

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of March 13, 2024, at 3:00 pm
DPW Conference Room, 188 Madaket Road, with Zoom Connectivity

FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners: Frances Karttunen (Chair, *pro tem*), Scott McIver, Allen Reinhard (Zoom)), Lee Saperstein, and Barbara White; Tracy MacDonald, Real Estate Specialist, TaKyra Netter, DPW, and Charlie Polachi, DPW, Cemetery Administrator.

1. Call to Order.

Because the Open Meeting Law, OML, requires that the chair be in the room for a hybrid meeting and that Allen Reinhard, Chair, was attending by Zoom, Frances Karttunen, Vice-Chair, assumed the acting position of Chair. She called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm and started the recording of the meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orb3CdGNYTs&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhIyX1ozdd1bZ3zV8kXFp8M&index=45>.

2. Public and Commissioners Comments.

She had two comments from the Chair and, also, acknowledged that, with no members of the public present, there would be no public comments. Her first concern was the state of dilapidation of the historic sign in Old North Cemetery. Charlie Polachi volunteered that there is a work order for it. Lee Saperstein added that a conversation with Ray Sylvia indicated that he had recovered the sign and should be able to renew the text very soon. Her second concern was the broken rails in the fence around the Quaker Cemetery. Again, Charlie Polachi said that there was a work order of this, too, but that the DPW might delay until they had identified enough broken rails Island-wide to order new rails and install them efficiently.

3. Minutes of February 14, 2024, and Roll Call.

A move to approve the minutes of February 14, 2024, was made by Barbara White, seconded by Scott McIver, and approved unanimously by a roll-call vote of all present (Frances Karttunen, Chair, aye, Scott McIver, aye, Allen Reinhard, aye, Lee Saperstein, aye, and Barbara White, aye).

4. Approval of Lot Sales since Last Meeting.

Frances Karttunen noted that there were no new lot sales to be approved. Lee Saperstein added, however, that the Commission had received an application for the interment of the ashes of Suzanne McManus, Godmother of Bruce A Korson, II, in the Korson family plot in the Polpis Cemetery, which has been enumerated as rows L and M, numbers 21 and 22. Allen Reinhard indicated the enumeration of existing lots came from an earlier map, POLPIS-CEMETERY 2018-05-11.pdf, which is attached to these minutes. The plot is in the older part of the cemetery and is approximately 10-ft by 10-ft in size. Interment is scheduled for March 16, 2024, which is

this coming Saturday. The commissioners were happy to oblige upon the motion of Scott McIver, seconded by Barbara White and unanimously approved by roll-call vote (Frances Karttunen, Chair, aye, Scott McIver, aye, Allen Reinhard, aye, Lee Saperstein, aye, and Barbara White, aye).

5. Monument Restoration Project Update: Historic Coloured and Quaker Cemeteries.

Charlie Polachi reported that most of the restoration work has been done. Ludlow Memorial and Walter Trusz will be back just as soon as the weather improves enough to make a second application of the biologic cleansing solution and to work on the few remaining monuments. Walter Trusz will call Frances Karttunen and Charlie Polachi with the expected date for the work.

6. Newtown Cemetery: Plan for Consolidation Update, and Future Projects to Improve the Cemetery such as Parking, Layout of Lots, Flagpole, Brush Removal, etc. Progress Update.

Frances Karttunen asked Charlie Polachi about recent DPW work in the Newtown Cemetery and he said that the new flagpole has been installed along with the ceremonial lighting but that a new rope is needed before a flag can be raised. Lee Saperstein introduced Tracy MacDonald, Nantucket Real-Estate Specialist, who was attending the meeting on Zoom, and, between the two of them, explained that the declaration of Newtown as a cemetery is still on hold but that she is working with Town Counsel's office to attempt to move things forward. The Commission has requested that all of Newtown Cemetery be declared as a single cemetery, which would imply that the 1998 sub-division of it into 40, 42, 44, and 46 Sparks Avenue be vacated. Tracy MacDonald said that she is studying the materials provided by the Commission and would lay out possible solutions.

Allen Reinhard added that the Commission has been unwilling to commit funds for work in Newtown Cemetery, particularly those granted by the Community Preservation Committee until Newtown is officially designated as a cemetery. Things that need to be done are a recordable survey of the cemetery's bounds, brush cutting up to the boundaries of the cemetery, completion of the ground-penetrating radar survey of the cemetery, and a restoration project for the monuments in Newtown. With those in hand, plans for new lots, walkways, and a parking area can be drawn up.

7. Potential Site Visit to Newtown, New, and Old North Cemeteries to Determine Work Needed.

The Commission held a short discussion on when it might be possible to schedule a field trip to Newtown, New, and Old North Cemeteries. Lee Saperstein suggested that, if it were only a field trip and that no business would be discussed, an official meeting posting would not be needed. Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 10:00 am, beginning at Newtown Cemetery, was chosen.

8. New Map of Polpis Lots.

Charlie Polachi reported that he and Ray Sylvia, DPW Working Foreman, had discussed a new map for Polpis Cemetery. Ray Sylvia had told him that the new corner markers were large enough to be seen in an aerial photograph taken by a drone. Therefore, according to Ray Sylvia, a digital file could be inserted into the map at each corner giving the names of the people buried in the lots defined by that specific corner. This would give a publicly available digital file of the cemetery. The commissioners thought that this was an excellent idea and encouraged them to proceed. It was noted that the remaining markers needed to be installed before the aerial photography could begin. [Action: install final Polpis corner markers; proceed with aerial photography.]

Discussion of Polpis led into the topic of the Polpis land swap. Tracy MacDonald reported that she had received an e-mail from the attorney for the abutters at 268 Polpis Road, in which they offered to proceed with the swap if the Commission would modify their offer, Option E, attached, to move the acquired land further from the abutters, as shown in Option F. Lee Saperstein explained that Option E had been created after the Commission, along with the attorney, had met on the site and was a compromise between the offer made by the abutters and the straight, four-sided boundary originally conceived by the Commission. Option E is a six-sided polygon and moves that portion of the cemetery further away from the abutting property than originally proposed but not as far as suggested in the new e-mail.

Tracy MacDonald went on to say that 268 Polpis Road was registered in the Land Court and, then, asked about the recorded status of Polpis. Lee Saperstein said that, as far as he knew, it was part of the “Common and Undivided Lands of the Town and County of Nantucket” and had never been recorded. If there is agreement to the swap, the first step would be to get a recordable survey. She noted that amending the deed of a registered property is not a simple thing and could take some time. Lee Saperstein noted that Option E. had been chosen after extensive on-site examination and deliberation and that it was his opinion that the Commission would not accept Option F. Because this material was received one day before the meeting and was not posted in the agenda, it was accepted that no vote could be taken and that the matter needed to go onto the next meeting’s agenda. Tracy MacDonald said that this delay would be fine because it allowed her the time to research the matter further. [Action: Put the Polpis Land Swap onto the April agenda.]

Commissioners asked Tracy MacDonald what would be the next steps if the two parties did not agree to a swap; specifically, to the fact of the encroachment into the cemetery by out buildings on the abutting property. She answered that the encroachments were created some time ago, possibly in 1981, and that the solution might be for the Town to license the intrusion. Allen Reinhard noted that the Commission had avoided laying out lots in the area proposed for the swap but that if it did not happen, then it would be free to lay out lots up to the fence. Tracy MacDonald replied by saying that the license could include a buffer zone by the fence. There was a brief discussion of how this matter arose. Mrs. Hicks attended a Commission meeting in 2015 but there is no record of who asked whom to attend. At that time, she agreed in principle to a swap provided it did not cost them anything.

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

None.

10. Adjournment.

Adjournment was at 3:53 pm by acclamation.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, April 10, 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: 3/15/24

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.

