

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of September 11, 2024, at 3:00 pm
DPW Conference Room, 188 Madaket Road, with Zoom Connectivity

DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Attendance, by Roll Call: Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Scott McIver, Allen Reinhard, and Lee Saperstein; TaKyra Netter, DPW, Charlie Polachi, DPW, Cemetery Administrator; Paul Sanderson, Our Town Films, by Zoom (left 4:15 pm). There was a quorum at all times.

Absent: Barbara White.

1. Call to Order.

Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm and recording of the meeting started: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0l2EryAwmhU&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhIyX1ozdd1bZ3zV8kXFp8M&index=51>.

2. Public and Commissioners Comments.

With no members of the public present, there were no public comments. Frances Karttunen said that she would like to introduce Paul Sanderson, videographer of Our Town Films (paul@ourtownfilms.com), who is producing the video of the Historic Coloured Cemetery, HCC, written by her and Barbara White. She introduced him to members of the Commission. The video will include spoken segments from a number of Nantucketers who have connections to the HCC. Paul Sanderson is in contact with the Executive Director of NCTV18 to ask if they may use their studio in November to record these segments. On September 23 and 24 Paul Sanderson will come to Nantucket to plan scenes and to acquire the right to use NHA's historical photographs. Frances Karttunen mentioned that each speaker will be given an opportunity to practice before recording begins so as to make full use of the recording time. She said, also, that she is in contact with the Executive Director of the Nantucket Historical Association, NHA, for permission to use their historical photographs. It is intended to get some aerial photographs of the Old Mill in an orientation that shows clearly the HCC. They are concerned that the restoration project will be far enough along to have no ill effect on their picture. She has contacted Mollie Glazer also to arrange for a musical background to the video. Paul Sanderson left Zoom once this item was finished.

3. Minutes of August 14, 2024.

Frances Karttunen's move to approve the minutes of August 14, 2024, was seconded by Scott McIver, and approved unanimously by roll-call vote (Frances Karttunen, aye; Scott McIver, aye; Allen Reinhard, aye; and Lee Saperstein, 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. He reviewed the steps that he takes when a prospective purchaser contacts him; they include meeting at the site to help select a lot, a review of the necessary paperwork, and, in the event of a commitment to purchase, how to submit applications. Frances Karttunen noted that she knows a prospective purchaser and will be interested to know if they actually submit an application.

5. Polpis Cemetery Update.

Allen Reinhard repeated what was said at the last meeting; he and Scott McIver have laid out markers for rows and A and B in Polpis and that there were 69 more to go. He said that placing all lot information onto a digital map was a forthcoming move. He said, also, that this cemetery plus all other on the Island look great. He has related to Tracy MacDonald, Town Real Estate Specialist, the Commission's concern for resolving the license needed to permit the encroachment into Polpis from the neighboring property. She acknowledged the concern and said that she would do her best to get an agreement on the license language.

6. Monument Restoration Project Update.

Charlie Polachi reported that bids for restoration work in New North and Newtown Cemeteries are in the system and that contracts should be awarded soon. Ludwig Memorials have removed the iron bars around family plots in the Historic Coloured, New North, and Old North Cemeteries; they have left decorative gates in place. They are working in Newtown Cemetery now. As these bars rust, their physical expansion breaks the stone posts into which they are fixed, which is why they need to be removed.

7. Newtown Cemetery Legal Status Update.

Charlie Polachi reported that he is getting price information on cutting shrubbery on the south and west sides of Newtown Cemetery, those adjacent to the school's property. Lee Saperstein related a conversation that he had with Tracy MacDonald in which she told him that the Nantucket Education Trust, which controls 2, 4, 6, and 8 Cow Pond Lane for use by teachers, wishes to build three more houses on the land adjacent to Newtown Cemetery that is used currently to park school buses. She has told the Town that, to do this, they need to resolve the ownership of Newtown Cemetery. Because of the urgent need for this housing, the Town might get to our request to confirm that Newtown is a cemetery owned by the Town of Nantucket.

8. Video of Historic Coloured Cemetery Update.

To allow Paul Sanderson to leave the meeting, this item was taken up under Commissioner Comments.

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

Allen Reinhard asked if there was any new business to come before the Commission and got two items from Frances Karttunen and, to which, he said that he had a third.

Frances Karttunen said that she was bewildered by the appearance of a white, plastic chair in the middle of the Quaker Cemetery; on another occasion it was next to a table with a vase on it. Other commissioners said that they had seen it also. Next, she said that Town Clerk, Nancy Holmes, told her that a box was found in the Clerk's vault and it contained a leather-bound volume with a pack of typed, index cards containing details of Nantucketers who had served in the Civil War. She related further that these cards could be correlated with the names on the Civil War Monument in upper Main Street. She hoped also that there might be information on John Swain, born Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii, and died 1864, who could be one of Nantucket's five Black veterans. Four are identified with veterans' markers in the Historic Coloured Cemetery while John Swain's burial is not so marked. Allen Reinhard said that the grass in the Quaise Asylum Burial Ground needs to be cut and that he would check with the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, which maintains the land around the cemetery, on how best to get it cut. Frances Karttunen asked Charlie Polachi to, in turn, ask the DPW to repair the "Historic Cemetery" sign on Prospect Street before the video is made.

10. Adjournment.

By acclamation, adjournment was at 3:43 pm.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, October 9, 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: 9/12/2024
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 New North and Newtown Cemeteries this fall.
- Fencing and brush removal at New and Old North Cemeteries. Work order needed.
- Fencing and brush removal at Historic Coloured Cemetery.
- Corner Markers and New Map for Polpis Cemetery.
- Ongoing, D-2 treatment of monuments.