

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of September 13, at 3:00 pm
DPW Conference Room, 188 Madaket Road, with Zoom Connectivity

FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Scott McIver, and Allen Reinhard (Chair); Charlie Polachi and TaKyra Renner, DPW.

Absent: Lee Saperstein and Barbara White

1. Call to Order.

Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. He reminded participants that the session was being recorded: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-5dlvfPH-Q&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhIyX1ozdd1bZ3zV8kXFp8M&index=39>. 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. Several items, which are noted, were taken out of order from the agenda.

C. Allen Reinhard was visiting Newtown Cemetery when he observed a rowdy group. After he asked them to quiet down, which they did not, he called the police. The group disbursed before they arrived.

D. Frances Karttunen said that the prospective member could not attend this meeting because of a conflict but remains very interested in the work of the Commission and will try to join in October.

3. Approval of Minutes from August 23, 2023.

Allen Reinhard noted that the minutes of August 23, 2023, needed a surname for Lisa Todd in item 2.B., which has now been given and included in the minutes for that date. With that, he asked for approval; Scott McIver moved, Frances Karttunen seconded, and approval was granted unanimously by roll-call vote. Frances Karttunen observed that the minutes, in item 7., said that there were 13 monuments in the Quaker Cemetery in need of repair and 27 more in need of cleaning. She noted that there are 59 stones in that cemetery while the minutes only acknowledged 40. Charlie Polachi said that it was clear that 13 are in need of restoration and that he had suggested 27 as the remainder. He made it clear that all stones, i.e., 59, would be treated with the biologic cleanser. Frances Karttunen added that the correct count will help in making an accurate budget estimate for the proposed contract.

4. Community Preservation Act Grant (Agenda Item 5.).

Allen Reinhard, in advance of Agenda Item 5., CPC Grant Application, reported that the requisite number of copies of a CPC Grant Application for capital work in Nantucket cemeteries had been submitted on time to the Community Preservation Committee. Frances Karttunen reminded the Commissioners that a letter of support would be helpful. Previously, it was suggested that Allen Reinhard contact Niles Parker, Executive Director of the Nantucket Historical Association, for such a letter and Allen Reinhard agreed that he would do so. [Action: Allen Reinhard contact Niles Parker. Charlie Polachi to ensure that a digital copy of the application is placed into the DPW files.]

5. Monument Restoration Project (Agenda Item 7.).

Charlie Polachi reported next on the progress that has been made in contracting for restoration work in two more cemeteries. This was taken up also as part of Agenda Item 7. A bid has been received from Ludlow Memorial for about \$9200 for work at the Quaker Cemetery; this contract awaits approval from the Select Board and then work may start. A request for bids for work at the Historic Coloured Cemetery has gone out; the estimated cost for this work is greater than the amount allowed for a direct-purchase agreement, hence the request for bids. Bids are due by September 27th. The Commission returned to this topic later.

Allen Reinhard reported additionally that he had been told about vandalism to stones in Newtown Cemetery. After examining them, he concluded that three stones had been damaged, perhaps some time ago. Charlie Polachi said that he had been able to determine the names of the people buried in those three lots.

5. Polpis Map (Agenda Item 4.).

Allen Reinhard displayed the current map of Polpis, which includes details of each inurnment, that was produced by Phyllis Ruguarus when she was the staff assistant to the Commission. He noted that, with the layout of new lots, it needed to be redrawn. He will meet with her to determine how best to proceed. Charlie Polachi offered to help. [Action: Amend map of Polpis Cemetery.]

6. Lot Sales Since Last Meeting (Agenda Item 3.).

Allen Reinhard said that he dealt with two separate lot sales, one of which has been completed and needs to be approved. This was an application, now received along with a check, from Mr. and Mrs. Robert King, of Tom Nevers, for lots G-3 and G-4 in the new section of Polpis. The other was the decision by Lisa Todd (see August 23, 2023, minutes) to apply for lots D-5 and E-5, also in the new layout; she has been given the forms for completion. Scott McIver moved approval of the sale to the King family, which was seconded by Frances Karttunen, and approved unanimously by roll-call vote. Frances Karttunen asked, also, about progress in receipt of an application from Tanya Eldridge; she will be returning to Nantucket later in the fall, said Allen Reinhard, at which time he expects to receive an application. He noted, also, that he has met at Polpis with other prospective purchasers and gave them applications forms and will report on them when they return them.

7. Newtown Cemetery (Agenda Item 6.).

Allen Reinhard noted that the long-standing request for the consolidation of lots and confirmation of status for Newtown Cemetery remains in the hands of Town Counsel. Frances Karttunen added that she had personally contacted two members of the Select Board about Newtown and had received responses from both as well as a note to her and Lee Saperstein plus all members of the Select Board from the Town Manager. She was dismayed by the prolonged lack of action on this request, which has delayed any major maintenance activity at Newtown.

Charlie Polachi reported that the new flagpole is indeed stored in the yard of the Island Lumber Company. He would like to see it installed and has located a place by the back fence, in line with the current entrance, that appears, from the GPR survey, to be free from graves. Frances Karttunen moved and Scott McIver seconded that Charlie Polachi be authorized to recover the flagpole and see to its installation in the place noted. The Commission voted by roll-call unanimously to approve this motion. Charlie Polachi also suggested that a survey of record for Newtown be conducted because it will be needed at such time as the Town confirms its status as a cemetery and, thus, records it. He will look into the cost for such a survey with the aim of suggesting the appropriate fund to pay for it.

8. Monument Restoration Project Update: Old North and Quaker Cemeteries (Agenda Item 7.).

With respect to Old North Cemetery, which has undergone restoration work, Allen Reinhard reported that Ray Sylvia, DPW Working Foreman, will be replacing the deteriorated information sign. He also noted that he had a telephone conversation with a woman who asked why the stone for Margaret Hussey in the older part of Old North faced the “wrong way.” Allen Reinhard told her that it faced the road, similarly to the ones placed by the back fence; it had been repaired sometime in the past and that was when it was re-installed. She was mollified by this explanation.

Resuming his report on potential new contracts for restoration work, Charlie Polachi repeated his news that the Quaker Cemetery contract, for approximately \$9200, is awaiting Select Board approval. The bid request for the Historic Coloured Cemetery closes on September 27th, with work in both cemeteries underway by November. Thus, the three cemeteries – Historic Coloured, Old North, and Quaker – will be ready by the spring. Allen Reinhard thanked Charlie Polachi for his efforts on these contracts. He also noted that the landscaping crew or contractor has put all of the Town cemeteries into great shape.

Mention of landscaping brought forth a discussion on access to the Historic Coloured Cemetery, particularly from North Mill Street, and to the Founders’ Burial Ground. Allen Reinhard suggested that Charlie Polachi ask the landscaping crew to include brush cutting along both access ways.

9. Budgets for FY 2024.

Allen Reinhard noted that, for the first time, the Cemetery Commission has properly sanctioned budgets and thanked Charlie Polachi for his role in getting them established. He was similarly pleased that the DPW's record-keeping function for the cemeteries is sound.,

10. Old, New, Other Business and Final Comments.

There was none, hence it was time to adjourn the meeting.

10. Adjournment.

Adjournment came at 4:01pm by acclamation.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 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: 9/14/2023
Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary

Nantucket Cemetery Projects List.

- Cemetery monument restoration project: Ongoing, D-2 treatment monuments.
- Fencing at the Historic Coloured Cemetery.
- Fencing, and brush removal at New and Old North Cemeteries.
- Consolidation of lots at Newtown Cemetery with recordable ground survey: Awaiting action from Town Counsel.