

**NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION**  
**Posted Meeting of December 14, 2022, at 3:00 pm**  
**DPW Conference Room, 188 Madaket Road with Zoom Connectivity**

**FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Allen Reinhard (Chair), Lee Saperstein (3:12 pm) and Barbara White; Charlie Polachi and TaKyra Renner (DPW).

**Absent:** Scott McIver

**1. Call to Order.**

Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. He reminded participants that the session was being recorded

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJJHM86oFZ8&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhlyX1ozdd1bZ3zV8kXFp8M&index=31>). A roll-call of attendees showed that a quorum existed.

**2. Public and Commissioner Comments.**

With no members of the public present, there were no public comments.

**3. Approval of Minutes from November 9, 2022.**

For the minutes of November 9, 2022, Frances Karttunen moved their adoption, Barbara White seconded, and an unanimous roll-call approved them.

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

There were no lots sold in the previous month. Allen Reinhard reported that he had several enquiries but no one had pursued them to the point of meeting at the cemetery.

**5. Monument Restoration Project: Next Steps.**

Allen Reinhard asked Charlie Polachi to review the input received from the topographic mapping contract. Charlie Polachi said that his report would touch on Agenda Items 5., 6., and 8. He then shared his screen with the Commissioners and showed them the report. He promised to e-mail the file to the Commissioners (done). He reminded the Commissioners that the contract called for deliverables by the end of the year and this requirement has been fulfilled. The report began with an index map and then proceeded, alphabetically, to the seven cemetery maps. Miacomet Indian Burial Ground and the Quaise Asylum Burial Ground were not surveyed. Each map includes a thorough depiction of the monument locations and, by an icon, the type of monument.

He projected the maps in order. At the first one, Founders Burial Ground, the degree of detail became obvious as Frances Karttunen pointed out two monuments that she had never seen. New North was followed by Newtown, Old North, and Quaker. At New North, he related that he had

viewed the same cemeteries on Google Maps and found a number of location and naming errors that he reported to Google. Old North, he noted, had several burials at or beyond the bound. Next, he displayed the map for Newtown Cemetery, which did not include the portion of the cemetery denoted as 40 Sparks Avenue. It was noted that the Commission is asking the Town to get a ruling on the overall bounds of Newtown Cemetery. Charlie Polachi surmised that the survey was not extended to 40 Sparks because of the mistaken belief that this was not part of the cemetery. He then went back to the map of Polpis Cemetery. A decision needs to be made on posting these maps on the Commission's web site.

Allen Reinhard remarked that we have been waiting for a survey of Polpis for proceeding with the land swap and also have been waiting for a survey of Newtown so that the Town may proceed with lot consolidation and designation of the entire parcel (40, 42, 44, and 46 Sparks Avenue) as a cemetery. Would these surveys suffice for these purposes, he asked. Lee Saperstein suggested that they would not because they are not recordable surveys; they are useful, though, for assisting in lot and lane layout and should be posted on the Commission's web site. Town Counsel, he suggested, would give a definitive answer to their legal utility. In response to Barbara White's question of when were the surveys done, Charlie Polachi said "late last year."

The discussion on Polpis led to a question from Frances Karttunen on the status of the proposed swap. Commissioners are frustrated by the lack of activity; they would like to see a map of the proposed swap. The proposal received some time ago may not be acceptable. The tenor of the discussion was that the Commission should drop the proposed land swap unless it receives a map that it can review. Lee Saperstein reported that he had spoken with Ken Beaugrand, who said that there is progress including a proposal to swap easements instead of conveying land because this would avoid Land Court proceedings and be far faster. Lee Saperstein suggested that we should ask Ken Beaugrand how best to proceed. Allen Reinhard added that, no matter what progress is made on these easements, the layout of lots in the portion of the cemetery that is not under discussion will proceed. [Action: Invite Ken Beaugrand to inform the commission on status of Polpis swap and Newtown consolidation, including status of recordable surveys.]

## **6. Commission Finances and Accounts Update. (Charlie Polachi)**

With respect to funding for restoration of monuments in additional cemeteries, Charlie Polachi, continuing his report, said that he has reviewed account balances. There may be more than expected because the bill for work in Old North Cemetery was less than budgeted. There may be enough money in the CPC grant to contract for restoration work in the Quaker Cemetery. He said that he intends to look at the estimated costs for all remaining cemeteries, deduct available funds, and establish a financial goal for a proposal to the Community Preservation Committee, CPC. A decision on future work may be made at the next meeting. [Action: Draft a proposal to the CPC for continuing monument restoration work.]

## **7. Supplies Needed for Additional Polpis Lots: Toe and Corner Markers. (Charlie Polachi)**

For buying new toe and corner markers, Charlie Polachi shared pictures of the granite markers that can be provided by Ludlow Memorials, the company that did the restoration work in Old

North Cemetery. Although expensive, they could be used just to mark the head of each lettered row. Also, he has searched the DPW files for correspondence on previous purchases and, on the shared screen, showed what he had found. Correspondence with Kai Hodge (formerly with DPW) was seen from Lake Shore Industries, Holland Supply, Center Cast Metal Products, and Eaton Brothers. Allen Reinhard suggested that once there are accurate fund balances and a determination of the actual provider of the existing markers, we should order markers for the proposed new lots. [Action: Order new markers.]

## **8. Cemetery Commission Capital and Operating Budgets for FY2023.**

Because the discussion on Polpis led directly to the issue of land swap and the need to purchase new markers, the budgetary discussion was moved to follow them. Charlie Polachi reported that he has researched all potential budgets and that he and Lee Saperstein met by Zoom with Brian Turbitt, Finance Director, to discuss them. Brian Turbitt was asked to review the following budgets (e-mail from Charlie Polachi to Brian Turbitt, 12/01/2022 at 9:49 am):

“The accounts we are inquiring about are as follows:

20832/92201

20832/99253

216000/36036

216429/49402

530000/36023

530000/36025

530000/36026”

Each line has an account number and an object code. Brian Turbitt looked at these accounts while we were meeting on Zoom and offered some guidance; he will give the Commission a more formal review of how it may spend from each of these accounts. Charlie Polachi asked also that the Town prepare a warrant article for the forthcoming Annual Town Meeting to create a budget line in the DPW overall budget that may receive income from lot sales and permit expenditures for cemetery operations. Brian Turbitt noted that all Town budgets need to be renewed annually and that would hold true for the cemetery budget.

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

The “Other Business” items included the matter of recruiting volunteers to help with maintenance, form filing, web site maintenance, and even updating burial records. Barbara White said that she had reached out to the Public Schools to see if students can be recruited, as part of their service requirement, to help. So far, she has had no response. Charlie Polachi spoke with the three students who volunteered last year. Barbara While has been contacted by Lena Civatarese, who would like to join the Commission but finds that the current meeting time conflicts with her day schedule. The normal meeting time of 3:00 pm was set to allow the Commissioners to meet with DPW staff; Charlie Polachi said that 3:30 pm would not pose a problem for him. It was agreed to ask Lena Civatarese if she can join the meeting at 3:30 pm. If she can, we could schedule either the February or March meeting accordingly so that she may see the Commission in action. [Action: Barbara White to ask Lena Civatarese if 3:30 pm will work for her.]

## **9. Adjournment.**

Adjournment came at 3:53 pm by acclamation.

**Next regular meeting: Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 3:00 pm, unless rescheduled, 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.**

- Cemetery monument condition survey (completed); awarding of four more contracts for monument conservation.
- Split rail fence at Polpis Cemetery: installed in existing cemetery; needed in newly acquired land.
- Survey to lay out additional lots at Polpis.
- Toe and lot corner markers for new Polpis lots when laid out.
- Consolidation of lots at Newtown Cemetery with recordable ground survey.
- Fencing at the Historic Coloured Cemetery: sections installed, needed against Vesper Lane.
- Fencing and brush removal at New and Old North Cemeteries.