

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of November 12, 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, Allen Reinhard, and Lee Saperstein; Charlie Polachi, DPW, Cemetery Administrator; Robert Bystrowski and Tracy MacDonald (3:14 pm), Real Estate Specialists; Walter and John Trusz, Ludlow Memorial Co. It was determined by roll call that there was a quorum at all times; for reference, the correct Zoom link is

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86337037514?pwd=cUTROpCbZz4jjEqvO1G73lvsqWgQxE.1>

Meeting ID: 863 3703 7514

Passcode: 983505

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=9bzEWJTCHK0&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhlyX1ozdd1bZ3zV8kXFp8M&index=66>. A roll call established the listed attendance.

2. Public and Commissioners Comments.

Because guests, Walter and John Trusz, were present to report on LMC's efforts in Newtown Cemetery, Allen Reinhard invited them to make their presentation first. LMC is the contractor performing renovation and restoration work on memorial monuments in Newtown Cemetery. They presented Charlie Polachi with a spiral-bound status report on their work at Newtown that includes detailed photographic evidence of the work that they have done. They had estimated originally that there were 74 monuments needing work; in the end they treated 90. They have also treated all monuments in Newtown with the D-2 Biologic Solution that will brighten the stones and reduce the incidence of lichen. They also said that once the stones were cleaned, they could see small, microscopic cracks in many of the monuments and that they will heal them with the correct epoxy cements. They reported, also, that there remain two tall monument stones that are propped up and await permanent treatment.

Significantly, they said that they would like to donate a slant-faced stone for a cemetery marker for the southern entrance to the Historic Coloured Cemetery so that walkers from Vesper Lane would know what it was. Frances Karttunen suggested that she would draft language for the stone and the committee's approval. The committee members said that the stone would be received with pleasure.

With reference to the Absalom Boston monument, Frances Karttunen asked for their recommendation on the type of stone to be used. Without hesitation, they said, “granite.” More specifically, John Trusz said that Vermont granite was preferable to that from Georgia because the latter had too much innate water for long-term survival in northern climes. Allen Reinhard thanked them for their report and their advice as they left the room.

3. Minutes of October 8, 2025.

Allen Reinhard asked for approval of the minutes of October 8, 2025; Frances Karttunen made that motion and Jascin Finger 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: Applications.

Allen Reinhard said that there were three applications for the committee to consider:

Kathleen Walsh: lot application for Polpis G-9.

Maureen O’Sullivan: Monument approval for Polpis I-28

George Davis: Monument approval for Polpis I-29.

Allen Reinhard explained that the latter two were intentionally adjacent and planned on sharing a single monument.

Unfortunately, the paperwork did not include a plan of this memorial; consequently, Lee Saperstein moved approval of the Walsh application and deferral of the monument approvals until the next meeting. Frances Karttunen seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously (Allen Reinhard, aye; Jascin Finger, aye; Frances Karttunen, aye; and Lee Saperstein, aye).

5. New North Cemetery Updates.

Charlie Polachi reported that they had received two bids for restoration work at New North and the Town would be awarding the contract soon.

Allen Reinhard reported that Sherry Craig had proposed that she be allowed to occupy, in time, a plot in the Craig family lot, which is section ZZ in New North, located on the eastern edge of the cemetery just north of the entry lane. ZZ, according to the Lewis Burial Records (nha.org), has 12 designated graves, of which 1, 2, 7, 9, and 10 are occupied; two of them are for unnamed babies. In that this is a family plot and room exists, the committee suggested that approval for a lot application was not needed but that, at the appropriate time, an interment request and permission for a memorial would be needed.

5. Monument Restoration Project Update: Newtown Cemetery.

This topic was covered by the representatives of LMC under “Public Comments,” above.

6. Newtown Cemetery Legal Status Update.

Tracy MacDonald reported, at this point in the agenda, on efforts to make Newtown Cemetery legal and recorded. She said that there is no record anywhere that she could find of Newtown having a certified title. The first step toward legitimacy would be a Warrant Article for the 2026 Annual Town Meeting designating 46 Sparks Avenue as a cemetery. For that, she needs an 81-L Perimeter Plan from a licensed surveyor. Charlie Polachi said that he would get estimates from several surveyors and, because funds exist, he would choose one and get the plan as soon as possible. Tracy MacDonald noted that there is a sentiment in the Commission for getting all of Newtown, 40, 42, 44, and 46 Sparks Avenue, certified but that the safe course was to start with 46 and then consider the other three lots. She spoke of a concern for the need for legal takings and the expenses involved therein. She did add that the Nantucket Educational Trust would be surveying their lands adjacent to the southwest corner of 40 Sparks Avenue, which will help establish a bound at that corner.

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

Lee Saperstein asked about the status of a ground-penetrating radar, GPR, survey of that portion of Old North Cemetery that does not have any visible monuments. The suspicion is that there are burials in that area but that monuments may have been wooden and have disappeared. Charlie Polachi said that the Town has a contract with Hager-Richter, geophysicists, and he will reach out to them to learn what it will take to get that work done.

Frances Karttunen said that the proposed project to develop a census of burials in the Quaker Cemetery is still very much on the calendar. She and Barbara White intend to take on this project sometime in the winter. They intend to go through the annual vital records maintained by the Society of Friends to create a census of Quaker deaths.

Frances Karttunen also reported that, in addition to all of the venues reported previously for projection of the Coloured Cemetery video, the Roxbury Film Festival have asked that it be in next year's festival.

9. Adjournment.

Adjournment was by acclamation at 3:28 pm.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 3:00 pm, in the DPW conference room at 188 Madaket Road and by Zoom.

Cemetery Projects List:

- Consolidation of lots at Newtown Cemetery with recordable ground survey: Awaiting action.
- 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: Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary; Date: 11/15/2025