

**NANTUCKET CEMETERY
COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of July 14, 2021, at 3:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video Conference**

FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Scott McIver, Allen Reinhard (Chair), and Lee Saperstein; Cemetery Administrator Rob McNeil; Staff: Hannah Nicolle, Office Administrator, DPW; Ken Beaugrand, Real Estate Specialist.

Absent: Barbara White.

1. Call to Order.

Chair Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm. A roll-call of attendees showed that a quorum existed.

2. Public and Commissioner Comments.

There was no public comment nor any from commissioners.

There were no changes in Commission membership for 2021-2022. The Commission will select officers at its August meeting when all members can be present.

3. Approval of Minutes from June 9, 2021.

Frances Karttunen moved, Scott McIver seconded, and the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting of June 9, 2021. The vote was by roll call.

4. Approval of Lot Sales Since Last Meeting.

Allen Reinhard asked Hannah Nicolle for details of recently received lot-sale applications. She related that Penny Dey has completed all application materials for Polpis lot D-18 for the inurnment of her parents, Charles F. and Phoebe E. Dey. She added that the application of John S. Beale, Jr., for Polpis lot E-25 had been shared with the commissioners on July 1, 2021. With commissioners' consent to approve these with one motion, Lee Saperstein moved and Scott McIver seconded approval of the sales and the commission voted unanimously by roll call to approve them.

5. Request to Consolidate Two Adjacent Lots at Polpis.

Allen Reinhard reported that he had been approached by George M. Thom, Jr., 253 Polpis Road, with a request to consolidate the two lots that he owns in Polpis, J-21 and J-22, so as to create a larger family lot. Rob McNeil suggested that the Commission look at the regulations before reaching any decision on this request. Allen Reinhard asked Scott McIver to meet with George

Thom to show him possible layouts that would be acceptable to the commissioners for a special, rule-waived, approval. Scott McIver shared some sketches of what might be acceptable. The request for consolidation also included a request for corner markers. The Commission has considered this issue for an earlier request and has concluded that Polpis should not have corner markers; this decision will be conveyed to George Thom. Lee Saperstein moved to continue consideration of this request as a waiver only and not a rule change. Fran Karttunen seconded the motion and Allen Reinhard said that he agreed. With unanimous consent to proceed, Scott McIver will arrange to meet George Thom to learn of his wishes for the two plots. [Action: Scott McIver to meet with George Thom.]

6. Polpis Cemetery and Quaise Monument Latest Developments.

Ken Beaugrand reported that the attorney for the abutting neighbors is still working on a draft plan for the land swap but that there is nothing new to report at this meeting. When he has a plan, it will be shared with the Commission for its review and approval. He left the meeting after this report (3:33 pm).

Scott McIver told the Commission that the monument to the Quaise Asylum dead has been installed and showed a photograph of it in place. Frances Karttunen renewed her commitment to write a press release for the newspaper. Allen Reinhard said that he would schedule an event to dedicate the stone as soon as he is fit. Frances Karttunen said that she would create an announcement as soon as knew the date. [Action: Frances Karttunen to create press release and announcement of dedication.]

7. Green Burials Further Discussion.

At an earlier meeting, the Commission had agreed in principle to approve green burials. Allen Reinhard said that it was time now to consider a change in cemetery regulations to effect this change. Although a definition of green burials includes full-body interment and cremated remains inurnment, the current reality is that there is space only for the burial of cremated remains. Obviously, he added, the revised regulations will need to define green burials in the context of both full-body and cremated remains burials. Also, we will need advice from the Department of Health on how best to reviews applications in terms of their adherence to good environmental practice. It was noted that green burial of cremated remains precludes their ever being moved to another cemetery. Lee Saperstein offered to look at the regulations and propose a draft of changes to include green burials. Rob McNeil offered to discuss health issues with Roberto Santamaria, Health Director. [Action: Lee Saperstein to draft regulation changes; Rob McNeil to ask for advice from the Health Director.]

8. Burial Plot for Cremains Abandoned with Town Clerk

Further to the Commission's approval of burial in Polpis of five sets of unclaimed cremains held by the Town Clerk, it discussed now where they should go. With a limit of four inurnments per plot, it would take two lots to accommodate all five. It was noted that, in today's well-identified world, further unclaimed cremains were unlikely. Scott McIver moved that all five be inurned in one lot by means of a waiver of the requirement for four. Lee Saperstein seconded the motion

and it passed unanimously by roll-call vote. Allen Reinhard suggested that one of lots C-27, D-27, or D-28 be used for this purpose.

9. Cemetery Surveys Update.

Robert McNeil reported that two survey projects are before the Select Board for approval and will start in late summer or early fall. The first, for approximately \$60,000, is to perform a topographic survey of seven cemeteries: Founders, Historic Coloured, New North, Newtown, Old North, Polpis, and Quaker Cemeteries. This survey will detail the topography of each cemetery, which will include borders, vegetation, and, importantly, monument locations.

The second project, for approximately \$40,000, will examine as many as 770 damaged monuments and determine restoration steps for each. The grave marker condition assessment survey will be completed at five cemeteries including: Historic Colored, New North, Newtown, Old North, and Quaker, and. The surveys will allow informed decisions on future steps for monument restoration and layout of new graves and walkways.

These surveys may show boundaries but will not be definitive on them.

10. Garden Club Daffodil Project for the Fall.

Frances Karttunen asked that her draft report to the Garden Club be approved for submission to the club and this permission was readily granted by roll-call vote. The report is attached. Hannah Nicolle agreed to send the report to the Garden Club. The Commission decided to use up the fund balance by buying bulbs for planting this fall. The DPW technique for bulb burial should allow planting to go faster and to use all of the bulbs.

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

There were no additional comments.

10. Adjournment came by consensus at 4:05 pm.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 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 June meeting.

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.

DRAFT REPORT TO THE NANTUCKET GARDEN CLUB FROM THE NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION

Re: Grant for daffodil purchase and planting

The Cemetery Commission received a grant of \$1000 from the Nantucket Garden Club for the purchase of daffodil bulbs to plant in Town Cemeteries in the fall of 2020.

The Commission purchased 1,000 mixed bulbs for naturalizing from K. Van Bourgondien for \$327.00 and also spent \$21.47 for the purchase of a drill auger to facilitate planting, for a total of \$348.47. The balance of \$651.53 remains in the commission's account with the Town of Nantucket for the purchase of more daffodil bulbs in fall 2021.

On November 7, 2020, four Cemetery Commissioners, aided by five volunteers--Alexandra McGuire, Annalise Myre, Maddie Whoriskey, Anya van Hoogstraten, and Victoria Lacombe—planted 750 daffodil bulbs in the Historic Coloured Cemetery and 250 bulbs at the entrance to Newtown Cemetery. Without the enthusiastic young women volunteers, we would have been hard put to accomplish this planting in one morning, and we thank Isabel Carter Stewart for suggesting the project to them. (See photo by Cemetery Commissioner Scott McIver.)

The planting yielded beautiful blooms highly visible from the west windows of Nantucket Cottage Hospital and from Sparks Avenue. (See photos by Frances Karttunen)

Our only concern is that after blooming, the leaves may have been mowed too soon for proper rebuilding of the bulbs for 2022.

Dave Champoux has suggested that going forward, instead of planting each bulb individually, we scatter bulbs in a shallow trench and cover them. The DPW may possibly be enlisted to dig trenches for us. This would facilitate planting of large numbers of bulbs, especially if we do not have volunteers in November 2021.

Our next suggested location for planting is the on either side of New Lane in Old North and New North Cemeteries.

