

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of September 10, 2020, at 3:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video Conference

DRAFT MINUTES FOR APPROVAL AND REVIEW

Attendance: Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Scott McIver, Allen Reinhard (Chair), Lee Saperstein and Barbara White; Staff: Hannah Nicolle and Ken Beaugrand (3:25 pm), Real Estate Specialist. Attendance was verified by voice roll call and there was a quorum at all times.

1. Call to Order.

Chair Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. An oral roll call was taken to verify attendance in the Zoom record.

2. Public Comment.

None

3. Approval of Minutes from August 11, 2020.

Scott McIver moved approval of the minutes from the meeting of Aug 11 and Frances Karttunen seconded the motion. Approval by voice roll call vote was unanimous.

4. Potential Arbor for Historic Coloured Cemetery toward Vesper Lane.

Allen Reinhard said that, with general agreement that there should be some sort of marker at the entrance to the Historic Coloured Cemetery from Vesper Lane, he wanted to bring the issue to a satisfactory close. He asked Scott McIver to review costs for stone posts and for a wooden arbor. Scott reminded the Commission that two eight-by-eight posts would be \$1500 while twelve-by-twelve posts would be \$1500 each. He had checked on the price of cedar arbors and found that they ran from \$1800 to \$2400 with installation extra. He then showed a picture of the Fair Street pocket park entry posts that are joined by a metal arch. He also showed pictures of naturally faced and smooth faced stone.

Lee Saperstein pointed out that the metal arch was leaving an iron stain on the posts. He was in favor of simple, naturally faced posts. He also mentioned that vegetation would need to be trimmed around the entrance. Frances Karttunen related her communication about the entryway with Isabel Carter Stewart, who had solicited her son Carter Stewart's opinion. He was in favor of simple posts visible from Vesper Lane and felt that an arch over the entry was unnecessary. Allen Reinhard communicated to the commissioners that there is a plan for the DPW to clear away brush along the side of the cemetery facing Vesper Lane and to construct a split-rail fence along that side. The proposed granite posts would mark the entrance through this fence into the cemetery. With this design, the smaller granite posts with rustic surface as shown by Scot McIver seemed to the commissioners to be a good choice. Barbara White also spoke in favor of simplicity. The question was raised about whether there should be anything inscribed in the

granite posts to identify the cemetery. Frances Karttunen reported that the issue of not inviting vandalism had been addressed in the past, at the time when a bronze informational plaque was placed within the cemetery. At the time, the feeling was that there should be no identifying signage outside the cemetery, especially facing public roads. Lee Saperstein said he understood her concern but felt that some sort of sign, such as the one on Prospect Street, which says merely “Historic Cemetery” would be appropriate. Frances Karttunen agreed with that opinion. Allen Reinhard also indicated that he was in accord with a sign identical to those presently on Prospect Street and on Cliff Road near the Founders’ Burial Ground, and (in the future) on Polpis Road to indicate the location of the Quaise Asylum Burial Ground. The question was raised of brush cutting along the new fence line. Allen Reinhard said that brush within the cemetery bounds would be cleared by the DPW, while any that may be on the Land Bank side would be cleared by the Land Bank.

At this point, Lee Saperstein moved that the Commission approve the installation of eight-by-eight, naturally faced granite posts at the Vesper Lane entrance, Barbara White seconded the motion, and by roll-call vote approval was unanimous. [Action: Scott McIver will create a proposal for the entry posts and submit it to the DPW. Allen Reinhard will add vegetation to the work order for fencing.]

In other matters relating to the Cemetery, Allen Reinhard reported a conversation with hospital personnel about access from their campus to the Historic Coloured Cemetery and they promised a concrete ramp from the driveway up to the walk way that goes around the helipad into the cemetery. Construction would come in the late fall or early winter.

5. Memorial Stone at Quaise Update.

With respect to a memorial stone at the Quaise Burial Ground, Allen Reinhard reported that funds are available for purchase of a stone as was described and approved in the previous meeting. Scott McIver added that the proposed price of \$7000, installed, was firm. He will make a proposal to the DPW for the stone. [Action: Scott McIver to create a proposal for a memorial stone at the Quaise Asylum Burial Ground.]

6. Uni-pay Account to Cemetery Commission for Payments.

Allen Reinhard reported that three lots had been sold in the previous week. One of the purchasers asked if payment could be made by credit card. Allen Reinhard replied that we do not have a way to accept credit-card payments and could the purchaser write a check. Hannah Nicolle explained that there is an inevitable time lag between purchase and approval by the Commission, at which point the funds can go from a suspense account into a cemetery account. During that time the credit-card information would be exposed. There was a consensus among the Commissioners not to proceed with a credit-card account.

7. Polpis Cemetery Update.

Allen Reinhard reported that he has spoken with Mo Moore and Rob McNeil of the DPW about clearing Polpis back to the boundaries and in keeping with the survey made some months ago. They replied that there is a work order on file with the work to begin sometime in the fall or early winter when crews are not so busy with summer landscaping tasks.

Ken Beaugrand reported that discussion and approval of an encroachment letter was rising in the action pile of the Encroachment Committee. When approved, it will need to go to Town Counsel for actual transmission to the abutting party or their attorney.

Allen Reinhard noted that he had learned from the selling attorney for the property conveyance to the current owners that reference to the encroachment was in the deed of sale. Thus, they should be aware of the problem.

8. Digitizing NHA and Town Burial Records Update.

Allen Reinhard reported that nothing new has occurred in this important goal of the Commission but that, he understood, this would be a long-term project.

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

A discussion of the Garden Club's generous donation of \$1000 toward the purchase of daffodil bulbs to go around the entrance from the Hospital grounds into the Historic Coloured Cemetery was split between item 4. and here. The entire discussion is reported here.

Mary Malavase of the Garden Club told the Commission of the gift and that she hoped to be involved in the purchase and placement of the bulbs. Frances Karttunen mentioned that the donation could easily purchase 600-800 bulbs and that Mary Malavase's help would be welcome. A general discussion ensued on how best to process the gift and whether or not we could use a DPW account to purchase the bulbs while awaiting receipt and approval of the gift. Hannah Nicolle said that the Select Board was quick to move on gifts and that she thought it could be dealt with in a matter of weeks after the check arrives. There would be plenty of time to plant bulbs.

10. Adjourn.

Before declaring adjournment, Allen Reinhard asked Commissioners if they were available on the proposed dates for the October Meeting, Wednesday, October 14, and Wednesday, November 11, which is Veterans Day. He will poll Commissioners by e-mail for the October date and the Commission will decide on the November date at the October meeting.

Adjournment came by consensus at 3:47 pm.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, October 14, at 3:00 pm by Zoom Video Conferencing

Respectfully submitted: _____; Date: _____

DRAFT