

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of August 10, 2022, at 3:00 pm
DPW Conference Room, 188 Madaket Road with Zoom Connectivity

FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order.

Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. He reminded participants that the session was being recorded (<https://youtu.be/jgPZsG6vU3U>). A roll-call of attendees showed that a quorum existed.

2. Public and Commissioner Comments.

None.

3. Approval of Minutes from July 13, 2022.

Barbara White moved, Frances Karttunen seconded, and the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting of July 13, 2022. The vote was by roll call.

4. Approval of Lot Sales Since Last Meeting.

Allen Reinhard reported that he has sold Lots C-16, C-17, and C-18 at Polpis to Allen and Kathleen Cohen and is seeking Commission approval of the sale. He noted that the three lots are going to one purchaser. It was asked, considering the limited number of lots that are left in Polpis, whether multiple-lot sales were a good idea. Lee Saperstein replied that this limitation had been considered when we were reviewing the Cemetery Regulations and that we had decided against such a limit.

This item led Frances Karttunen to ask if we're going to run out of room at Polpis. The response from Allen Reinhard was that, in the event that the land swap is delayed further, we could lay out a few more lots in the existing boundaries. The preferred action, of course, is to complete the swap. He has talked with the surveyor engaged to work on the cemetery boundaries, Joe Marcklinger, who reminded him that the abutter's property is Land Court Recorded and that fact adds complications although they may be surmountable. We are still waiting on a proposed map from the abutters for our review and approval. Barbara White asked if we could create the map and not wait on them. Allen Reinhard said that he would talk to Ken Beaugrand to find out.

The Cohen lot sales were then brought up for approval; Scott McIver moved, Frances Karttunen seconded, and they were approved unanimously by roll call.

5. Ken Beaugrand, If Available: Polpis Latest Developments and Consolidation of Newtown.

Allen Reinhard noted that Ken Beaugrand was not in the meeting and that he had not reported any new progress on the land swap. Charlie Polachi noted that the conversation held earlier about space in Polpis was relevant. Thence followed a general discussion about gaining space in the existing cemeteries or even opening a new one. Frances Karttunen thought that we ought to issue a press release about Nantucket's crowded public cemeteries and the potential for denying future application for lots. She suggested that we give the story to "Nantucket Current" and other daily broadcast media. In closing this item, Allen Reinhard noted that there has been no activity on the lot consolidation at Newtown Cemetery.

6. Monument Restoration Project: Begin Date, Next Cemeteries to Be Considered: Historic Coloured, New North, Newtown, and Quaker. Charlie Polachi Process Update.

Charlie Polachi said that the contractor's mobilization date for the conservation work at Old North Cemetery is Aug 24th, with work to start a day or two later. Allen Reinhard said that once they are up and running, we should start the bid process for the next cemetery. Lee Saperstein mentioned Susan Landman's interest in photographing Nantucket's cemeteries for a projected photo-essay on Nantucket's cemeteries. He was reminded that, if she wanted before-and-after photographs, she would need to go to Old North soon.

The question of which should be the next cemetery for conservation work led to a lively discussion. Lee Saperstein thought that the Historic Coloured Cemetery was a good choice both from a point of view of its significance and for its potentially modest cost. Barbara White noted that, while she liked the Historic Coloured Cemetery, Newtown has a lot of visibility and work there would highlight the efforts of the Commission. She asked then about a double-dip for Quaker Cemetery and the Historic Coloured Cemetery. Lee Saperstein said, let us give Charlie Polachi the authority to research costs and funds available for the next one. Charlie Polachi then volunteered to do the funding research in which he will identify fund balances and estimates for the work. This led then to a discussion of available funds both in Town accounts and in those of the Community Preservation Committee grants. Lee Saperstein reminded the Commission that we need Annual Town Meeting authorization for the Cemetery budgets before we could spend them, including proceeds from lot sales. A decision on the next one was deferred to the next meeting when there will be a report on estimates for future work and an examination of the conservation work at Old North.

7. Discussion: On-going projects, Approximate Time Frames, Action Needed, Finances Needed.

Allen Reinhard said that the on-going projects list, appended, was an informal memory aid that he uses to keep the agendas timely. The significant progress on monument restoration ensured that the next major move would be to select the next cemeteries on which to be worked.

Frances Karttunen, remarking on the last item on the list for fencing and brush removal, said that she really hoped that work on the Franklin Street side of New North Cemetery could proceed quickly. Charlie Polachi replied that the DPW work load may ease after next week and that they could respond to the work order for New North. He noted also that establishing cemetery budgets was a priority.

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

Frances Karttunen and Barbara White reported that Preservation Institute of Nantucket, PIN, students, including Nigel Rudolph, who had been a guest at last month's meeting had visited the Historic Coloured Cemetery, HCC, with Barbara White. They have a strong interest in Black Cemeteries and the Black Cemetery Network. Nigel Rudolph felt that additional interpretative signage at the HCC would be a good idea and showed them some examples from Florida. Frances Karttunen noted that, for the Miacomet Indian Burial Ground, the present Wampanoag elders are resistant to signage. She is not in favor of more interpretive signage at HCC but accepts that some information may be of use. Allen Reinhard suggested that we should use the Commission's web site for information. If someone can be persuaded or hired to post descriptive material on the web site, she would donate her research files from "Nantucket Places and People."

Frances Karttunen talked with Mary Bergman, Executive Director of the Nantucket Preservation Trust, about attracting younger members. Frances Karttunen recounted that the group known as the Friends of African Meeting House disappeared because of lack of interest among Nantucket's younger citizens. Mary Bergman gave her names of two young people who are very interested in Nantucket's cemeteries: Lena Civitarese and Becky Glidden. How, she asked, can we get them involved? Lee Saperstein replied that we can ask the Select Board to expand the Commission but that may take a revision of the Commission's regulations, a public hearing, and Annual Town Meeting approval. Instead, he said, ask them to come to meetings as members of the Public where they will be welcome to join in all discussions. Frances Karttunen asked if she and Barbara White could talk to them. Charlie Polachi, remembered that they were teachers and asked what are their time constraints; we may need to move the meeting time. Allen Reinhard said, yes, of course, chat with them and we can consider revisions to the meeting schedule.

Scott McIver, reminded the Commissioners that we need to approve all monuments before they are installed. He has a stone that was inscribed by an off-Island stone mason and needs approval for its installation at Polpis. He then shared a photo of a one-foot by two-foot stone for Lot G-11, which because it has two names on it fits the regulation size for Polpis. His was the motion, which Barbara White seconded, and all approved by a roll call vote.

9. Adjournment.

Adjournment came at 4:02 pm by a motion to adjourn made by Scott McIver, seconded by Barbara White, and approved unanimously.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 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: _____
Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary

Nantucket Cemetery Projects List.

- Cemetery monument condition survey (completed); awarding of four more contracts for monument conservation.
- Split rail fence at Polpis Cemetery: installed in existing cemetery; needed in newly acquired land.
- Survey to lay out additional lots at Polpis.
- Toe and lot corner markers for new Polpis lots when laid out.
- Consolidation of lots at Newtown Cemetery with recordable ground survey.
- Fencing at the Historic Coloured Cemetery: sections installed, needed against Vesper Lane.
- Fencing and brush removal at New and Old North Cemeteries.