

**NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION**  
**Posted Meeting of August 14, 2019, at 3:00 pm**  
**Department of Public Works Office, 188 Madaket Road**

**FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Commissioners Frances Karttunen, Scott McIver, Allen Reinhard (Chair), Lee Saperstein, Barbara White, and Cemetery Administrator, Rob McNeil (3:05 pm).

**Guest:** Curtis Barnes (left at 3:55 pm)

**1. Call to Order.**

Chair Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. There was a quorum at all times.

**2. Public Comment**

Curtis Barnes complimented the Commission and the DPW on preparing the Historic Coloured Cemetery for the Donald Stewart funeral. He repeated on several occasions that it was in excellent condition and the fence entrance from the hospital worked well. The only criticism was that the road, North Mill Street and the connecting way, could use some maintenance, such as grading of the roadway and trimming of brush. Several commissioners made comments about the hospital entrance to the cemetery and landscaping to be done around it. Allen Reinhard said that the hospital continues to promise that the work will be done. Frances Karttunen suggested that we ask the hospital for a landscaping plan that specifies the details of the entrance to the Historic Coloured Cemetery, including parking, now that the old hospital is gone. [Action: Allen to ask hospital for a landscaping plan of the new entrance.]

**3. Approval of Minutes from July 10, 2019.**

Frances Karttunen moved and Barbara White seconded approval of the minutes from the meeting of July 10, 2019; approval was unanimous.

**4. Chair's Announcement and Approval of Lot Sales**

Allen Reinhard reported that he had several requests for the sale of Polpis Cemetery lots and that they will require Commission approval.

- Matt and Sheila Fee, 52 Cliff Road, Lot E-29 at Polpis, Scott McIver moved to approve, Frances Karttunen seconded, and all were in favor,
- Sally Charpie, 92 Polpis Road, Lot E-14 at Polpis. Lee Saperstein moved to approve, Frances Karttunen seconded, and all were in favor.
- Jayne Kenyon, 11 Irving Street, purchased two lots, F-13 and E-13 in Polpis, Barbara White moved to approve, Frances Karttunen seconded, and all were in favor.
- Gary and Mary Beck, 40 Quidnet Road, Lot E-12 in Polpis plus a request for approval of a monument, Lee Saperstein moved approval, Frances Karttunen seconded, and all were in favor.

Scott McIver reminded commissioners that there is a burial this Sunday in Polpis for Diane Elizabeth Unruh but that we still need paperwork for it. He will try to get the applications together this week. Barbara White suggested that we should try to identify other potential burials.

#### **5. Access to Historic Coloured Cemetery.**

It was agreed that this item was covered in discussion with Curtis Barnes about the cemetery.

#### **6. Procedures for Inurnment and recording of Lot Sales.**

Allen Reinhard reported that we recently have had two burials, Walsh in Polpis and Stewart in Historic Coloured Cemetery, and each had some complications that suggest we need to improve our procedures for burials. In the case of the Polpis burial, paperwork was not completed before hand and there was a mix up with DPW on who digs the grave. In this case, Scott McIver dug the hole before people arrived for the inurnment. A similar problem with digging the grave arose in the Historic Coloured Cemetery inurnment. This time, the paperwork was completed but a hole was not dug. Allen Reinhard did dig it before the arrival of family and friends.

Rob McNeil said that timely processing of paperwork gives the DPW needed grave dimensions and prevents surprises. Once the paperwork is signed by the commission, the DPW has instructions to proceed. He offered to review paperwork procedures in house.

Allen Reinhard shared the existing “Request-for-Burial” form, including that it contained a space for “special instructions.” The two burials were a learning experience. Lee Saperstein suggested that we create a schedule or sequence of events to be put into a list of instructions. Rob McNeil will coordinate development of procedures. Scott McIver will also assist in case family members come to his shop first. [Action: Rob McNeil will review paperwork for lot sales, requests to inter, and approval of monuments.]

At this point, commissioners posed several questions that should be discussed in future meeting. In earlier discussions about selling lots in Town cemeteries, it was agreed that residency would not be a requirement. The Commission did not, however, discuss the timing of sales and presumed that people could purchase lots for future needs. As space in the cemeteries becomes scarce, the question was whether or not we wished to limit sales to current needs.

Another question had to do with the regulatory requirement for containers or vaults in all graves. In light of some practices for burial of cremains without a container, the question was whether there was a need for this requirement. Barbara White suggested that the subject would need a lot of time to discuss and proposed that it be put into a future meeting where it could be properly posted in the agenda

#### **7. Polpis Land Swap Update and Potential Land Use of Existing Property If No Swap.**

Allen Reinhard related the exchange of correspondence between Ken Beaugrand, Town Real Estate Specialist, and the attorney for the owners of 268 Polpis Road. Since there appears to be some progress toward the swap, there was no need at this time for a discussion of what to do if the swap failed.

#### **8. Green Burials: Further Discussion, Options, Pet Ashes and Thoughts.**

It was suggested that a discussion of green burials be deferred to accompany the discussion of open burials (see item 6. Last paragraph, above). It was deemed that last month's discussion of pet ashes made the Commission's attitude sufficiently clear.

#### **9. Commissioners Thoughts and Comments; Old, New and Other business.**

Frances Karttunen asked if there was any progress on Newtown Cemetery with the Select Board. Lee Saperstein related that he had heard from Ken Beaugrand about his discussions with Andrew Vorce, Town Planner, who thought that the Town needed first to take the land by eminent domain. Takings can be difficult and time consuming, Lee Saperstein added. He noted, however, that Town meeting has approved one, thus we would not need to wait until the next one. Allen Reinhard said that he thought that this matter had been resolved and promised to meet with Andrew Vorce to discuss this. [Action: Allen Reinhard will meet with Andrew Vorce to discuss Newtown.]

Allen Reinhard reported that he had received a completed form for the "Disposition Removal or Transportation of Remains" for remains of a Nantucket resident who had been buried elsewhere and that served to notify the Town of this disposition. The form came to the DPW but Rob McNeil said that it should have gone first to the Board of Health, BOH. He then explained the procedure to respond to this particular form. Rob McNeil said that they would scan it and then forward it to the BOH. It is another example of paperwork for which we need a procedure.

Allen Reinhard also reported that he had been contacted by Andrew Melillo, who is interested in historic cemetery restoration. According to Rob McNeil, he offered to be a volunteer for cleaning stones.

Frances Karttunen reported that she learned that Edward Mills, son of Alfred Mills, owns a plot in New North Cemetery and wants his wife's cremains to be buried in this plot. Rob McNeil suggested that the family should establish their right to inter before we act because he had experienced problems in an earlier position when there was not clear title to a plot and disputes over ownership arose among the heirs. Lee Saperstein learned later that it is lot KK6 and provided this information to the Commissioners. [Action: Communicate quickly with Mr. Mills the need for paperwork, including his control of the plot.]

Although not discussed, it should be recorded that the regulatory changes for the definition of perpetual care and for larger sized monuments in Polpis passed the Select Board and have been incorporated into the regulations.

#### **10. Adjournment.**

Adjournment was at 4:17 pm.

**Next regular meeting: Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 3:00 pm in the conference area of the DPW Office, 188 Madaket Road.**

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_; Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary