

**NANTUCKET CEMETERY  
COMMISSION  
Posted Meeting of February 10, 2021, 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), , and Barbara White; Administrator Rob McNeil (left at 4:03 pm); Staff: Isabel Jordan and Hannah Nicolle, DPW.

**Absent:** Lee Saperstein

**1. Call to Order.**

Chair Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

**2. Public Comment.**

There was no public comment. Hannah Nicolle introduced Isabel Jordan who will become the DPW staff assistant after a period of training.

Allen Reinhard asked if we could move an item of new business to this space on the agenda, namely approval of a lot sale in Polpis Cemetery. The commissioners agreed to the change. The sale of Lot D-14 to Joseph B. Chmielewski of 74 Hemlock Rd. Milton, Vermont 05468. phone number 802-578-3413, was approved by a motion of Scott McIver, seconded by Frances Karttunen, and approved unanimously by roll-call vote.

**3. Approval of Minutes from December 9, 2020.**

Scott McIver moved, Barbara White seconded, and the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting of December 9, 2020. The vote was by roll call.

At this time, Frances Karttunen asked if the procedures document that was reviewed at the previous meeting had been put on line. Would applicants be able to find the document or would they have to call the DPW? Several commissioners asked if the point of contact should be the Cemetery Administrator or just the DPW. Allen Reinhard said that he would work with Isabel Jordan and Hannah Nicolle to re-edit the document and get it posted on the Commission's web site. [Action: Edit and post the procedures document]

**4. Plan for Cemetery Survey of Monuments at Quaker, Historic Coloured, Old and New North and Newtown Cemeteries. Next Steps.**

As an introduction to the subject of monument restoration, Allen Reinhard reminded the Commissioners that there was a balance of approximately \$120,000 in a Community Preservation Committee grant that needed to be spent. He complimented Scott McIver on his research into companies that survey cemetery monuments and that also provide restoration

services. Scott said that he had found three companies and that the Monument Conservation Collaborative had been the most responsive. He also recommended that we proceed with a full condition assessment survey, which has been quoted at \$22,800 (see appended letter0. His summary of the research is also appended.

At this point Rob McNeil, who complimented Scott on his research, pointed out the we will need to follow Town procedures on procurement. Inasmuch as the estimate is less than \$50,000, we may be able to provide the procurement office with a written description of what is needed along with a copy of the research done and an explanation of which respondent had been most responsive. Once Procurement reviews and approves the request for a contract, it will go to the Select Board for its approval. [Action: Scott McIver and Rob McNeil to write procurement document]

#### **5. Update: Bench and Tree at Miacomet Burial Ground Surfside Entrance.**

When asked by Allen Reinhard, Hannah Nicolle said that she was unable to find any information on by whom and when the bench was placed and the tree planted. She said that the DPW keeps a file on street furniture and tree plantings but that neither item was in the file. Hence, the bench must have been there for quite some time. The tree was planted in 2018 according to the temporary plaque that was recovered from it. It was suggested that the text on the plaque be entered into this file.

Allen Reinhard reminded the commissioners that Lee Saperstein had looked at the GIS depiction of property boundaries and found that the entrance to the burial ground and the location of the stone monument, the bench, and the tree may all be on Sachem Path Homeowners Association's property. Rob McNeil suggested that we ask Ken Beaugrand to review the property boundaries.

Frances Karttunen said that, no matter what, we should not move the entrance to the burial ground nor the monumental stone. She said that the Wampanoag Elders had too much invested in this site to disturb it. Rob McNeil asked how this issue began. Was it a matter of public interest? Frances Karttunen replied that it began with a very angry letter to the newspaper. He then said that it would be easy to move the bench, perhaps closer to the nearby water fountain. [Action: After review of property boundaries, DPW to move the bench.]

#### **6. Quaise Monument and Signage Update.**

As the Commission gets ready to install the memorial stone at the Quaise Burial Ground, the question of directional signage becomes important reported Allen Reinhard. He related that he had spoken with the President of the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, Cormac Collier, about directional signs in the parking areas because they are on NCF land. He had shown photographs of similar signage at the Historic Coloured Cemetery and the Founders Burial Ground. Cormac Collier agreed to the placement of short directional signs in the parking areas but asked that the roadside sign say only "Cemetery" without the word "Historic" because he wanted to limit driving on Altar Rock Road by wandering tourists. After some discussion, the Commission decided that the sign by the road would be on Town-owned land and should read the same as for the other two cemeteries. Allen Reinhard said that he would meet again with Cormac Collier

and let him know the preferences of the Commissioners. He will report back at the next meeting. [Action: Allen Reinhard to meet with Cormac Collier and, if all is well, to ask the Town sign shop to make and install the signs.]

Scott McIver reported that the memorial stone has been cut and shaped and that the stencil for the wording has been cut. Installation will be soon. It was agreed that the Commission should sponsor a public re-dedication of the Burial Ground and initiate a public relations program for it.

### **7. Cemetery Lot Sales at Polpis Through December 2020. Current Lots Available**

Allen Reinhard related, with respect to Polpis Cemetery, that it was time to clear vegetation up to the boundaries of the cemetery and then lay out new lots. At the moment, there are 39 lots available and he believes that we will soon need more. He is not optimistic about the land swap with the abutting neighbor and believes that we should proceed to clear out the existing cemetery. Rob McNeil said that the DPW was working to replace and repair fencing along Polpis Road and would soon be at the cemetery whence they would do the same to the cemetery fencing. Allen Reinhard reminded the group that there is a work order, initiated by Mo Moore, to clear the vegetation back to the boundary. Once that is done, the Water Company has volunteered its surveyors to lay out the new lots. Markers, lot and toe, will need to be ordered for the new lots.

### **8. Polpis Cemetery Update and Plan for Layout of New Lots at Polpis.**

As of this meeting, Allen Reinhard had heard nothing about relief of the encroachment onto the Polpis Cemetery from its eastern abutters. He knows that Ken Beurgrand is working on it but has nothing new to report to the Commission. Issues on lay out of new lots were covered in the previous agenda item.

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

Under old business, Allen Reinhard noted that he would be keeping up with work orders that have been given to the DPW.

Scott McIver noted that Google Maps does not consistently identify the Town cemeteries. Hannah Nicolle said that she would check with the IT/GIS coordinator about this. She will also report it to Florencia Rullo, Public Outreach Manager, who may be able to contact Google.

### **10. Adjournment came by consensus at 4:09 pm.**

**Next regular meeting: Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 3:00 pm by Zoom Video Conferencing**

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_; Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lee W. Saperstein

<b>COMPANY</b>	<b>LOCATED IN</b>	<b>WEBSITE/ EMAIL/ PHONE NUMBER/ CONTACT</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>PROVIDES ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>MONUMENT REPAIR</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>	<b>APPRAISOR FEE/ EST. COST/QUOTES</b>
Fannin.Lehner Preservation Consultants	271 Lexington Rd, Concord	fanninlehner.com/ info@fanninlehner.com 978-369-6703 Minxie Jensvold Fannin	emailed, they are able to come to nantucket, waiting on information on cost etc.	Yes	Yes	Specialize in: condition assessment of monuments, conservation and repair,	TBD
Gravestone Services of New England	Bedford, New Hampshire	http:// www.gravestoneservices.com/ info@gravestoneservices.com 978-821-9158 Kai Nalenz	Emailed, they are able to travel to nantucket, waiting on information regarding cost etc.	Yes	Yes	Member of Association of Gravestone Studies Preservation Massachusetts, and the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works	TBD
Monument Conservation Collaborative LLF	281 North Street Norfolk, CT 06058	https://mcc-monument-conservation.com 860-307-6695 Irving Slavid	Able to travel to Nantucket, they have done work on the cape and vineyard before, waiting on information regarding cost etc.	Yes	No	Can do all assessments and repairs. They run a 3 day seminar of cemetery conservation and workshops for the National Park Services	TBD

Table 1. Survey of Monument Restoration Companies provided by Scott McIver.



Sarah Maclsaac  
c/o Neil Paterson Inc.  
Nantucket, MA  
February 7, 2021

Re: Proposal for Initial Inspection Or Condition Assessment

The following data is from the Nantucket Historical Association web site (numbers are approximate):

Old North Cemetery: 980 markers including 256 Footstones, mostly 18th and 19th cent

New North: 780 markers, mid 19th, and 20th cent

Newtown: 590 markers, mostly late 19th and early 20th century

Quaker: 54 markers, mostly 19th cent

Colored: 125 markers, mostly 19th cent

**Total: Approximately 2,530 markers**

At this time, we feel there are 2 options for the five Nantucket cemeteries, each option having pros and cons:

**Option 1: Initial Inspection and Evaluation (Only)**

Visit each cemetery and do a visual and hands-on investigation of the approximately 2,530 markers in the 5 cemeteries to determine the number of markers which are unstable (hazardous), also noting those which are seriously tilted, fallen, fractured, and any combination of these conditions. All stones exhibiting any of these issues will eventually require a Condition Assessment.

This initial evaluation can be done by either Martin or myself.

Pros: This first step will accurately establish the scope of the project/s, the cost of future condition assessments in each cemetery and estimates for restoration.

Cons: Return visit/s would be necessary to do the required Condition Assessments on those markers requiring conservation before work is started.

The cost for this Initial Inspection (including travel and lodging expenses) for the above 5 cemeteries is **\$9780**.

**Option 2: Condition Assessment \***

Without an Initial Inspection, relying on our past experience we find that the number of stones which exhibit conditions that require conservation treatments in a historic cemetery is typically between 10-15% of the total stones in the cemetery. This is, of course, dependent on the

recent maintenance of the cemetery. If it has been well maintained, perhaps only 5% of the markers will have conditions that require an assessment.

P.O. BOX 541, NORFOLK, CT 06058 860 307 6695 ☎ 413 346 4400 [MCCLLC@gmail.com](mailto:MCCLLC@gmail.com)

#### MONUMENT CONSERVATION COLLABORATIVE LLC Page 2

Thus, relying on 10% and a total of 2,530 markers in the 5 cemeteries, we would estimate that approximately 250 markers would require a full condition assessment. This is a considerable number.

The cost for a Condition Assessment for 250 stones (including travel and lodging expenses for 2 men) for the 5 cemeteries is **\$22,800**. If a significant difference (more or less), in the percentage of markers requiring an assessment is found, cost adjustments will be made.

Pros: Having accurate information allows for more successful fund raising, bid results, and is necessary for conservation work to begin

Cons: While it is cost effective to do an assessment to all the cemeteries on one visit, keep in mind that unless there is funding available to do all the treatments in the next few years, a condition assessment will shortly become out of date.

In either case, we could not start work until near the end of April of this year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call/email me.

Sincerely,  
Irving Slavid

#### \*Description of CONDITION ASSESSMENT and SCOPE OF SERVICES

A detailed documentation of condition is the basis of all conservation efforts. A condition assessment establishes priorities and is thus a quantity survey that permits both the development of work projects and the fund-raising that makes them possible.

The condition assessment determines specific treatments to be used and is a critical component of bid documents.

Every marker is physically inspected and those that require conservation or restoration treatments are digitally recorded, their approximate location identified on a map and existing conditions are fully described, including: type and extent of deterioration e.g., delaminations, fractures, and failed treatments. Stone conservation recommendations are included; detailing methods and materials appropriate to the remedying of the conditions observed.

The hands-on inspection of each marker in the cemetery will prioritize future restoration work into three technical categories.

hazardous--requires immediate action;

unstable deterioration—requires treatment as soon as possible;

ongoing deterioration—probably requires treatment in 2 to 5 years;

Historical importance, location, and visual impact can also affect a stones priority.

As the condition assessment is quantitative, the survey data can easily be translated into a comprehensive budget for the prioritized phases of work. The condition assessment report would only include those markers that fall within these 3 categories.

All monuments designated for assessment are identified, measured and digitally photographed. The original, uncompressed digital files will accompany the report. The photo files will be submitted on a CD-R or DVD).

Two printed copies and digital copies of the assessment documents are delivered to the Owner