

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of August 13, 2025, at 3:00 pm
DPW Conference Room, 188 Madaket Road, with Zoom Connectivity

FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

Attendance, by Roll Call: Commissioners: Jascin Finger (by telephone at 3:22 pm), Frances Karttunen, Allen Reinhard, and Lee Saperstein; Charlie Polachi, DPW, Cemetery Administrator. It was determined by roll call that there was a quorum at all times.

Absent: Scott McIver.

1. Call to Order.

Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm and recording of the meeting started: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5jBtVR-NV8&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhlyX1ozdd1bZ3zV8kXFp8M&index=63>. Commissioner Jascin Finger had a problem signing in but was able to join by telephone at 3:22 pm.

2. Public and Commissioners Comments.

With no members of the public present, there were no public comments. Frances Karttunen asked if she could share information on projections of the Historic Coloured Cemetery video. With consent from the Commission, she said that the video had been projected already at Our Island Home, the Salt Marsh Center, the Atheneum, and the Whaling Museum. It is on the Town's YouTube website; the Museum of African American History, MAAH, has open permission to project whenever they wish. The Nantucket Historical Association, NHA, has a link to the video on their web site. It will be projected again at the Dreamland in October; she is contacting the Black Cemetery Network and the Atlantic Black Box network to provide them with a link to the video. She is seeking permission from the Maple Leaf and Eagle Studies Conference to project it at their May 2026 meeting in Helsinki.

3. Minutes of July 9, 2025.

Allen Reinhard asked for approval of the minutes of July 9, 2025; he made that motion and Frances Karttunen seconded it; it was approved unanimously by roll-call vote (Allen Reinhard, aye; Frances Karttunen, aye; and Lee Saperstein, aye.).

4. Polpis Cemetery.

Allen Reinhard reported that Arthur P. Flynn will be interred in Lot G-8, Polpis, on September 10, 2025, if the Commission approves the request for inurnment and the design of the memorial, which it did by motion of Frances Karttunen, seconded by Lee Saperstein, and approved unanimously (Allen Reinhard, aye; Frances Karttunen, aye; and Lee Saperstein, aye.). Additionally, the Commission approved lot sales of B-19 and B-20 to Thomas Harty and J-30 to

Daniel Barber in a single motion made by Lee Saperstein, seconded by Frances Karttunen, and approved unanimously (Allen Reinhard, aye; Frances Karttunen, aye; and Lee Saperstein, aye.).

Allen Reinhard said that he and Scotty McIver had begun the process of marking the new lots in Polpis and expected, upon Scotty McIver's return, to complete the work.

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

Charlie Polachi repeated his report that work at Newtown Cemetery is underway to repair and restore monuments. The Invitation for Bids, IFB, for New North Cemetery, now that the Town is in its new fiscal year, has been approved and is in the queue for release.

Allen Reinhard suggested that a press release be written and distributed once work begins in New North. All Commissioners agreed and Frances Karttunen and Jascin Finger volunteered to draft it.

6. Newtown Cemetery: Plan for Consolidation Update; Future Projects to Improve the Cemetery, such as Parking, Layout of Lots, Brush Removal, etc. Progress Update. Bob Bystrowski, or Tracy McDonald if available.

Charlie Polachi reported on behalf of the Real Estate Specialists that legal work is underway. Allen Reinhard complimented the real-estate team on their work on behalf of the Cemetery Commission.

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

Charlie Polachi confirmed that a work order has been filed for fencing along the Vesper Lane side of the cemetery. Given the summer pressure on the DPW, he expected that new fencing will be installed in the fall.

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

Given that there are still a number of projects on which work is needed, Allen Reinhard suggested that we have a future. Lee Saperstein suggested that an expanded press release discussed in item 5. would be a useful introduction to the public of the Commission and the Town cemeteries.

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

Allen Reinhard related that he had discussed maintenance of the Quaise Asylum Burial Ground with Cormac Collier, President of the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, which is the Ground's owner, who said that he would look into maintenance needs of that cemetery. It was not clear if this included replacement of the corner fences or not. Charlie Polachi said that the Town could donate materials to the Foundation.

Scott McIver, who had previously said that the designs for a memorial in the HCC to Absalom and Hannah Boston were ready, was unable to attend this meeting. The item will be added to next month's agenda.

It will be necessary, also, to confirm the officers for FY 2026.

With no requests for new or old business, Allen Reinhard declared adjournment by acclamation.

9. Adjournment.

Adjournment was at 3:47 pm.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 3:00 pm, in the DPW conference room at 188 Madaket Road. An updated Zoom link will be sent with that meeting's agenda.

Nantucket Cemetery Projects List:

Consolidation of lots at Newtown Cemetery with recordable ground survey: Awaiting action.

Begin Monument Restoration at Newtown, and New North Cemetery.

Fencing at the Historic Coloured Cemetery. Work order submitted.

New map needed for Polpis addition of new lots.

Installation of new Lot Corner markers at Polpis.

Respectfully submitted: _____; Date: 08/21/2025

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary