

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of February 11, 2026, 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, Scott McIver, Allen Reinhard, and Lee Saperstein; Carrie Drayton, DPW, for the Cemetery Administrator, Robert Bystrowski, Real Estate Specialist, Debora Goudemond, Committee Operations Coordinator. 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

1. Call to Order.

Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm; a roll call established the listed attendance. There was a problem in starting the video recording; hence there is not one for this meeting.

2. Public and Commissioners Comments.

Frances Karttunen spoke, as a Commissioner's Comment, about her conversations with Chris Glowacki of the Nantucket Cottage Hospital and, more specifically, about an effort to make the Historic Coloured Cemetery video available within the hospital by download to patients' notebooks or laptops. Unfortunately, the Infusion Center, where the video could be of greatest use, is off limits to personal devices because of the fear of infection. Mary Novissimo, who helped to create the video, has reported that it has had "thousands of viewings." Frances Karttunen reported that the video is still on the program for projection at the Helsinki conference.

There were no other comments.

3. Minutes of December 10, 2025.

Allen Reinhard asked for approval of the minutes of December 10, 2025; Frances Karttunen made that motion and Scott McIver seconded it; it was approved unanimously by roll-call vote (Allen Reinhard, aye; Jascin Finger, aye; Frances Karttunen, aye; Scott McIver, aye; and Lee Saperstein, aye.).

4. Polpis Cemetery: Lot Sale.

Allen Reinhard said that he had in hand an application for the sale of Lots D-2 and D-3 in Polpis Cemetery to Owen Moynihan, which needed approval. Lee Saperstein moved its approval, Scott

McIver seconded, and a roll-call vote approved the sales (Allen Reinhard, aye; Jascin Finger, aye; Frances Karttunen, aye; Scott McIver, aye; and Lee Saperstein, aye).

In an additional note about Polpis, Allen Reinhard reported that a split-rail fence had been installed by the DPW along its north (alongside the trees) side. Similarly, one was installed at the Historic Coloured Cemetery on the side parallel to and facing Vesper Lane.

5. Monument Restoration Project Update.

Allen Reinhard reported that monument restoration work has been approved for New North Cemetery but was deferred because of the wintry weather. This will be the last of the five, major restoration projects. As reported last month, the bid by LMC for \$47,700 for restoration work at New North Cemetery had been accepted by the Town. It is less than the estimated amount, thus leaving a fund surplus.

6. Proposal to Town to Provide Four, One-hour Timed Parking Places on Franklin Street.

At Allen Reinhard's direction, the Commission discussed how best to ask the Town to provide four parking places alongside New North Cemetery on Franklin Street. The complication is that Franklin may be a private way for which the Town has no jurisdiction. Lee Saperstein suggested that the Cemetery, which is Town-owned land, is an abutter to Franklin Street. He suggested further that the Commission write to the Traffic Safety Work Group, Erika Mooney, contact person, to ask for their help. [Action: Allen Reinhard to write to the Traffic Safety Work Group to ask for No-Parking signs on Franklin Street.]

7. Newtown Cemetery: Plan for Consolidation Update.

Robert Bystrowski reported that the Town has submitted Warrant Article 81 (attached) for the taking of 46 Sparks Avenue, a major part of Newtown Cemetery, and now needs a perimeter survey (81L plot) for this lot. Lee Saperstein noted that the goal is eventually to take all the lots that comprise the Cemetery and he accepts that an incremental approach may be the best way to begin. He also said that the perimeter survey had been discussed with Charlie Polachi who responded to a request for action with a note that he had reached out to a surveyor. Placing the entire cemetery in Town control is essential for further action in vegetation clearance, ground-penetrating radar, and layout of roads and paths.

8. Quaker Cemetery: Name Discussion.

The offer of an inscribed stone for the south, Vestal Street, side of the Quaker Cemetery has started a discussion of how best to describe the cemetery. Frances Karttunen notes that historical veracity would have it be "Friends Burial Ground;" Lee Saperstein reported that the Town's Cemetery Regulations call it the "Quaker Cemetery (Friends Burial Ground)". Jascin Finger noted that historical documentation refers regularly to the "Friends Burial Ground." Eventually, the Commission settled on wording for the inscription on the stone to be

"QUAKER CEMETERY

This Friends Burial Ground was established in 1731, and over the next century and even years beyond, thousands of Friends were laid to rest here in unmarked graves, leaving the field seemingly empty. The few existing headstones were placed by Hicksite and Gurneyite Quakers.”

There was Commission consensus on this wording; Scott McIver said that he would produce a mock-up of the inscription for final approval.

In an additional note on the Quaker Cemetery, Frances Karttunen asked if the sign at the main entrance could be renewed. It was thought that there is a DPW work order for its renewal. [Action: Charlie Polachi to check on Work Order status.]

9. Historic Coloured Cemetery: Fencing.

As mentioned previously in item 4., a new split-rail fence has been installed along the south side of the Historic Coloured Cemetery. Frances Karttunen suggested that a sign on this fence should point to the entrance on this side. Equally, a sign on the fence facing the hospital should identify the path and entrance to the cemetery. Trimming of the vegetation around the entrance should make it more accessible.

10. Thoughts on Commission Future.

Allen Reinhard said that he remained concerned about future Commission membership. Commission members remembered that there had been interest from several NHA personnel and suggested that Allen invite them to participate in future meetings.

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

Frances Karttunen said that she and Barbara White will create a press release on cemetery renewal, particularly the monument restoration project, when the last one is completed. This may coincide with better weather.

Scott McIver reported that he had created a proof of the inscription for the Boston family monument to go in the Historic Coloured Cemetery (attached). It is the last step in planning for the memorial and work on it can be expected. In last month’s meeting, granite was chosen as the preferred stone and all agreed that a vertical upright was best. It was suggested that June 19th, the Juneteenth Holiday would be a good target date.

12. Adjournment.

Adjournment was by acclamation at 4:01 pm.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 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.
- Begin monument restoration at New North Cemetery
- Installation of new Lot Corner markers at Polpis and new Lot map.

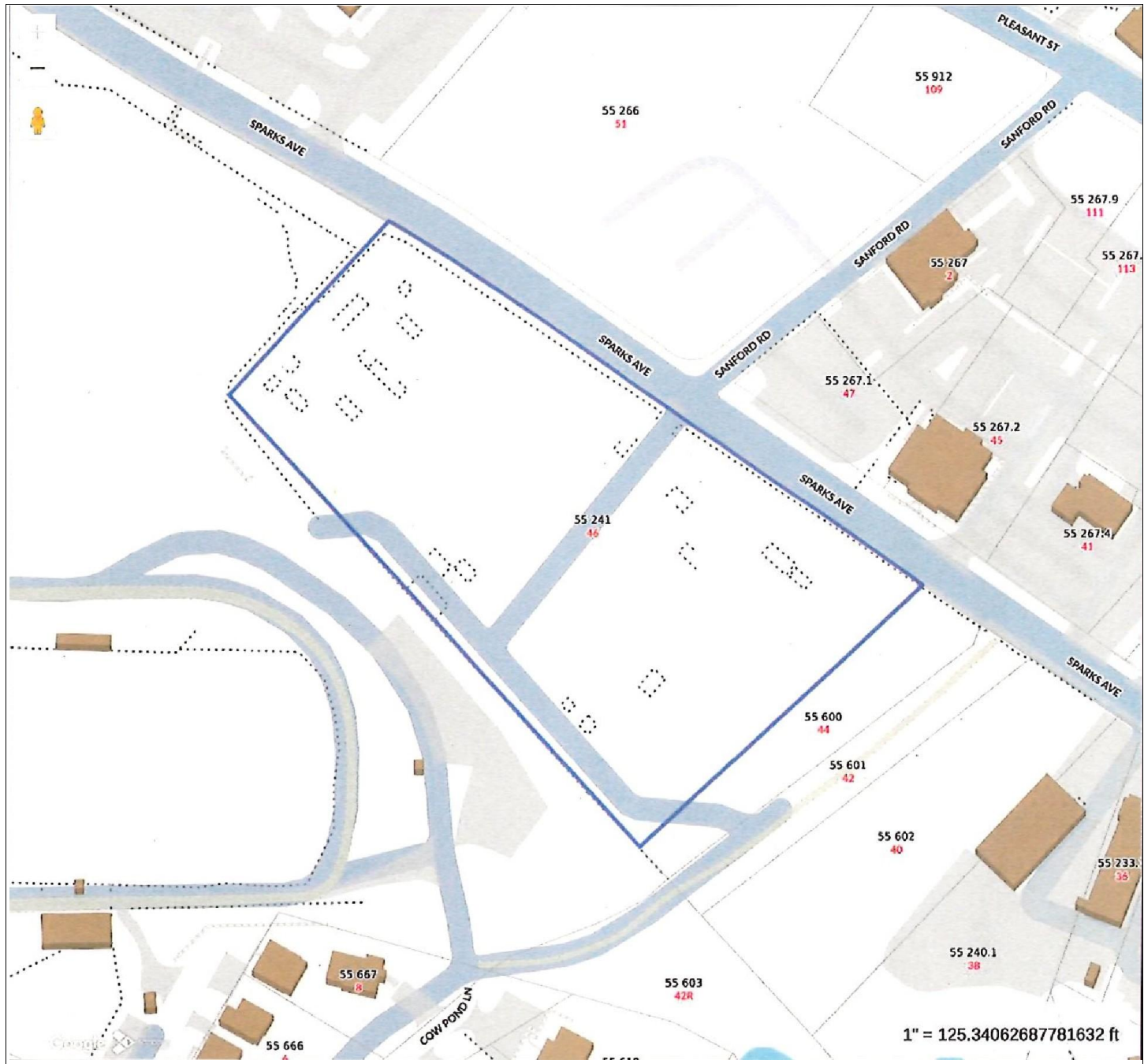
Respectfully submitted: Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary; Date: 02/17/2026

ARTICLE 81 (of the 2025 Annual Town Meeting

(Real Estate Acquisition: 46 Sparks Avenue)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to acquire by eminent domain, gift or purchase for public cemetery purposes a certain parcel of land shown on Assessor's Map 55, Parcel No. 241 located at 46 Sparks Avenue, Nantucket; and further to authorize the Select Board to transfer the care, custody and management of said property for public cemetery purposes to the Nantucket Cemetery Commission. Or to take any other action related thereto

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Property Information Property ID 3460 Location 46 SPARKS AV Owner NANTUCKET TOWN OF	 MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT Town and County of Nantucket, MA makes no claims and no warranties expressed or implied, concerning the validity or accuracy of the GIS data presented on map. Geometry updated 01/15/2026 Data updated Jan, 2021	Print map scale is approximate. Critical layout or measurement activities should not be done using this resource.
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The Absalom and Hannah Boston monument; final proof.

