

**NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION**  
**Posted Meeting of February 14, 2024, at 3:00 pm**  
**DPW Conference Room, 188 Madaket Road, with Zoom Connectivity**

**FINAL AND APPROVED MINTUES**

**Attendance:** Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Scott McIver, Allen Reinhard (Chair), Lee Saperstein, and Barbara White (Zoom, 3:20 pm); Charlie Polachi, DPW.

Guest: Walter Trusz, Ludlow Memorial (arrived 3:31 pm and left at 3:50 pm)

**1. Call to Order.**

Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:09 pm. He observed that there was difficulty in connecting to Zoom. While waiting, it was suggested that opening business matters not needing discussion could be covered. Consequently, a roll-call of attendees was conducted, with four members present (Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Scott McIver, Allen Reinhard (Chair), and Lee Saperstein) and Barbara White waiting for the Zoom connection. There was a quorum and some business was conducted: agenda items 2. and 3.

The Zoom connection was made at 3:20 pm and the recording began. It can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUzYKhbGRCE&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhlyX1ozdd1bZ3zV8kXFp8M&index=44>.

**2. Minutes of January 10, 2024.**

A move to approve the minutes of January 10, 2024, was made by Frances Karttunen, seconded by Scott McIver, and approved unanimously by all present (Frances Karttunen, aye, Scott McIver, aye, Allen Reinhard (Chair), aye, and Lee Saperstein, aye).

**3. Approval of Lot Sales since Last Meeting.**

Allen Reinhard reported that there were no lot sales since the last meeting; hence, no action was needed. At this point, 3:11 pm, because the remainder of the agenda items could lead to discussions, it was decided to wait for the Zoom connection and the video recording.

**4. Public and Commissioner Comments.**

Assistance was given by Erika Mooney, Operations Administrator, to make the Zoom connection, which happened at 3:20 pm. Recording began and Barbara White joined the meeting. Thence, Allen Reinhard suggested to Frances Karttunen that this was a good place in the agenda to discuss her two items.

The first report was that a grant application had been successfully submitted by the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline to the Community Foundation for Nantucket, administrators of the Nantucket Offshore Wind Community Fund, for producing a video of an annotated walk through the Historic

Coloured Cemetery. Details of the plans for the video were included in last-month's minutes. She was very complimentary of the assistance given by Vince Murphy, Sustainability Programs Manager, who is the Town of Nantucket point of contact for the fund. As soon as she learns the fate of the application, she will notify the Commissioners.

The second report was that she has written a press release on the re-installation of the foot stone for Phebe Ann Boston in the Historic Coloured Cemetery. Some years ago, it had been found lying haphazardly in the cemetery and retrieved for storage in the Town Clerk's vault. With the restoration of the Boston Family plot, it is time to restore the foot stone to the cemetery. She had hoped to have it installed by the time of this meeting but the recent storm has delayed this. The Town will release the press notice if the Commission votes to do so. Frances Karttunen moved that the press release be sent out just as soon as the stone is re-installed; Scott McIver seconded the motion, and all agreed by roll-call vote (Frances Karttunen, aye, Scott McIver, aye, Allen Reinhard, aye, Lee Saperstein, aye, and Barbara White, aye). The final version of the press release will be reviewed by the Commission and included in the appropriate minutes. With cooperation by the weather, the stone will be installed and the story released in February, which is Black History Month.

#### **5. Newtown Cemetery: Future Plans.**

While Walter Trusz, who will be giving the report on monument restorations, completed his Zoom connection, the Commission heard from Allen Reinhard about progress in defining the legal cemetery status of Newtown Cemetery. He has had a casual conversation with Andrew Vorce, who is serving the Town in an adjunct role, about Newtown, and reported that Andrew Vorce is aware of the legal problems with it. Lee Saperstein suggested that Allen Reinhard ask for a formal meeting between Andrew Vorce and representatives of the Cemetery Commission, himself and Lee Saperstein. With attendance less than a quorum, this meeting may be scheduled as convenient. [Action: Allen Reinhard to schedule a meeting between Andrew Vorce and two representatives of the Cemetery Commission.]

#### **6. Monument Restoration Project Update.**

Charlie Polachi introduced Walter Trusz, Ludlow Memorial, who, at 3:31 pm, had just joined the meeting via Zoom. Frances Karttunen asked him about the Biologic D-2 treatments in the Historic Coloured Cemetery and he replied that they have treated 39 stones as detailed on the bid document. If added to the bid, he can do all of them. She noted that there is a lone stone by the fence against the hospital that needs to be treated. With respect to the Quaker Cemetery, they have treated all of them but may need a second application after the weather moderates. He then went into more details on the progress of restoring stones: those that merely need to be straightened or reset and the limited number that need to be repaired. The latter work definitely needs warmer weather.

Frances Karttunen explained about Phebe Ann Boston's foot stone and the hope that it can be reset this month. If possible, she and Barbara White would like to be present when it is put in place. A reporter from the newspaper was going to be at the cemetery on the 13<sup>th</sup> but the storm put that off. It was suggested that the I&M be contacted when work resumes. Mention was

made by Allen Reinhard of an application to the Community Preservation Committee for funds to restore monuments in New North and Newtown cemeteries. [Action: Charlie Polachi to call the paper with the new work schedule.]

Walter Trusz said that this completed his report and that he would leave the call (3:50 pm). He was thanked for his help in restoring the cemeteries.

## **7. Review Project Lists for Deletions and Additions.**

Allen Reinhard said that he compiles the Project Lists, which are at the end of every agenda, to keep track of significant work items and their progress. When complete and no longer in need of monitoring, he removes them. In this agenda item, he would like to go over the current list with the Commission to bring it up to date.

- Consolidation of lots at Newtown Cemetery with recordable ground survey: Awaiting action. As discussed in item 5., this is an item of importance and needs to be propelled.
- Begin Monument Restoration at the Historic Coloured and Quaker Cemeteries. This work is underway by Ludlow Memorial.
- Ongoing, D-2 treatment of monuments. Also underway as part of the work in the Historic Coloured and Quaker Cemeteries.
- Fencing at the Historic Coloured Cemetery. Several commissioners noted that there is fencing on only three sides of the Historic Coloured Cemetery with no fence against the Land Bank land along Vesper Lane. The consensus of discussion was that a fence should be installed along that side as well. No vote was taken but all present agreed that the DPW should be asked to install a fence with entry way along the fourth side. Allen Reinhard observed that there is brush and a modest berm on that side. He was uncertain about the presence of survey bounds on the corners that define that side. Lee Saperstein hoped that the Land Bank, when it acquired the property, which surrounds the Cemetery on two sides, obtained an accurate survey. Allen Reinhard said that he would check with the Land Bank on this survey. Charlie Polachi said that he would work with the DPW to organize brush clearance and a new fence. [Action: Allen Reinhard to check on the Land Bank survey and Charlie Polachi to organize a new fence.]
- Fencing, and brush removal at New and Old North Cemeteries. An earlier assessment of New North cemetery identified a number of places where vegetation needed to be removed or trimmed. Landscaping work has been done along Franklin Street but there may be other plots that still need work. Instead of conjecture about current maintenance needs, it was suggested that the Commission hold a posted meeting at the cemetery. Allen Reinhard will find a convenient date for this meeting sometime after the March Commission meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Old North was said to be in good condition; it can be examined at the same time. [Action: Allen Reinhard to poll the Commissioners for a suitable date and then post a meeting for New North Cemetery.]
- New map needed for Polpis addition of new lots. Allen Reinhard asked Charlie Polachi if the existing lot map for Polpis can be brought up to date to show the newly laid out plots.
- Installation of new Lot Corner markers at Polpis. Allen Reinhard and Scott McIver will install the remaining corner markers once the weather moderates.

- Polpis Land Swap (new item, not on the agenda). Lee Saperstein suggested that the land swap at Polpis should not be forgotten, particularly now that Andrew Vorce is available to help. He said that this issue could be included when he and Allen Reinhard meet with Andrew Vorce.

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

Barbara White said that the issue of increasing the Commission size was important and that it should take steps to do so. It may take legislative action; advice should be taken on next steps. Frances Karttunen noted that the people whom she knows who would like to help the Commission need an official position before their employers would release them from work. They may not attend as interested observers without jeopardizing their employment. Allen Reinhard closed this item by agreeing heartily with the idea. [Action: Allen Reinhard will seek advice from the Town on how best to proceed to expand the size of the Commission.]

## **9. Adjournment.**

Adjournment was at 3:58 pm by acclamation.

**Next regular meeting: Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 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: 2/15/24  
Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary

## **Nantucket Cemetery Projects List (as printed on the Agenda):**

- Consolidation of lots at Newtown Cemetery with recordable ground survey: Awaiting action.
- Begin Monument Restoration at the Historic Coloured and Quaker Cemeteries.
- Ongoing, D-2 treatment of monuments.
- Fencing at the Historic Coloured Cemetery.
- Fencing, and brush removal at New and Old North Cemeteries.
- New map needed for Polpis addition of new lots.
- Installation of new Lot Corner markers at Polpis.