

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of November 13, 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 (by Zoom), Scott McIver, Allen Reinhard, and Lee Saperstein; TaKyra Netter, DPW, Charlie Polachi, DPW, Cemetery Administrator. There was a quorum at all times.

Absent: Barbara White.

1. Call to Order.

Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm and recording of the meeting started: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnS3_6dJoY4&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhIyX1ozdd1bZ3zV8kXFp8M&index=53.

2. Public and Commissioners Comments.

With no members of the public present, there were no public comments; equally, there were no Commissioners' comments.

3. Minutes of October 9, 2024.

Scott McIver's move to approve the minutes of October 9, 2024, was seconded by Frances Karttunen, 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 reported that two lots had been sold in Polpis Cemetery: G-5 to Christopher J. and Kathleen G. Matthews of Chevy Chase, MD, and G-8 to Kelly Flynn [Allen, please add details]. As before, there have been additional enquiries, for which Allen has met the interested parties at the cemetery. The new sales were approved by acclamation.

He also reported that there are tree stumps and roots in some of the lots in row G, which is part of the new layout. He suggested that lot owners be contacted and asked if they would mind moving up a lot or two to avoid the stumps and roots. He asked Ray Sylvia, DPW Signs and Lines Foreman, to assess the problem. There may be a similar problem in Row F. Lee Saperstein suggested that a more permanent solution would be to ask the DPW to dig them out, particularly in that Row G is the last row and there is plenty of room alongside for an excavator. Charlie Polachi agreed and said that he would contact the DPW to arrange for the work. [Action: Charlie Polachi to contact Ray Sylvia re stump removal from lots in Row G of Polpis Cemetery.]

5. Polpis Cemetery Update.

In addition to the lot sales reported above, Allen Reinhard reported that he and Lee Saperstein visited Polpis Cemetery because of his concern about the steepness of a slope in the southwest corner of the cemetery. Lee Saperstein reassured him that it was not too steep for cremation remains burials. In addition, the steeper zone led into the portion of the Cemetery that is actually Town property and, for which, there will be no lots laid out. Allen Reinhard commented that there remain 69 additional lots to be marked.

6. Monument Restoration Project Update.

Allen Reinhard and Charlie Polachi reported on the status of the monument restoration project. Requests for bids for restoration work in Newtown and New North Cemeteries are working their way through the Town's system and will be released shortly. It is intended to release them serially, because of the similarity of names, with Newtown to be released first and New North a week or two later. Allen Reinhard commented that the Commission should work up a press release when the work is done and to try to get some publicity about this work.

7. Newtown Cemetery Legal Status Update.

Once again, there has been no news about the Commission's request for the legal designation of Newtown as a Cemetery.

8. Video of Historic Coloured Cemetery Update.

Frances Karttunen reported that the videographer has set up a recording studio and will begin filming the participants on Saturday, November 16th, and will film until Monday, the 18th. At least one participant finds movement difficult and the videographer will visit that person's home. There will also be filming in the Historic Coloured Cemetery itself. When all of these materials are in hand, it is intended to have a rough cut by January and a finished product by June of 2025. It may be possible to schedule a debut of the work at the Dreamland.

9. Old, New, Other Business: Projects List Discussion.

Allen Reinhard said that the projects list at the end of the agenda was there to keep track of work needed in the cemeteries. To that end, he suggested that the Commission review the list to see how things are progressing; item numbers come from the list. As he reviewed the items, commissioners added their comments; these are appended to the item listing.

Item 1. Legal status of Newtown Cemetery; as reported in Section 7, the Commission is still awaiting action. At such time as the Cemetery is declared legally to be such, the Commission should add to this item formal recording of the land; grubbing, to clear scrub vegetation; additional GPR surveying in the formerly vegetated sections; layout of new plots for both full-body burials and cremation inurnments; and lay-out of additional laneways as well as a new entrance and parking spaces.

Item 2. Monument Restoration at Newtown and New North Cemeteries; see Section 6.

Item 3. Fencing and brush removal at New and Old North Cemeteries. On the whole this work is up to date. Allen Reinhard does have a concern about overgrown vegetation in the northwestern corner of Old North and along the driveway leading to 3 and 3R Wyers Way. Wyers Way is owned by the Nantucket Island Land Bank, which has granted an easement to the owner of these properties. A separate item may be needed for the Quaise Asylum Burial Ground because it is in need of mowing and brush cutting along the property boundary. While the Town is responsible for this cemetery, the land is owned by the Nantucket Conservation Foundation. They have told Allen Reinhard that they will attend to this mowing.

Item 4. Fencing and brush removal at Historic Coloured Cemetery. This work appears to be up to date.

Item 5. Corner markers and new map for Polpis Cemetery. This item was covered in Sections 4 and 5 above.

Item 6. Ongoing D-2 treatment of monuments. See Section 6.; new contracts for monument restoration will have the D-2 treatment (for cleaning the monuments) included. Continuing cleaning and cleaning of stones in cemeteries restored earlier will need to become the responsibility of the Town and its DPW.

10. Adjournment.

By acclamation, adjournment was at 3:40 pm.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, December 11, 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: 11/18/2024
Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary

Cemetery Projects List (as printed on the agenda):

1. Legal status of Newtown Cemetery with recorded survey. Awaiting action.
2. Monument Restoration at Newtown and New North Cemeteries this fall.
3. Fencing and brush removal at New and Old North Cemeteries.
4. Fencing and brush removal at Historic Coloured Cemetery.
5. Corner markers and new map for Polpis Cemetery.
6. Ongoing D-2 treatment of monuments.