

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of January 8, 2025, 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, and Barbara White; Charlie Polachi, DPW, Cemetery Administrator. There was a quorum at all times.

Absent: Scott McIver and Lee Saperstein

1. Call to Order.

Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm and recording of the meeting started:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXjmccHZOU&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhlyX1ozdd1bZ3zV8kXFp8M&index=55>.

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 December 11, 2024.

Allen Reinhard asked for approval of the minutes of December 11, 2024, and Barbara White so moved with Frances Karttunen seconding the motion, which was approved unanimously by roll-call vote (Frances Karttunen, aye; Allen Reinhard, aye; and Barbara White, aye).

4. Approval of Lot Sales since Last Meeting.

Allen Reinhard reviewed the sale of lots in Polpis and reminded the commissioners that each of these sales had been approved in previous meetings: Ivy and Francis Scricco, lots F-6 and F-7; Kerry Flynn, lot G-8, and Tanya and Jeremy Eldridge, lot E-2. He said that paperwork on these lot sales was now complete. He indicated that there were several others in the offing and would check on their status.

5. Plan for Next Projects at Polpis Cemetery.

Allen Reinhard reminded the commissioners that good record keeping was essential for good management of the cemeteries and for maintenance of the historical record. In discussing record keeping, he added that maintaining institutional knowledge was part of good record keeping. To this end, he noted that the Commission is looking at how several key people in the Nantucket Historical Association, NHA, could be accommodated, perhaps as alternate members. He will continue to explore options with the Town.

He then moved on to talking about improvements needed in the cemetery itself. Fencing along two sides – road side and eastern side – were in good condition. The northern side is currently wooded and needs to be cleared and a fence installed. The western side is the one with a structural encroachment that needs to be clarified. Earlier information from the Town's Real Estate Specialist is that a license to allow continuation of the encroachment needs to be negotiated with the owners of the abutting property. Meanwhile, the discussion continued, disposition of encroaching vegetation needs to be considered: leave it until the license is completed or arrange for its disposal. Charlie Polachi suggested that he would discuss options with Tracy MacDonald, the Real Estate Specialist. Although, as noted by Allen Reinhard, there are concrete bounds on each corner of Polpis Cemetery, it may be a good idea to get an accurate survey of the encroaching buildings to accompany any license that might be negotiated.

Frances Karttunen asked about new signage at the Quaker Cemetery and Charlie Polachi said that it was on the DPW's list for work orders.

6. Monument Restoration Project Update.

Charlie Polachi gave an update on the status of contracts for monument restoration. Bids for work at Newtown are being received and information on them will be released on Monday, January 14th. Planning is underway to release a request-for-bids, RfB, for work on New North just as soon as the contract for Newtown is let. Once the combined cost for the two contracts is known, he will plan on how best to restore stones in the remaining cemeteries.

7. Newtown Cemetery Legal Status Update.

There has been no definitive news about the Commission's request for the legal designation of Newtown as a Cemetery, although Charlie Polachi related that it is slowly moving its way through the queue of legal matters before the Town.

8. Video of Historic Coloured Cemetery Update.

Frances Karttunen reviewed the status of the video for the Historic Coloured Cemetery. A first draft has been compiled and she is looking forward to an edited draft in a week or so. When the final draft of, perhaps, 30 to 35 minutes is ready, she will seek a formal opening, perhaps at the Dreamland Theatre. She has discussed this possibility with Charlie Walters, who she believes has contacts with the Dreamland.

She noted that Molly and Isaiah Glazer have provided original Nantucket music for the video and, as yet, they have not been compensated for their work. She will propose that the Commission authorize an honorarium for them and will discuss amount and source of funds later.

She noted, also, that the Nantucket Historical Association is very interested in the video and might arrange for its projection in the Whaling Museum. Charlie Polachi suggested that, while the video should have a permanent place in the Commission's web site, the NHA could host a link on their site. Barbara White added that it should be shared with the Black Cemetery Network who might add a link to their web site.

9. Old, New, Other Business.

Barbara White noted that there is a concern to recruit new members to the Commission. A discussion of this concern was held under Agenda Item 4. She also spoke about developing outreach material, presumably a video, for volunteers who wish to work in maintaining the cemeteries. This led to a reminder that she and Frances Karttunen have volunteered to create materials that provide an overview of the cemeteries, particularly their history. Additionally, it will be useful to have a unified report on the accomplishments of the Commission since its creation. She has discussed such an article with the editor of Nantucket Today. Barbara White added that there had been a lengthy discussion in last month's meeting on the development of public information materials and outlets. She felt that renewed work on public information could begin once the Historic Coloured Cemetery video is finished.

10. Adjournment.

By acclamation, adjournment was at 3:42 pm.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 3:00 pm, in the DPW conference room at 188 Madaket Road (NB: correction from the Agenda/). For those who wish to attend virtually, a Zoom link is attached:

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

Respectfully submitted: _____; Date: 01/20/2025
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 and other Town cemeteries.
5. Corner markers and new map for Polpis Cemetery.
6. Ongoing D-2 treatment of monuments.