

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of June 12, 2024, at 3:00 pm
DPW Conference Room, 188 Madaket Road, with Zoom Connectivity

FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

Attendance, by Roll Call: Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Allen Reinhard, Lee Saperstein, and Barbara White; TaKyra Netter, DPW, Charlie Polachi, DPW, Cemetery Administrator. There was a quorum at all times.

Absent: Scott McIver.

1. Call to Order.

Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:09 pm and started to record the meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6NDiDjRZW4&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhIyX1ozdd1bZ3zV8kXFp8M&index=48>.

2. Public and Commissioners Comments.

So as to allow TaKyra Netter to attend her conflicting appointment, Allen Reinhard asked for approval to move the last item of the agenda, “New, Old, and Other Business” to precede the “Comments” Section; unanimous consent was given for the move. The first item of new business was approval of the change in the Cemetery Regulations to make lot sizes for full-body interments to be four-ft. by eight-ft. (the existing dimension is four-ft. by 10-ft.). The change is appended to these minutes. This change is to make the Town’s regulations consistent with the practice in the Island’s private cemeteries and elsewhere. Lee Saperstein moved the change, Frances Karttunen seconded, and the Commission voted unanimously to approve it (Frances Karttunen, aye; Allen Reinhard, aye; Lee Saperstein, aye; and Barbara White, aye). [Action: Lee Saperstein will inform Town Management of the proposed change.]

The second item of business was a continuation of the approval at the previous meeting for the inurnment of Robert Reed as sought by Tracy MacDonald, his granddaughter. The missing information was the specific burial site, which was to be next to the plot for Willie House. Lee Saperstein volunteered to research the Nantucket Historical Association’s files for the Newtown Cemetery lot location. The lot is M-17 in Newtown, adjacent to the fence on Sparks Avenue. Subsequent to the meeting, it was learned that the Reed plot is M-18, next to the House plot. The inurnment and the memorial were approved at the last meeting; a formal application will identify the actual grave site.

The third item of new business was to put a link on the Commission’s web site to the several forms needed by applicants for burial privileges: lot purchase, right of inurnment or interments, and approval of a monument. Lee Saperstein suggested that a file of forms be created and a link to this file put on the Commission’s web page. The file would start with a separate page of instructions and then have each application included as a fillable PDF. Charlie Polachi noted that the forms would need instructions to return the form to the DPW at 188 Madaket Road and

that a typed signature would represent a legal signature. Frances Karttunen moved the motion, Lee Saperstein seconded, and the Commission approved it unanimously (Frances Karttunen, aye; Allen Reinhard, aye; Lee Saperstein, aye; and Barbara White, aye). [Action: Staff will provide fillable PDFs for the web site.]

Allen Reinhard indicated that this was all the new business that he knew of and asked if there were any others. Hearing none, he asked, in a return to the agenda item, if there were any comments. Lee Saperstein related that, since he had attended the Select Board meeting on June 5th, he could report that the Board formally accepted the grant from the Community Foundation of Nantucket for the production of a video by Frances Karttunen and Barbara White for a walking tour of the Historic Coloured Cemetery that would feature short inserts by Nantucket residents.

3. Minutes of May 8, 2024, and Roll Call.

Frances Karttunen's move to approve the minutes of May 8, 2024, was seconded by Barbara White, and approved unanimously by a roll-call vote of all present (Frances Karttunen, aye; Allen Reinhard, aye; Lee Saperstein, aye; and Barbara White, aye).

4. Approval of Lot Sales since Last Meeting.

Allen Reinhard noted that there were no new lot sales to be approved.

5. Monument Restoration Project Update.

Charlie Polachi reported that the restoration work at the Historic Coloured and the Quaker Cemeteries has been completed. With notice of approval of the Community Preservation Fund grant (see May minutes), he is preparing Invitation for Bid (IFB) documents for New North and Newtown Cemeteries. In addition to Biologic D-2 treatment of every monument, they will include removal of the steel bars from family plots because they, eventually, corrode and break the corner posts by the expansion of the rusted material.

Frances Karttunen noted that in the Historic Coloured Cemetery there are two volunteer shrubs obscuring monuments for Ann Crawford and Emma Wilkes that need to be removed. Allen Reinhard and Charlie Polachi said that a DPW work order would see that they are. [Action: Create work order in DPW to remove the shrubs.]

6. Newtown Cemetery Legal Status Update.

Lee Saperstein said that he had a brief, casual conversation with Tracy MacDonald, Real Estate Specialist, about Newtown Cemetery. She told him that the State has a cemetery office that helps towns to identify cemeteries formally. Moreover, she said, the office of the Town Counsel has a department that deals with this office. She will do further research to determine what forms or applications are needed for the formal identification of all of Newtown as a cemetery. Endorsement of the paperwork by the Select Board would be the next step.

7. Polpis Cemetery Updates.

In a continuation of the conversation, mentioned above, Tracy MacDonald said that she is working on the language of a license to be offered to the owners of the property abutting Polpis Cemetery and will meet with the Commission to review it when it is ready. Lee Saperstein suggested that this will mean that we may control the cemetery up to the boundary fence.

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

In addition to the items taken up at the beginning of the meeting, Allen Reinhard reminded the Commissioners that Ken Beaugrand had died and that he, Allen Reinhard, wanted it known how much positive good Ken Beaugrand had given to the Cemetery Commission in his role as Nantucket Real-Estate Specialist. All present concurred strongly.

10. Adjournment.

Adjournment was at 3:46 pm by acclamation.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, July 12, 2024, at 3:00 pm, in the DPW conference room at 188 Madaket Road. For those who wish to attend virtually, a Zoom link is attached:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85669907430?pwd=UCtdFIPSE9VTitrU05CVTJyOWkydz09.>

Respectfully submitted: _____; Date: 6/17/24

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary

Nantucket Cemetery Projects List (as printed on the agenda):

- Legal status of Newtown Cemetery with recorded survey. Awaiting action.
- Monument Restoration at Historic Coloured and Quaker Cemeteries. Begin Spring 2024.
- Fencing and brush removal at New and Old North Cemeteries. Work order needed.
- Fencing and brush removal at Historic Coloured Cemetery along Land Bank boundary,
- Installation of Corner Markers and New Map at Polpis Cemetery.
- Ongoing, D-2 treatment of monuments.

Nantucket Cemetery Regulations, Page 4

Perpetual Care Fund – A fund authorized by the General Laws, whereby funds are set aside, the income of which is used for the perpetual care and maintenance of the cemetery or lots therein.

Rights of Burial – The exclusive right of burial granted by the Town to a License Holder for the use of a specific grave, lot, crypt, or niche or other burial space in a cemetery.

Urn – A container to hold human cremated remains. An urn can be placed in a columbarium niche or buried in the ground within a durable outer container.

I. Interments and Inurnments

Lots in the cemeteries shall be used for no other purpose than a place for the interment of human remains as full casket burials, green burials, or inurnment of cremated remains.

No interment or inurnment shall be made until the Cemetery Administrator or designee has been furnished with a burial permit and/or cremation certificate as required by law, together with a written interment or inurnment order on a form approved by the Cemetery Commission and endorsed by the License Holder, or the legal representative of the License Holder in the lot in which interment is to be made. No grave shall be opened for interment, inurnment or removal unless authorized by the Cemetery Commission and cemetery personnel have flagged the area.

Green burial applications, on forms specific to green burials, will be reviewed by the Department of Health for minimal environmental impact before review and potential approval by the Cemetery Commission.

Except for green burials, all interments and inurnments shall be enclosed in a durable outer container or vault.

Each grave (minimum four feet (4') by eight feet (8')) includes the right of interment of either one (1) full casket or one green burial for regular depth burial and one cremation burial.

Each grave may have additional right (provided additional fees are paid) of:

- Replacement of the cremation burial with a second full casket interment as a “double- deep” burial;
- Replacement of the initial full casket burial and inurnment of up to four (4) cremated remains.

A cremation lot includes the right of inurnment of up to four (4) cremation burials.