NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of May 14, 2025, 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, Allen Reinhard, Lee Saperstein, and Barbara White; Charlie Polachi, DPW, Cemetery Administrator, Bob Bystrowski, Real Estate Specialist. There was a quorum at all times.

Absent: Scott McIver.

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=cdCCPuo6-zw&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhIyX1ozdd1bZ3zV8kXFp8M&index=59.

2. Public and Commissioners Comments.

With no members of the public present, there were no public comments. Commissioner Karttunen expressed concern for maintenance at the Quaise Asylum Burial Ground and asked, "who is responsible for it?" Allen Reinhard explained that, while the Town manages the cemetery aspect of the ground, it legally belongs to the Nantucket Conservation Foundation. He offered to talk to the Foundation's maintenance personnel to see who is responsible for mowing the ground and replacing the decaying corner posts. [Action: Allen Reinhard to contact NCF maintenance staff.]

3. Minutes of April 9, 2025.

Allen Reinhard asked for approval of the minutes of April 9, 2025, and Frances Karttunen so moved with Barbara White seconding the motion, which was approved unanimously by roll-call vote (Frances Karttunen, aye; Allen Reinhard, aye; Lee Saperstein, aye; and Barbara White, aye.).

4. Approval of Lot Sales since Last Meeting.

Allen Reinhard announced (in Agenda items, 4 and 10 but discussed here) that there are applications from three lot holders in Polpis: Thomas Koon seeks approval for inurnment of Bart Cosgrove in lot H-29 on June 15th and approval of a monument stone for him; the heirs of William Higbee Phillips seek approval for inurnment of his remains in lot E-26; and the heirs of Gary Walter Beck seek permission for inurnment of his remains in lot E-12 on July 1, 2025. The applications for inurnment were deemed to be in order and Lee Saperstein moved their approval, which was seconded by Barbara White, and approved unanimously by roll-call vote (Frances Karttunen, aye; Allen Reinhard, aye; Lee Saperstein, aye; and Barbara White, aye). There was no application for a monument stone for Bart Cosgrove. In that the Commission's next meeting

is on June 11th, it can be reviewed in a timely manner. Scott McIver is asked to confer with Mr. Koon on the stone's design.

5. Polpis Cemetery.

Allen Reinhard said that there are several maintenance projects needed for Polpis: installation of a split-rail fence along the north boundary; clearance of brush up to this new fence; and he will work with Scott McIver to finish the installation of corner markers for the newly laid-out lots. Charlie Polachi noted that a Work Order for the fence and brush clearance has been filed with the DPW; Nic Duarte will contact Allen Reinhard when the work is to begin.

Lee Saperstein suggested to Bob Bystrowski that he and Tracy MacDonald should review progress on issuing a license to the abutting landowners for their encroachment into the cemetery. This is a long-standing issue that needs to be brought to a close, he said. Bob Bystrowski asked about the nature of the encroachment and was told that it was two-fold: a secondary building belonging to the next-door neighbors intruded into the cemetery by eleven inches and there are also bedding plants installed by the neighbors up to five feet into the cemetery. The license would be for the building only. A discussion ensued about the fate of these plantings, to be kept or mowed, and commissioners were urged to visit the cemetery sometime before the next meeting, when the plantings' fate will be discussed. Charlie Polachi reminded the Commission that landscaping placed on another's property is an encroachment. Bob Bystrowski asked if there was a plan of the cemetery to which the reply was yes. Lee Saperstein has checked his records and found that there is no registered or recorded plan of the cemetery but that Frank Holdgate had surveyed the cemetery in 2017 and it was surveyed again in 2023 when land-swap options were under discussion.

6. Historic Coloured Cemetery Video Screening.

Allen Reinhard complimented Frances Karttunen and Barbara White enthusiastically for both the very well-done video on the history of the Historic Coloured Cemetery and of the families interred there as well as the generous turnout of viewers at its premier showing in the Dreamland Theatre on May 4th. Frances Karttunen thanked Allen Reinhard and then told of future showings and of connections to other web sites. The video will be shown on NCTV several times later this month and then it will be available on YouTube. The Dreamland is considering another viewing in the fall, perhaps early October. Dr. Mimi Koehm is considering installing it in a portable TV monitor that can be moved into treatment and patients' rooms. The videographer will contact the Boston PBS outlet to see if they might be interested in it. A link has been offered to the Black Cemetery Network and to the Atlantic Black Box web site.

7. Monument Restoration Project Update: Newtown Cemetery and bid for New North Cemetery.

Charlie Polachi said that the Ludlow Memorial Company, LMC, the successful bidder for restoration work in Newtown Cemetery, has begun to bring tools and supplies to the Island. Shipping difficulties may mean that major work will need to wait until the fall. The Invitation for Bid, IFB, for the New North Cemetery is making its way through the Town's procurement

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procedure. Lee Saperstein asked if there has been action on performing a GPR survey in the section of Old North Cemetery where there are no headstones. Charlie Polachi replied that, once they receive bids for work at New North, they will know if there is a fund balance sufficient to fund this GPR work. The Commission had approved this project previously and it is now a question of finding the funds.

8. Newtown Cemetery Report.

Essentially, according to Bob Bystrowski, the Town is waiting for its legal counsel to state that Nantucket has legal title to all of Newtown Cemetery. He will confer with Tracy MacDonald and report back to the Commission at its next meeting. It was noted that no surveying, brush cutting, or design work could be undertaken until title is assured.

9. Fencing at the Historic Coloured Cemetery along the Vesper Lane Side.

Charlie Polachi announced that a work order has been filed for fencing along the Vesper Lane side of the cemetery.

10. Thoughts and Discussion Regarding the Future of the Commission.

Several Commissioners said that they believed that there would be applications for membership in the Commission from new people who could serve the Commission well. Lee Saperstein noted that the deadline for applications is May 16th at noon. It is noted that Scott McIver and Barbara White do not intend to re-apply.

11. Old, New, Other Business; Thoughts on Future Planning and Goals.

Barbara White indicated that she would not be present at the June meeting, which would be her last one; she did indicate that she would remain interested in the work of the Commission. Also, Frances Karttunen said that she would not be available in July. She added that Scott McIver has indicated that he would be bringing to the July meeting a draft design for the Boston Memorial to Absalom and his wife, Hannah. She asked, also, about an entry sign to the Quaker Cemetery on Vestal Street and Charlie Polachi said that one had been installed there already. Finally, she said that she and Barbara White were interested in compiling a comprehensive record of the burials in the Quaker Cemetery.

Lee Saperstein noted that comments about surveys at the Historic Coloured Cemetery spurred him to open and read minutes from a decade ago. His findings are appended to these minutes.

12. Adjournment.

At 4:10 pm, Allen Reinhard suggested that the meeting had completed its written agenda and could, thus, be adjourned, which it was.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 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=UCtIdFlPSE9VTitrU05CVTJyOWkydz09.

Respectfully submitted: _____; Date: 05/15/2025
Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary

Cemetery Projects List (as printed on the agenda):

1. Consolidation of lots at Newtown Cemetery with recordable survey. Awaiting action.
2. Begin Monument Restoration at Newtown Cemetery and establish contract status for New North Cemetery.
3. Fencing at the Historic Coloured Cemetery.
4. Fencing and brush removal at New and Old North cemeteries.
5. New map needed for Polpis addition of new lots.
6. Installation of new lot corner markers at Polpis.

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CEMETERY COMMISSION
Meeting of May 14, 2025
Historical Notes on GPR and Other Things
As Reported by Bob Gardner, Secretary, in the Minutes

Date/Minutes	**Event**
2014-04-09 & 2014-06-11	Announced Stewart burial to be in Historic Coloured Cemetery, HCC.
2014-10-15	Barbara White purchases a lot in HCC.
2014-10-20 (field trip)	Scott McIver uses a probe (metal rod) to verify availability of burial space for Stewart.
2014-12-01 (field trip)	Discussion of GPR at HCC but no action.
2015-01-14	Discussed GPR for Newtown Cemetery.
2015-01-19 (field trip to HCC)	GPR mentioned.
2015-06-10	GPR update report; Jeanne Hicks agrees to land swap at Polpis providing there is no cost to them.
2015-12-09	It is reported that Mike Burns, Transportation Planner, will be using GPR alongside Quaker Cemetery to determine if a sidepath could be placed alongside Quaker Road.
2016-01-13	A GPR contract will be reviewed for approval at the Select Board meeting of 2016-01-20.
2016-02-10	Kara Buzanowki, DPW Director, reports that a contract for a GPR survey "along Milk Street" was approved. The survey was probably actually along Quaker Road; it was reported later in the newspaper that there are graves up to the fence and a sidepath is not possible along there.
2016-03-09	It was reported that the Select Board will review for approval a contract for a GPR survey at Newtown Cemetery.
2016-04-10 & 05-11	The Cemetery Commission discussed the forthcoming GPR survey to be performed at Newtown Cemetery by Hager-Richter. Several commissioners expressed interest in watching the survey.

Lee Saperstein, May 14, 2025

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