

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of April 13, 2022, at 3:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video Conference

DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Attendance: Commissioners: Scott McIver, Allen Reinhard (Chair), and Lee Saperstein; Charles Polachi, Manager, Parks and Recreation (DPW).

1. Call to Order.

Two commissioners, Frances Karttunen and Barbara White, were unable to sign into Zoom, which caused a delay in opening the meeting. Chair Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm. He reminded participants that the session was being recorded. A roll-call of attendees showed that a quorum existed.

2. Public and Commissioner Comments.

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of Minutes from March 16, 2022.

Scott McIver moved, Lee Saperstein seconded, and the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting of February 9, 2022. The vote was by roll call.

4. Approval of Lot Sales Since Last Meeting.

There were no lot sales in the last month, hence none to be approved.

5. Polpis Cemetery Latest Developments and Consolidation of Newtown, Ken Beaugrand.

Ken Beaugrand, Real Estate Specialist, sent a note saying that things are moving slowly at Polpis, particularly in arranging for a survey of the Cemetery, and that he has nothing new to report consequently he will not be attending today's meeting.

6. Plans for Burial of Urns at Polpis and Dedication of the Quaise Asylum Burial Ground Monument.

Allen Reinhard reminded Commissioners that, on May 22nd, there will be the burial of the eight unclaimed cremation urns at Polpis at 2:00 pm followed by the dedication of the Memorial Monument at Quaise, which is almost just across Polpis Road. Scott McIver displayed a draft text for the Polpis stone – flush and conforming to regulation size – and asked for the five names that are known. There are three unknowns among the eight. Allen Reinhard obtained the names from the Town Clerk: Malcolm Burns, George Duprey, Calvin Wittaker, Ernestine Rutter, and Henrietta Napper.

7. Monument Restoration Project Report: Next Steps.

Allen Reinhard reported that he and Charlie Polachi had met to review the Town's bid process. A question for the Commission is whether we should issue a request for a bid that is based on doing the conservation/restoration work cemetery by cemetery or by severity of damage, which has been rated from one to three with the last being the most severe. After some discussion, it was agreed that cemetery by cemetery would be the most efficient way to proceed. The estimated costs provided by the consultants (Richard Grubb and Associates) were compared with the amount of money in the Community Preservation Committee, CPC, grants and Scott McIver and Lee Saperstein suggested that Old North Cemetery should be the first put out for bid (\$86,009.00). If the bid comes in at or below the estimate, there may be enough money in the CPC grants to do the Quaker Cemetery (\$35, 457.00) immediately afterwards. In that the estimate is below the \$50k threshold, this could happen rapidly. Lee Saperstein told Charlie Polachi that the Finance Director, Brian Turbitt, had met with the Cemetery Commission to review the Town's funds related to the Cemeteries and that, properly budgeted, they may be sufficient to do one or two more cemeteries. After these funds are expended, it will be necessary to appeal to the Town for a capital expenditure to do the remaining ones. Lee Saperstein promised Charlie Polachi that he would send him the minutes of the meeting with Brian Turbitt on June 13, 2018, which has now been done. Lee Saperstein moved and Scott McIver seconded a motion to initiate the bid process for conservation/restoration of the damaged monuments in Old North Cemetery and it passed unanimously.

8. Old, New, Other Business, and Final Comments; Zoom or In-Person Meetings?

Allen Reinhard repeated the schedule for May 22nd for inurnment of unclaimed remains at Polpis at 2:00 pm and dedication of the Quaise Asylum Burial Ground monument immediately thereafter. He will work with the DPW and the Nantucket Conservation Foundation to arrange for maintenance of the corner fences at Quaise along with cutting of vegetation on the Ground's boundary.

Lee Saperstein reminded Commissioners of the severe erosion in the lane way leading up to the Founders' Burial Ground, something noted by Frances Karttunen in a recent e-mail to the Commissioners. Charlie Polachi took note of the damage and will work with the DPW to repair it.

Scott McIver said that he had been asked by the Reinhardt family, who have commissioned a stone for an upcoming inurnment at Polpis, if they may add a fifth name to the stone even though they intend to inter only four, as permitted. The fifth was buried elsewhere but they wanted to keep the family group together. Lee Saperstein noted that the burial paperwork would not include the fifth person nor, unless the death occurred on Nantucket, would the Town's vital records include that person's data. Nevertheless, he was in favor of the request; consequently, Scott McIver moved and Lee Saperstein seconded a motion to allow the fifth person's name on the stone. It passed unanimously.

Lee Saperstein suggested a trial sign up for Zoom meetings to prevent a recurrence of today's mishap.

9. Adjournment came by consensus at 4:02 pm.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 3:00 pm by Zoom Video Conferencing. If regular face-to-face meetings resume, a notice will be sent with the agenda for the April meeting. The Zoom link will also be sent to Commissioners.

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

Nantucket Cemetery Projects List.

- Cemetery monument condition survey.
- Consolidation of lots at Newtown Cemetery with recordable ground survey.
- Split rail fence at Polpis Cemetery.
- Survey to lay out additional lots at Polpis.
- Toe and lot corner markers for new Polpis lots when laid out.
- Dedication of new monument at Quaise Asylum Burial Ground.
- Fencing at the Historic Coloured Cemetery.
- Fencing and brush removal at New and Old North Cemeteries.