

**NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION**  
**Posted Meeting of June 14, 2023, at 3:00 pm**  
**DPW Conference Room, 188 Madaket Road, with Zoom Connectivity**

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

**Attendance:** Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Scott McIver, Allen Reinhard (Chair), and Lee Saperstein (Zoom at 3:15 pm); Charlie Polachi (Zoom) and TaKyra Renner, DPW.

**1. Call to Order.**

Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm. He apologized for the delay, which was caused by a missed Zoom connection that was soon corrected. He reminded participants that the session was being recorded: . 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 offered several comments from the Chair. He had recently attended a workshop at Prospect Hill Cemetery held by the Maria Mitchell Association on cleaning gravestones. Attendees were approximately ten in number. Prospect Hill will allow plot holders to clean their own stones. The leader of the workshop expressed interest in the Cemetery Commission's projects to restore stones in the Town cemeteries. Scott McIver and Charlie Polachi both said that amateur cleaning of gravestones needs to be supervised to keep overly vigorous scrubbing from damaging stones or their inscriptions. Charlie Polachi added that Walter Trusz of Ludlow Memorial had offered the same advice. It was agreed, however, that recruiting a few volunteers to help in cleaning stones would be a good idea and Charlie Polachi volunteered to contact the Scouts to see if any of their members would like to do an Eagle Scout project in the cemeteries.

Next, Allen Reinhard related that he had discovered that the grant from the State for markers on veterans' graves was for the purpose of installing approved Veterans Administration markers. It was not for gravestones.

C. Lee Saperstein reported that he had a conversation with Niles Parker, Executive Director, who said that he and Amelia Holmes, Research Director, of the Nantucket Historical Association were interested in the work of the Cemetery Commission and might contact us for a future liaison meeting.

**3. Approval of Minutes from May 10, 2023.**

Scott McIver moved approval of the minutes of the meeting of May 10, 2023, Barbara White seconded, and the vote to approve was by roll call and was unanimously in favor.

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

Allen Reinhard reported that an application for Polpis Lot C-22 had been properly filed by Jesse Sandole of 167 Hooper Farm Road for his father, Bill. Also, Tanya Eldridge of 16 West Sankaty Road had asked that we put a hold on either Lot E-1 or 2, as did Rhoda Weinman who asked that a similar hold be placed on F-8 for her to be eventually next to her husband, Joseph Mclaughlin (F-9). Lee Saperstein suggested that the sale to Jesse Sandole should be approved by the Commission and so moved its approval; Scott McIver seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous.

#### **5. Layout of New Lots at Polpis: Work Plan and Date to Install New Lot Markers.**

Allen Reinhard said that he had spent three days trying to sort the new lot markers for Polpis and was overwhelmed by their specificity. In the end, he had managed to install seven of them. Scott McIver asked if he could use some help and the two of them set a date for meet at Polpis. Charlie Polachi noted that this was another project that could use volunteer help.

#### **6. Polpis Land Transfer Update.**

Allen Reinhard reported, again, that there has no progress on the Polpis Cemetery land swap with the abutting neighbor. He suggested that there was no shame in giving up. He also noted that Ken Beaugrand was absent and that this may have contributed to the delay. Barbara White suggested that the Commission write to the attorney who represents the neighbors and say that it was time to proceed. The attorney and members of the Commission had met at the Cemetery on March 20, 2023, and had then negotiated an acceptable layout of the proposed post-swap boundaries. It was agreed to write to the attorney with a copy to the land owners. A draft will be given to the Town Manager before the letter is sent.

Lee Saperstein said that, in his opinion, it was important to complete the swap; thus, to be patient with the delays. Scott McIver agreed. He then made a formal motion to send the letter, which was seconded by Frances Karttunen, and approved unanimously.

#### **6. Monument Restoration Project: Next Steps (Charlie Polachi).**

Charlie Polachi reported that future restoration projects awaited only the issuance of the budget for FY 2024 and could be awarded as soon as July. Ludlow Memorials has reviewed its original estimate for restoring 13 stones at Quaker Cemetery to include an application of the Biologic cleanser to all stones and gave a new estimate of \$9225.06. This is below the cost threshold requiring competitive bidding; hence, a contract may be awarded as soon as the budget is posted.

Frances Karttunen asked if LMC is fixing the several stones in Old North Cemetery identified at the previous meeting as requiring work. Charlie Polachi replied that they have visited the cemetery and reviewed the subject stones and will advise him of their next steps. He also noted that Secretary Saperstein had a copy of the original Community Preservation Committee grant application. Lee Saperstein promptly sent him a copy. Because the condition report, which underlies the need to restoration work, is over 500 pages long, it was suggested that the new grant application provide a link to the report but not the report in its entirety. It was agreed also

that the new grant application will follow the one submitted in 2009 but with its introductory material suitably edited.

### **8. Old, New, Other Business and Final Comments.**

Allen Reinhard told the commissioners that he has learned that there is a new flagpole sitting at an Island lumber company. It was ordered over two years ago and never retrieved. He believes that it was ordered by the former DPW Director to replace a deteriorated one at Newtown Cemetery and never picked up. Lee Saperstein said that he remembers that the flagpole was not installed when the GPR survey of Newtown revealed that there were graves under the old flagpole. He added that the DPW should be asked to pick it up and store it in its yard.

With respect to adding members to the Commission, Frances Karttunen suggested Kathy Richin as a potential member. Barbara While said that we should invite her to future meetings of the Commission.

Frances Karttunen noted that the highlights in the lettering of the inscription of the stone at the Indian Burial Ground had faded. Scott McIver said that it will be fixed promptly.

Allen Reinhard closed this segment of the agenda by apologizing for his error in missing the submission date for renewal applications. With no other applications before the Select Board, he has been assured that he will be re-appointed.

### **10. Adjournment.**

Adjournment came at 4:07 pm by acclamation.

**Next regular meeting: Wednesday, July 12, 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary

### **Nantucket Cemetery Projects List.**

- Complete discussed improvements at Old North Cemetery; create needed work orders.
- Cemetery monument restoration project: Ongoing, D-2 treatment of monuments.
- Split rail fence at Polpis Cemetery: waiting for possible land swap agreement to be implemented.
- Fencing at the Historic Coloured Cemetery: Work order needed.
- Spreadsheet Project: Lot#, Lot Owner, Contact info., Monument and Burial Record, dates, other forms.
- Consolidation of lots at Newtown Cemetery with recordable survey: Awaiting action from Town Counsel.





Broken slate stone in Old North Cemetery.