

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of May 1, 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

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 April 3, 2019.

Scott McIver moved and Frances Karttunen seconded approval of the minutes from the meeting of April 3, 2019, with a small editorial correction; approval was unanimous.

Chair's Announcement and Approval of Lot Sales

Allen Reinhard announced that he arranged for the sale of three lots at Polpis Cemetery to Lawrence J. Cronin, Jr., and Kathleen Kelm Cronin of 29 Madaket Road; they are lots G-27, 28, and 29. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the sales.

When he was off-Island, he received a call from an attorney who asked, on behalf of a client who wishes to buy two lots at Polpis, if pets could be interred alongside their owners. What was meant to be a brief announcement became a somewhat longer discussion. Commissioners wondered if alongside meant co-mingling in a single urn or in a separate urn or even spread on the ground or in the open grave. This led to a discussion on urns and vaults; also on the environmental impacts of various burial practices. Lee Saperstein looked up the Cemetery Regulations and found (III. Interments and Inurnments, page 4) "All interments and inurnments shall be enclosed in a durable outer container or vault." Barbara White suggested that we need time to consider these issues and that the discussion was reaching the point of an agenda item that would need public posting; therefore we should postpone this discussion to a later meeting when it could be posted appropriately. Commissioners agreed.

The attorney also asked about larger memorials for when more than one person was inurned in one 4-ft by 6-ft lot. The group remembered that we had already discussed and approved a larger monument for just that instance. For the alternative size to appear in the Commission's Rules and Regulations the Select Board will need to approve the change.

The new memorial definition would be (V. Memorials, page 7)

“• 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 wide.”

[Action: Allen Reinhard will add this rule change to the request before the Select Board.]

4. Update: Access to Historic Coloured Cemetery.

Allen Reinhard reminded the Commission that we have a commitment from hospital personnel to create a parking area and gate into the Historic Coloured Cemetery as part of their landscaping plan. Delays in demolishing the old building may mean that landscaping will not occur until the fall.

Frances Karttunen reminded the Commission that the Stewart family may want to inter Donald Stewart in the Historic Coloured Cemetery and that the cemetery should be looking as good as possible at that time. Donald M. Stewart, Ph.D., was President of Spelman College.

5. Polpis Land Swap Update.

Allen Reinhard reported that he had left yet another message with the attorney for the owners of the land abutting Polpis Cemetery reminding him of the need to finish the land swap. He has alerted the attorney to the physical encroachment into the cemetery by a structure on this adjacent property. Several commissioners asked why we should not ask the Town's zoning enforcement officer to act on this. [Action: Allen Reinhard to contact again with mention of the encroachment issues.]

6. Perpetual Care Definition, Declaration of Newtown Boundary. Progress Report.

Allen Reinhard said that he has been pushing for inclusion of our requests to be placed on the agenda of the Select Board for Cemetery Regulation changes and a declaration of cemetery status for Newtown Cemetery. To these requests he will add that of an alternative size for inurnment memorials. He is frustrated by the delay. After a suggestion that he should ask the Town Manager directly for time on their agenda, Rob McNeil suggested that Allen Reinhard accompany him to his next scheduled weekly meeting with the Town Manager, which is on Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

7. Historic Cemetery Sign at Quaise Asylum Burial Ground.

Although the Commission is responsible for upkeep of the Quaise Asylum Burial Ground, it is actually on land controlled by the Nantucket Conservation Foundation. Allen Reinhard told the Commission that he wants to alert the new Executive Director of our plans for a memorial stone but that Director's first day was the day previous to our meeting and he will arrange a meeting when it is convenient. Meanwhile, the Commission will need to reach a conclusion on the

design of a memorial. To this end, Scott McIver will create a design and provide a cost estimate for it. [Action: Scott McIver to prepare memorial design and cost estimate.]

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

Allen Reinhard reminded the Commissioners, with respect to long-range plans, that we had discussed these extensively at the previous meeting and the plans that were discussed remain very valid. He asked Scott McIver and Rob McNeil on the status of the Memorial restoration project and the response was that they will meet soon to discuss a formal request for bid.

Rob McNeil reported that the DPW has a new intern, Will Dell'Erba, who has experimented with proprietary D/2 Biological Solution for cleaning monuments of lichens and algae. He has cleaned four stones in the Quaker Cemetery, two with a simple application of the solution and two with an application and soft brushing followed by a re-application of the solution. He invited commissioners to look at the results..

Frances Karttunen shared photographs of the donated daffodils in Founders Burial Ground and two of them are attached to these minutes..

9. Adjourn.

Adjournment was approved by acclamation at 4:25 pm.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, June 12, 2019, at 3:00 pm in the conference area of the DPW Office, 188 Madaket Road.

Respectfully submitted: _____; Date: _____

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary



Photographs taken by Frances Karttunen of daffodils in bloom at Founders' Burial Ground (April 30, 2019). Daffodils were planted earlier this year by members of the Cemetery Commission.

