

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of August 23, 2023, at 3:00 pm
DPW Conference Room, 188 Madaket Road, with Zoom Connectivity

FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners: Frances Karttunen (3:04 pm), Scott McIver, Allen Reinhard (Chair), and Lee Saperstein; Charlie Polachi and TaKyra Renner, DPW.

1. Call to Order.

Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm. He reminded participants that the session was being recorded:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeNG_eYdIow&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhIyX1ozdd1bZ3zV8kXFp8M&index=38. A roll-call of attendees showed that a quorum existed.

2. Public and Commissioner Comments.

A. With no member of the public present, there were no public comments.

B. Allen Reinhard, as Chair, said that he recently met with Lisa Todd, 11 Wauwinet Road, who wants to purchase two lots at Polpis. Originally, she had considered C23 and 24 but may now wish to purchase two of the newly laid out lots. He gave her the application forms and is awaiting their return.

C. This being the first official meeting of Fiscal Year 2024, he said that we need to elect officers. Scott McIver moved quickly to nominate a slate of officers: Chair, Allen Reinhard, Vice-Chair, Frances Karttunen, and Secretary, Lee Saperstein. Lee Saperstein seconded the nomination and a roll-call vote was unanimously in favor.

3. Approval of Minutes from June 14, 2023.

Because of a lack of a quorum, the July meeting of the Commission was canceled; hence no minutes of that meeting exist. Allen Reinhard then asked for approval of the June 14, 2023, minutes. Frances Karttunen moved their approval, Scott McIver seconded, and the vote to approve was by roll call and was unanimously in favor.

4. Community Preservation Act Grant.

Allen Reinhard called on Charlie Polachi to discuss progress in writing a grant proposal to the Community Preservation Committee for major maintenance in the Town cemeteries. Charlie Polachi said that he was most of the way done in writing the proposal and had received several biographies from Commissioners and was looking for the last one or two. He was hoping for a letter of support from the Nantucket Historical Association, NHA. [Action: if not yet done, submit a brief résumé to Charlie Polachi; Allen Reinhard to approach the Executive Director of the NHA for a letter of support.]

5. Additional Member.

Frances Karttunen remarked that she has been working with a potential new member of the Commission who hopes that, even though meetings are open to the public, this person could receive an invitation to attend. Allen Reinhard assured Frances Karttunen that her invitation would be official and please to go ahead.

6. Lot Sales Since Last Meeting.

Allen Reinhard reported that there have been no lot sales since the last official meeting of the commission but that he has met at Polpis with two potential purchasers. He also noted that the inurnment of Peter Nash at New North Cemetery on August 5th went well.

7. Commission Finances for FY 2024 and Monument Restoration Project.

Allen Reinhard reported that the Town's FY 2024 budget included a line for Cemetery Operations and asked Charlie Polachi to give the budget details. Charlie Polachi explained that \$70,000 had been transferred from Cemetery Lot Sales to Cemetery Operations; this move also established the operations fund for future years. The funds now available have been tapped for an approximately \$9200 encumbrance for a contract with Ludlow Memorials to repair 13 and renovate the remaining 27 stones in the Quaker Cemetery. Once that contract is made final, Charlie Polachi will be able call for bids for similar work at the Historic Coloured Cemetery. He will, with final contract numbers, use the per-stone cost at Quaker to estimate an approximate contract cost for the Historic Coloured Cemetery. He is relatively certain that it will exceed the \$10,000 threshold that requires a competitive bidding process. This cost estimation procedure will help to determine, if awarded, the use of CPC grant funds in the remaining cemeteries. Rather than wait for another Commission meeting, Scott McIver moved approval of a contract for the Historic Coloured Cemetery that Lee Saperstein seconded and was approved by roll-call vote. Hence, once the contract is written for the Quaker Cemetery, Charlie Polachi can start right away on a bid procedure for the Historic Coloured Cemetery.

He then spoke of locating the new flagpole that was purchased for Newtown Cemetery. He believes that it is in the yard of Island Lumber. When found, he will ask the DPW to move it to their storage area. Frances Karttunen believes that it should be installed as soon as possible. Lee Saperstein suggested that the GPR maps be consulted to find a spot that does not contain graves.

8. Newtown and Polpis Legal Issues.

Frances Karttunen, supported by Lee Saperstein, asked how we can get movement on the land swap at Polpis and the official designation of Newtown as a cemetery. After a brief discussion, she volunteered to pose the question to one or two members of the Select Board and bring the answers back to the commission's next meeting. Allen Reinhard added that this action was timely because we need to lay out new lots in Newtown along with a parking area and foot paths.

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

Allen Reinhard reported that, on June 16th, he and Scott McIver laid out markers in Polpis for rows A through G, numbers 2 through 8. He told Charlie Polachi that a few of the stamped and numbered disks were duplicates and that it would be a good idea to ask the purveyor to send us the correct ones.

Although the July meeting was canceled, Allen Reinhard reported that he and Lee Saperstein had a very nice visit with Niles Parker, Executive Director, and Amelia Holmes, Director of Collections and Research Services, of the Nantucket Historical Association. They discussed the numerous areas of mutual interest such as exchanges of burial information, particularly the recent records held by the DPW, insertion of links on each other's web site, the development of an archive of Nantucketers lost or buried at sea, and the development of additional explanatory material. Each agreed to stay in contact with the other.

Frances Karttunen reminded the Commission that the year 2025 will be the bicentennial of the foundation of the African Meeting House. She and Barbara White are hoping to use their experience as informal docents for visitors to the Historic Coloured Cemetery, including a script that they have written, to develop a video for the Cemetery. She thought that the one done for the Ottisons was a good example of what could be done. She knew that professional videos were expensive to produce; Charlie Polachi volunteered to research this cost. [Action: Charlie Polachi to research costs for producing a video.]

10. Adjournment.

Adjournment came at 3.58 pm by acclamation.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 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: August 29, 2023
Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary

Nantucket Cemetery Projects List.

- Cemetery monument restoration project: Ongoing, D-2 treatment monuments.
- Fencing at the Historic Coloured Cemetery.
- Fencing, and brush removal at New and Old North Cemeteries.
- Consolidation of lots at Newtown Cemetery with recordable ground survey: Awaiting action from Town Counsel.