

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of August 11, 2020, 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; Staff: Rob McNeil, Cemetery Administrator, Hannah Nicolle. Attendance was verified by voice roll call and there was a quorum at all times.

Absent: Barbara White

Guests: Ken Beaugrand, Town Real Estate Specialist

1. Call to Order.

Chair Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. There was a quorum at all times. Allen Reinhard said that we would need to end by 4:00 pm as he had another meeting to attend. Lee Saperstein thanked his fellow commissioners for moving the meeting to accommodate his medical appointment on Wednesday.

2. Public Comment.

None

3. Approval of Minutes from July 21, 2020.

Frances Karttunen moved approval of the minutes from the meeting of July 21 and Scott McIver seconded the motion. Approval by voice roll call vote was unanimous.

4. Entry Portal to the Historic Coloured Cemetery from Vesper Lane.

Allen Reinhard reminded the Commission of a desire to create an entrance to the Historic Coloured Cemetery from Vesper Lane and thence across Land Bank property to the cemetery. He said that there had been suggestions of a wooden arbor and of granite posts. While the latter may be more expensive initially, they would be of very low maintenance. Scott McIver, who had been asked to research prices for granite suggested that there were two choices for style: rustic or more formal. He held up photographs of each for commissioners to view. Frances Karttunen said that she had recently seen the gateway to the pocket park at the corner of Fair and Main Streets and liked it. She said that it was made up of two posts joined by a simple metal arch.

Scott McIver then offered some cost information: eight-by-eight-inch stone columns in the formal style would be \$750 each. Twelve-by-twelve inch would be \$1500 each. He would get prices for the wooden arbor gates from Marine Home. Frances Karttunen said that she would

meet with Isabel Stewart, 58 Prospect Street, to get her views on which example would look best. Allen Reinhard said that he would put the item for an entry on the next agenda.

5. Memorial Stone at Quaise: Update on Funding.

Allen Reinhard reminded the Commissioners that they had approved the installation of a stone memorial at the Quaise Burial Ground as well as the draft drawing and estimated price of the stone that had been submitted by Scott McIver, who said that the estimated cost of \$7000 for stone and installation remained firm. Allen Reinhard also recalled that we had discussed using one of the two Community Preservation Committee, CPC, grants to pay for the stone. Rob McNeil reviewed the cemetery accounts and offered to send everyone the balances in these accounts. As a side note, he has sent the information and it is included as an appendix to these minutes. He said that the sale-of-lots account would need to have its budget approved at Town Meeting, so that one would be unavailable for now. There are six perpetual care accounts that can be drawn upon by vote of the Commission.

At this point, Lee Saperstein moved that we seek CPC funding for the purchase and installation of the stone. Rob McNeil said that he would fund this initially from an account in the DPW and then seek reimbursement from the CPC or one of the perpetual care funds. He asked Scott McIver to provide a formal proposal. Lee Saperstein then amended his motion to include the suggested funding route, i.e. DPW that would then seek reimbursement from the CPC or one of the perpetual-care funds. Scott McIver seconded the motion and, by roll call vote, it was approved unanimously. Lee Saperstein suggested that we should ask the Inquirer and Mirror to take some pictures at the time of the installation. [Action: Scott McIver to submit a formal proposal and Rob McNeil to determine a funding source. Allen Reinhard to contact the newspaper]

Allen also mentioned that the proposed monument repair program was held up by a need to employ a consultant who would survey cemeteries monuments and report on the repairs needed, plot by plot. He hoped that work would begin soon.

6. Old North Cemetery Proposed Development Along North Boundary: Wyer's Driveway.

In opening the discussion on this item, Allen Reinhard said that it was mostly for information. The owners of 3 Wyers Way have an approved proposal to raze the existing structure so as to build a small development on the lot. Access to the existing lot is by a driveway on Land Bank land. He noted also that there are memorial stones, hence burials, right up to the north boundary and they may not be disturbed by, for example, widening the driveway. The Land Bank has objected to the development because the driveway could then be considered a private way. They have taken the matter to the Land Court and Allen Reinhard expects that litigation could take years.

7. Polpis and Newtown Cemeteries.

Polpis. Allen Reinhard reported that he has met with a number of potential lot holders at Polpis and has sold five or six lots. In time, the applications will be given to the Commission for their

consent. He noted that it may be time to lay out more lots and this led to a further comment that it is time to clear the cemetery to its boundaries. This will make it easier for a surveyor to map the cemetery and produce a recordable map. The DPW, thanks to the assistance of Mo Moore, has the information it needs for clearance. Allen Reinhard hopes that the work can begin soon.

As for encroachments into the cemetery from the abutter to the east, Ken Beaugrand reported that he has spoken with an attorney in the Town Counsel's firm and expects that a "demand letter" will be produced soon.

Newtown. Allen Reinhard reported that we are awaiting a recommendation from the Planning Department that the four lots that make up Newtown Cemetery be consolidated and the entire plot be declared a cemetery. Once that recommendation is approved by the Select Board, clearance can be begin and both a recordable survey and a Ground Penetrating Radar, GPR, survey can be done. Ken Beaugrand reported that this matter is also on his list for discussion with Counsel.

8. Digitizing NHA and Town Burial Records Update.

Allen Reinhard reminded the Commissioners that it is a long-standing goal to have as many records as we can find of burials and put them into accessible digital files. Obviously, current records for recent sales at Polpis is one ingredient, the Lewis Burial Records is another. They are online through the NHA Research menu and the originals are in the care of the Town Clerk. Frances Karttunen said that she and Barbara White would research Quaker burials.

Lee Saperstein asked Rob McNeil if a solicitation for this work could be sent to companies that provide cemetery services. He will contact a company with which he has worked in the past and ask them for information on their record-preservation services and on their pricing.

Ken Beaugrand reported that the Assessor's office is undertaking a digitization project for their records and may have contacts with such companies. He also offered a suggestion that the CPC funds preservation of historic records and would be amenable to receiving a proposal for funding digitization of the cemetery records.

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

Frances Karttunen asked what we were doing about the Winn Street encroachments into the Quaker Cemetery. She noted that a letter had been written and approved for sending to the property owners using the addresses Barbara White looked up and provided but that many of the owners had off-island addresses. Allen Reinhard said that he thought that he might drop a copy off at each house. Ken Beaugrand and Rob McNeil, who meet regularly on encroachments, said that they would look into the problem.

10. Adjourn.

Adjournment came by voice roll-call vote at 3:50 pm.

Next regular meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 3:00 pm by Zoom Video Conferencing

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

Addendum
Information on Cemetery Accounts Received from Brian Turbitt, Finance Director

	Balance
Fund 216 (Sale of Cemetery Lots)	
36066 Cemetery Lots	110,285.24
Fund 530: Perpetual Care Trust Fund	
33023 Cemetery Perpetual Care (530423)	41,788.00
33024 Austin Cemetery (530425)	859.10
33025 Friends of the Cemetery (503427)	1,657.70
36023 Cemetery Perpetual Care (530423)	14,550.46
36024 Austin Cemetery (530425)	5,521.89
36025 Friends of the Cemetery (503427)	14,203.47

Sale of Cemetery Lots must have Annual Town Meeting Appropriation.

You can spend from the 360xx without prior appropriation/

- Thanks,
Brian

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