorney for the owners of 268 Polpis Road, the abutting property to the east and north. He has not yet had a response to the Commission's proposal for a swap and will persist in his effort to get a response.

Rob McNeil reported that the ground around the parking area will be fixed with loam and grass seed.

6. Perpetual Care Definition, Declaration of Newtown Boundary. Update.

Allen Reinhard has reminded Erika Mooney, the Town's Operations Administrator, that we need to make a presentation to the Select Board to obtain their consent for the added definition of perpetual care and for the recognition of the boundaries of Newtown Cemetery..

He also reminded Commissioner White that her term expires this spring.

7. Historic Cemetery Sign at Quaise Asylum Burial Ground.

With respect to a monument and other signage at Quaise Asylum Burial Ground, Allen Reinhard said that he had spoken with David Worth, Interim Director of the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, as well as other Foundation staff members including incoming Director Cormac Collier. They asked that we defer a formal request for these signs until Cormac Collier is in place.

Frances Karttunen said that Rob Benchley has pictures of the Quaise Asylum Burial Ground dedication and he will be sharing them with the Commission.

Scott McIver told the Commission that he has drafted a mock-up of a memorial on stone and another, with the same text, on a bronze plaque. If we agree on a stone monument, he would prefer that we use a pre-cut stone instead of a Nantucket erratic boulder because the latter would have to be very large to accommodate the suggested text. He will send copies along with a cost estimate to Commission members.

While discussing the monument at Quaise, Frances Karttunen suggested that we create a gift fund for donations.

8. Commissioners Comments: Long-Range goals for Nantucket Cemeteries.

Frances Karttunen commented that she had gone to the Founders Cemetery to check on the progress of the daffodil bulbs that had been planted there. Along the way to the cemetery from the Cliff Road, some sections had been filled in with asphalt scrapings. While making for a better surface, the material is not uniform. There has been brush cutting along the way with little or no clean up. Allen Reinhard said that the land alongside the pond belonged to the Anglers' Club and they may have done the cutting. She completed her observation by saying that the bulbs were in an exposed location and had not yet bloomed.

Allen Reinhard said that, in his review of last meeting's minutes, he found a number of long-range goals that we should continue to pursue. One of significance was our thought that there should be a monument, perhaps in digital format, to those Nantucketers lost at sea. He recalled that the Executive Director of the Nantucket Historical Association, James Russell, was very interested in the idea. He asked if we had any thoughts on how to find names and dates. Frances Karttunen suggested that the Barney genealogy records might be a source along with the obituary sections of the newspaper. Someone else suggested that the records of the Shipwreck and Lifesaving Museum could be a source. Several suggested that we invite Pauline Proch, Executive Director of the museum, and James Russell to a future meeting.

With respect to cemetery software, he suggested that it is time to create a database of known burials for which we might need an intern or expert to help us. Rob McNeil said that he has a contact with a cemetery software expert at NewCom Technologies, with whom he had worked before. He said that if we started small, for example with Polpis Cemetery, where we are assured of most of the information, we could establish a reliable software program that combined record keeping with all of our forms and regulations.

He also announced that he is working on an invitation to bid for work on preservation of monuments.

Recalling last month's application for a flush monument at Polpis that would contain two names and be slightly larger than allowed, for which we provided a waiver to the size regulation, Allen Reinhard said that, where this a request for two names on one memorial, we may need to amend our regulations to allow one 12-in by 24-in monument instead of two 12-in by 18-in ones. There was a consensus to amend the the regulations. A potential draft regulation might be

“CREMATION LOT: 12 inches by 18 inches flush memorial or 18 inches wide slant in designated areas.” If two or more names are to be inscribed in the memorial, it may be 12 inches by 24 inches.

If approved by the Commission, this will need to go the Select Board for approval. We should recall that the regulations allow only one marker per lot so that this amendment makes sense.

Lee Saperstein asked if the Commission would like for the description of cemeteries, which was circulated at the last meeting, to go up on the web site. The consensus was, yes, and he has submitted the material to the Information Technology department.

9. Adjourn.

Adjournment was approved by acclamation at 4:25 pm.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at 3:00 pm in the conference area of the DPW Office, 188 Madaket Road. This date was selected to accommodate the travel plans of several commissioners and it is noted that this will be the first Wednesday, not the second, of the month of May.

Respectfully submitted: _____; Date: _____

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary

DRAFT