

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of June 8, 2022, 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; Charlie Polachi and TaKyra Renner (DPW).

Absent: Scott McIver

1. Call to Order.

Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:01 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. Several commissioners spoke highly of the May 22nd event at Polpis and Quaise and their comments may be found in Agenda Item 7.

3. Approval of Minutes from May 11, 2022.

Frances Karttunen moved, Barbara White seconded, and the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting of May 11, 2022. The vote was by roll call.

4. Approval of Lot Sales Since Last Meeting.

There has been one lot sale since the last meeting and that was to Frances Karttunen: Polpis Cemetery Lot G-19. Barbara White moved approval of the sale, Lee Saperstein seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

5. Ken Beaugrand, If Available: Polpis Latest Developments and Consolidation of Newtown.

Although Ken Beaugrand was unable to attend the meeting, he did confer with Allen Reinhard earlier. Allen Reinhard spoke of his frustration at a six-year process for swapping land at Polpis with the abutter that has not yet been resolved. He said that he had listed every meeting, since the time that the abutting property owner met with the Commission and gave verbal assent to the land swap, and it was multi-paged. As reported by Ken Beaugrand, we need the abutters' proposal for the lands to be swapped along with a recordable survey of the boundaries, old and proposed new. Allen Reinhard is hopeful that he can identify a willing surveyor if we get the proposal from the abutters.

There has been no legal activity at Newtown Cemetery.

6. Monument Restoration Project: Bid Process Update, Charlie Polachi.

Charlie Polachi reported that a legal matter, proper inclusion of prevailing wage requirements, caused the Town to re-post the invitation for bids (IFB) for monument conservation and restoration at Old North Cemetery. This has been done and all bids are due by 10:00 am on June 24th, at which point they will be opened in the Finance Office. In response to questions on who determines the winner, Charlie Polachi said that if there is a clear low bidder from a clearly qualified bidder, then the Finance Office will go ahead and award the contract. If there are questions on amounts or qualifications, the Finance Office will bring them to the Commission. If all goes well, work could begin as soon as August 1st. Lee Saperstein suggested that the next one will go swiftly and Charlie Polachi agreed.

7. Plans for Burial of Urns at Polpis; Quaise Asylum Burial Ground Monument Dedication.

Allen Reinhard reported that the burial at Polpis and the dedication at Quaise went very well; he counted nearly 20 people in attendance. As noted in the section on Commissioner comments, Barbara White thought that the two ceremonies were really good. Allen Reinhard felt that the offering from Reverend Richard and the songs by Susan Berman were apt. He noted that he had gone to the cemeteries beforehand and found that Quaise had not been mown nor its fences replaced. He did what he could to trim weeds and shrubs.

Frances Karttunen spoke of a concern for DPW to fulfill the work order on replacement of fencing and for general landscaping at Quaise. Charlie Polachi said that an overall shortage of Town employees meant that they were behind but that the work order would be completed. Barbara White had taken several photographs of the ceremonies and thought that they should go on our web page. Lee Saperstein said that he could put one or two in the minutes (see attached photos) but that a more visible location such as in social media might also be a good idea.

[Action: Charlie Polachi and Allen Reinhard will follow up with the DPW on completion of work requested for Quaise.]

Mention of work to be done at Quaise led Frances Karttunen to comment that earlier plantings of daffodils (paid for by the grant from the Garden Club) had suffered by mowing of the leaves too soon after the blooms dried out. Allen Reinhard said that there was upwards of \$700 left in the grant and that we should schedule additional plantings in the fall. He will talk with Dave Champoux, Tree Warden for the Town, and landscapers at the Nantucket Island Land Bank on how best to plant multiple bulbs in one location.

8. Discussion: On-going Projects, Commission Goals for FY2023.

Allen Reinhard noted that the listing of projects at the bottom of each agenda and set of minutes was a ready reminder of things on which we are working. He suggested that the forthcoming July meeting would be a good time to renew the list and he hoped that Commissioners would consider items to be added to it.

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

Thinking ahead to the July meeting, Allen Reinhard asked about preferences for in-person or virtual (Zoom) meetings. Except for Frances Karttunen who preferred virtual meetings, there was general consent for in-person meetings. Allen Reinhard reminded the commissioners that we had met in the conference area in the DPW in the past but that the Town was suggesting that volunteer groups use the video-equipped meeting rooms at 131 Pleasant Street (the office trailer). Subsequent to this meeting, Erika Mooney scheduled the July meeting in the trailer. Lee Saperstein hoped that virtual attendees at hybrid meetings would be included in the quorum to which Charlie Polachi said that this decision may be up to the State.

9. Adjournment came at 3:34 pm by motion of Frances Karttunen, second by Barbara White, and an unanimous roll-call vote.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 3:00 pm, in a conference room at 131 Pleasant Street. 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.

Cemetery monument condition survey (completed).
Consolidation of lots at Newtown Cemetery with recordable ground survey.
Split rail fence at Polpis Cemetery (installed).
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 (installed and dedicated).
Fencing at the Historic Coloured Cemetery (installed).
Fencing and brush removal at New and Old North Cemeteries.



Polpis Inurnment of eight unclaimed cremains on May 22, 2022; Susan Berman, Reverend Richard, Frances Karttunen, and Allen Reinhard.



Dedication of Quaise Asylum Burial Ground memorial on May 22, 2022; Allen Reinhard and Frances Karttunen on either side of it.



The Quaise Asylum Burial Ground Memorial, dedicated May 22, 2022.