

**NANTUCKET CEMETERY  
COMMISSION  
Posted Meeting of June 9, 2021, at 3:00 pm  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video Conference**

**FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Allen Reinhard (Chair), Lee Saperstein, and Barbara White; Cemetery Administrator Rob McNeil; Staff: Vanessa Williams, Office Administrator, DPW; Ken Beaugrand, Real Estate Specialist.

Absent: Scott McIver.

**1. Call to Order.**

After a short delay to accommodate Zoom connections, Chair Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:11 pm. A roll-call of attendees showed that a quorum existed.

**2. Public and Commissioner Comments.**

There was no public comment nor any from commissioners.

**3. Approval of Minutes from May 12, 2021.**

Frances Karttunen moved, Lee Saperstein seconded, and the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting of May 12, 2021. The vote was by roll call.

**4. Approval of Lot Sales Since Last Meeting.**

Allen Reinhard asked Vanessa Williams for details of the lot-sale application that had been recently received. She related that Joan Pelham Albaugh, 73 Miacomet Avenue, Nantucket, MA 02554, has completed an application for Lot F-26 in Polpis Cemetery. She also said that they had received payment from Mary Burnell for a lot application previously approved. With respect to the application from Joan Albaugh, Lee Saperstein moved and Barbara White seconded approval of the sale and the commission voted unanimously by roll call to approve it.

**5. Polpis Cemetery and Quaise Monument Latest Developments.**

Allen Reinhard explained that he, Lee Saperstein, and Ken Beaugrand went yesterday, Tuesday, June 8, 2021, to Polpis Cemetery to meet with Rick Beaudette, attorney for the owners of 268 Polpis Road, to discuss his clients' willingness to proceed with the proposed land swap. Rick Beaudette had forwarded to Ken Beaugrand a sketch plan of an acceptable proposal that protected the neighbor's privacy during their use of their back yard. The sketch, which is attached to these minutes, is drawn on top of an earlier map created by Frank Holdgate. During this meeting of the Commission, Lee Saperstein held a copy up to the camera; the attachment provides a closer view. Frances Karttunen asked if this was the same sketch map seen at last

month's meeting and Ken Beaugrand acknowledged that it was. He also said, as he did at the meeting, that he and Rick Beaudette would work out details of dimensions and area so as to bring a formal proposal back to the Commission for its approval.

Allen Reinhard said that this was a great step forward with benefits for both parties; he related that this had begun in 2015 when Mrs. Hicks had come to a meeting of the Cemetery Commission. He suggested that a motion to approve continued negotiation was in order. Barbara White asked about areas of the exchanged lands and Ken Beaugrand said that this information would be in the formal proposal, which would have had a review by the Town's attorney. Essentially, the areas would be identical although allowing for modest modifications to ensure that they were of equal value. Frances Karttunen then made a motion to approve action, Barbara White seconded, and the Commission voted unanimously by roll-call vote in favor. [Action: Ken Beaugrand, on behalf of the Town, will arrange for a formal presentation of the land swap to be presented for approval by the Commission.]

On the second piece in this agenda item, Allen Reinhard said that the monument stone for the Quaise Memorial has been engraved and awaits a scheduling opportunity to install it at the Quaise Asylum Burial Ground. Lee Saperstein suggested that the Commissioners be notified when it is being installed so that they might observe. Frances Karttunen said that she is ready to create a press release at that time. Allen Reinhard related that Ray Sylvia, DPW, has a work order for directional signs at Quaise. When they are placed, Allen Reinhard suggested that it would be appropriate to have a public rededication of the cemetery. [Action: notify commissioners when stone is to be installed; arrange for a rededication ceremony.]

In a related matter, Frances Karttunen asked about the highlight paint that would go into the lettering on the memorial stone at the Miacomet Indian Burial Ground and Allen Reinhard said that it would be done just as soon as Scott McIver's schedule allowed.

## **6. Green Burials Further Discussion.**

In recalling this topic, Allen Reinhard said that he was still awaiting a call back from the Health Department Director with respect to any health concerns that might exist with green burials. He noted that full-body burials in a shroud and bio-degradable coffin and direct burial or scattering of cremains without an urn were two forms of green burial. Once he has more health details, he will bring this item back to a future agenda.

He then asked Rob McNeil, DPW Director and Cemetery Administrator, for his thoughts on green burials. If we proceed with green burials, will we need to change our regulations? Rob McNeil replied that he appreciated the opportunity to discuss green burials; it is high time to explore options for them. He believes that they represent a sustainable practice and that State law permits them. He suggested also that we might consider establishing memorial gardens at each appropriate cemetery for the scattering of ashes on the ground. He will continue to research the topic and report back to the Commission. He did note, however, if families or heirs were uncertain about a final resting place for ashes of their loved ones, they should use a durable container because that will allow for easy movement to a new location.

Allen Reinhard noted that permission for green burials will require changes to our regulations; Lee Saperstein agreed and said that the current version requires durable vaults or containers. Revised regulations will require a public hearing, which Allen Reinhard said would be easy to arrange. He repeated that he likes the idea of a memorial garden. He conjectured that a fee would be charged to cover the costs of digital memorialization and even for the incorporation of names of the deceased on a plaque. Barbara White thought that this was all a good idea and did we have any idea of an appropriate size for the garden and what would be suitable plantings. Rob McNeil said that he would research this idea in other venues and cemeteries. He also said that if we created a memorial register of the deceased whose ashes had been scattered it would serve readily for those that had been scattered at sea.

## **6. Burial Plot for Cremains Abandoned with Town Clerk**

Allen Reinhard reminded the commissioners that there are still five sets of cremains stored with the Town Clerk, four of which are identified and one not. None of the five has any identified family or heirs. The five are all that remain in the Town Clerk's Office with the others, through the extensive research of the former Town Clerk, having been identified and claimed. In considering how to inter these, Allen Reinhard said that he would think of a word or term better than "unclaimed" or "unidentified." Lee Saperstein moved that we locate two plots in Polpis for their inurnment, Frances Karttunen seconded, with the note that Scott McIver has committed to preparing a memorial stone for the burials. By roll call vote, the motion was approved unanimously. Allen Reinhard said that he would advise the Town Clerk of the Commission's action and that he has two plots in mind for this.

## **7. Cemetery Surveys Update.**

At Allen Reinhard's invitation, Rob McNeil reported that the Town has approved a contract with a company that does cemetery memorial restorations and that he is waiting to schedule a surveyor who can do the initial review of boundaries and monument locations. Allen Reinhard said that this was a major step forward.

## **8. Cemetery Projects List.**

The on-going projects, which are listed at the end of these minutes, have, in the main, been discussed in earlier agenda items.

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

There were no additional comments.

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

**Next regular meeting: Wednesday, July 14, 2021, 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 June meeting.**

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.

