

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of July 10, 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, Scott McIver, Allen Reinhard, Lee Saperstein, and Barbara White; TaKyra Netter, DPW, Charlie Polachi, DPW, Cemetery Administrator. There was a quorum at all times.

1. Call to Order.

Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm and started to record the meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELRndFYeKjA&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhccE5JdN4GOG9egy cX11t8&index=37>.

2. Public and Commissioners Comments.

Allen Reinhard asked if there were any comments from commissioners, in that there were no members of the public present. Lee Saperstein reminded him that this meeting was the first of the new Town year and that we needed to elect officers. He promptly then nominated Allen Reinhard as Chair. Nominations and election followed.

Chair. Lee Saperstein nominated Allen Reinhard to continue as Chair; this was seconded by Scott McIver.

Vice Chair. Frances Karttunen said that she was happy to remain serving as Vice Chair and she was so nominated by Scott McIver, seconded by Barbara White.

Secretary. With an indication that he would accept the nomination, Frances Karttunen nominated Lee Saperstein for Secretary and this was seconded by Barbara White.

Election. The Commission had no further nominations and chose to approve the new slate. A move to elect the slate was made by Barbara White and seconded by Scott McIver. A roll-call vote in favor of the slate was unanimous: Frances Karttunen, aye; Scott McIver, aye; Allen Reinhard, aye; Lee Saperstein, aye; and Barbara White, aye.

Allen Reinhard thanked the commissioners and related that this was one of the best Town committees with which he has worked. He then called for commissioner comments and Frances Karttunen said that she had two.

The first was her comments on the manual provided by the Maria Mitchell Association on how to clean markers in Prospect Hill Cemetery, which included laborious hand cleaning. She mentioned this as being supportive of the use of the Biologic D-2 solution on our cemeteries' memorial stones. The second was a report on her and Barbara White's completion of the video script for a walking tour of the Historic Coloured Cemetery and that the project has been presented to the Finance Department, which is close to issuing an invitation-to-bid (ITB) for creation of the actual video. The estimated cost is above the threshold and requires competitive bidding.

3. Minutes of June 12, 2024.

Barbara White's move to approve the minutes of June 12, 2024, was seconded by Scott McIver, and approved unanimously by a roll-call vote of all present (Frances Karttunen, aye; Scott McIver, 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, although there have been three enquiries, one as recently as the morning of the meeting. He related that he likes to meet prospective purchasers at the Polpis Cemetery to help them to select a site and to give a human face to a potentially grim procedure.

Mention of Polpis Cemetery caused him to consider the need to mark more plots and to install markers in those already laid out but not yet marked. He allowed as how he could use some help to place markers in their appropriate orientation. Scott McIver volunteered to do so and asked about coinciding schedules. Between the two of them, they selected Tuesday, July 16th, at 9:00 am at Polpis. Lee Saperstein suggested that they send out a reminder e-mail on Monday in case other commissioners wish to join them.

5. Monument Restoration Project Update.

Allen Reinhard asked Charlie Polachi about the status of the Community Preservation grant. It was approved, of course, at the recent Annual Town Meeting and he is awaiting funding confirmation and requisite account information. Once he receives this information, he will prepare an invitation to bid for work on memorials in New North and Newtown Cemeteries to be released formally. The informal estimates that were given to him by Ludlow Memorial match the projected funding level and he expects them to bid. This agenda item gave Allen Reinhard another opportunity to praise the DPW's work in maintaining the cemeteries; he said that they look great.

6. Newtown Cemetery Legal Status Update.

Tracy MacDonald, Real Estate Specialist, was not at the meeting and Allen Reinhard has received no further news. Lee Saperstein noted that he had seen her at another Town meeting and that she is working on a plan to reidentify lots 40, 42, and 44 Sparks Avenue as part of the Newtown Cemetery. He felt that it was not appropriate for him to speak for her and that she should be invited to the August meeting of the Commission to apprise it of progress. An obvious issue is the location of Cow Pond Lane relative to existing graves. Lee Saperstein noted that the Commission could contract for further ground-penetrating-radar surveys on any of the three lots once they are designated officially as part of the cemetery. It was agreed that lot 40 was a good candidate for the first such survey.

7. Polpis Cemetery Updates.

Lee Saperstein also noted that Tracy MacDonald is working with the abutters to Polpis Cemetery to draft a license for the encroachment into the cemetery of an outbuilding on the abutters' land. It is hoped that she will be able to inform the commission of its progress when next she attends.

Allen Reinhard noted for the record that progress toward laying out new plots at Polpis was mentioned in the agenda item, 4., on Lot Sales. He is anxious to create an up-to-date map of the lots at Polpis; something that was discussed at a previous meeting. This should happen once the markers are in the ground.

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

Frances Karttunen noted her concern about 3 and 3B Wyers Way, property that abuts Old North Cemetery, which has been recently listed for sale, and which depends upon an easement from the Nantucket Islands Land Bank for access. The concern is that purchasers might pursue a widening of this driveway. Allen Reinhard, who is a member of the Land Bank, said that the Land Bank has already determined that they are not interested in changing its configuration. Tracy MacDonald, in an e-mail to the Commission said that there is no interest in the Town's part in taking that way. She wrote,

“Articles 96 & 97 of 2024 ATM relate to a separate “way” between Grove and Westchester. There is nothing planned for Wyers in a taking or widening for emergency access.”

Frances Karttunen said that she will keep watch on the property's sale and its impact on the cemetery.

10. Adjournment.

Adjournment was at 3:47 pm by acclamation.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, August 14, 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=UCtldFIPSE9VTitrU05CVTJyOWkydz09>.

Respectfully submitted: _____; Date: 7/11/24

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.
- Monument Restoration at New North and Newtown Cemeteries. Begin Fall 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.