

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of September 10, 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, Frances Karttunen (by Zoom), 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 3:01 pm and recording of the meeting started: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9jbDcu-eNg&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhIyX1ozdd1bZ3zV8kXFp8M&index=64>

2. Public and Commissioners Comments.

With no members of the public present, there were no public comments. Frances Karttunen Reported that the Nantucket Historical Association, NHA, has proposed a contract with the Town that would give NHA the right to project, but not to own, the video of the Historic Coloured Cemetery. They would put a link to it in their YouTube site and would also arrange to create a closed-captioning version of it. Fran indicated that, although generous, as a contract it needs to be reviewed by Town Counsel and that this will take some time.

3. Minutes of August 13, 2025.

Allen Reinhard asked for approval of the minutes of August 13, 2025; Jascin Finger made that motion and Frances Karttunen seconded it; it was approved unanimously by roll-call vote (Allen Reinhard, aye; Jascin Finger, aye; Frances Karttunen, aye: and Lee Saperstein, aye.).

4. Polpis Cemetery, Split-Rail Fence To Be Installed.

Before reporting on the agenda item for Polpis, Allen Reinhard said that there are three related requests for interment in Polpis plus one, linked to the burials, for the approval of a memorial. The burials are for Maureen Anne O'Sullivan in lot I-28, Bruce Fredrich Dilts in I-29, and Joan Lillian Davis also in I-29. All are to be interred in a combined ceremony on September 24, 2025. If approved, they will be memorialized with three stones placed, one above the other, on lot 29. Lee Saperstein suggested that, since all three burials were linked, they be approved in one motion, which he made; seconded by Jascin Finger, they were approved unanimously by roll-call vote (Allen Reinhard, aye; Jascin Finger, aye; Frances Karttunen, aye: and Lee Saperstein, aye.). Lee Saperstein made a second motion to approve the markers and it was seconded, also, by Jascin Finger, and similarly approved (Allen Reinhard, aye; Jascin Finger, aye; Frances Karttunen, aye: and Lee Saperstein, aye.).

With respect to the installation of a split-rail fence on the northern, i.e., wooded side of the cemetery. Charlie Polachi reminded the Commission that there is a work in place and the work is expected to be done next month alongside many other requests for fencing. He also reported that Scotty McIver had given him a list of markers that needed to be replaced. They were at the edge of the existing field of burial plots and do not show the new adjacent rows that are to be laid out.

4.A. Quaise Asylum Burial Ground. Although not on the agenda, Allen Reinhard reported that he has met with the Property Manager for the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, NCF, which is the owner of record for the Quaise Asylum Burial Ground, and the NCF will replace the corner fences at the burial ground later this fall. NCF has plenty of spare fencing and, while grateful for the offer, does not need any to be given by the Town. The Burial Ground has been mowed.

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

Allen Reinhard noted that restoration work is underway in Newtown Cemetery and Charlie Polachi confirmed this. Several Commissioners have visited Newtown and saw the efforts being made to repair and re-install fallen monuments. Charlie Polachi shared an interim assessment report from Ludlow Memorial, LMC, with almost 60 pictures of monuments under, or in completed, repair. New North will be next. Charlie Polachi reported also that he was able to add a modification to the contract that will allow LMC to treat all monuments in Newtown with the biologic cleaning solution.

Frances Karttunen acknowledged that she and Jascin Finger will be working on a press release to highlight all of the restoration work done in Nantucket's cemeteries.

6. Newtown Cemetery: Plan for Consolidation Update.

Charlie Polachi noted the Commission is still awaiting the title search to be done by the Real Estate Specialists that will allow the Town to recognize Newtown as a Cemetery. The Commission will have a lot to do at Newtown once it is legally so recognized.

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 Historic Coloured cemetery and he expects that to be done later this fall. Allen Reinhard also noted that the field to the south of the cemetery needs to be mowed. This land belongs to the Nantucket Island Land Bank and he will ask them to mow it.

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

Allen Reinhard said that he remains frustrated by the Town's reluctance to take Franklin Street as a public way because there are cars parked on that street alongside the entrance to New North Cemetery blocking four spaces. In that parking enforcement occurs only on public ways, these cars cannot be ticketed or towed. Lee Saperstein suggested that, since the Town is an abutting

owner, we ask the Town to install signs indicating that the spaces are reserved for visitors to the Cemetery and that improperly parked cars may be towed. Charlie Polachi said that such signs could be created on the Commission's request and he would look into it.

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

At a request for new business, Frances Karttunen said that the Commission needed to review and approve the bid for a monument to Absalom Boston as proposed by Scotty McIver. If he can attend the next meeting, it should go onto the agenda.

9. Adjournment.

Adjournment was by acclamation at 3:30 pm.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 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; work underway.

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: 09/12/2025

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary