

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of March 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 (@3:18 pm), Frances Karttunen, Scott McIver, Allen Reinhard, and Lee Saperstein; Charlie Polachi, Cemetery Administrator, Debora Goudemond, Committee Operations Coordinator; Jonny Trusz of Ludlow Memorial (left at 3:15 pm). It was determined by roll call that there was a quorum at all times; for reference, the correct Zoom link to join Cemetery Commission meetings 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 3:00 pm; a roll call established the listed attendance. The link to the video recording is

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jo7dMpEhYil&list=PL49sKqpy7VAhIyX1ozdd1bZ3zV8kXFp8M&index=68>.

2. Public and Commissioners Comments.

Frances Karttunen proposed, in a Commissioner's Comment, that the memorial to the Boston family be dedicated on Juneteenth (June 19, 2026) at 9:30 am in the Historic Coloured Cemetery. The date and time were chosen to coincide with Juneteenth celebrations to occur at the Museum of African-American History. The proposal was seconded by Scott McIver and approved unanimously by roll-call vote (Frances Karttunen, aye, Scott McIver, aye, Allen Reinhard, aye, and Lee Saperstein, aye.).

Frances Karttunen also asked about placing granite posts on either side of the entrances to the Historic Coloured Cemetery from the Hospital parking lot and from Vesper Lane. Scott McIver will investigate costs and report back to the Commission. She mentioned also that she is reminding hospital personnel of the need to weed their walkway to the gate and to install a small sign.

There were no other comments.

3. Minutes of February 11, 2026.

Allen Reinhard asked for approval of the minutes of February 11, 2026; 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. Quaker Cemetery: Progress of Stone at Vestal Street Entrance, and Replacement of Existing Painted Wooden Sign on Corner Opposite Caton Circle.

To accommodate the guest from Ludlow Memorial, it was suggested that Agenda Item 6 be moved to be the first discussion item. Lee Saperstein so moved, Scott McIver seconded, and the Commission voted unanimously to do so ((Allen Reinhard, aye; Jascin Finger, aye; Frances Karttunen, aye; Scott McIver, aye; and Lee Saperstein, aye).

The gift of a stone, inscribed with information about the Quaker Cemetery, was accepted gladly at last month's meeting. At today's meeting, the text to be inscribed was reviewed and subsequently approved by motion made by Scott McIver, seconded by Frances Karttunen, and approved unanimously (Allen Reinhard, aye; Jascin Finger, aye; Frances Karttunen, aye; Scott McIver, aye; and Lee Saperstein, aye.). Allen Reinhard, in appreciation, called the donation "a real gift." The approved text is attached to these minutes.

5. Polpis Cemetery.

The next agenda item was a report on the installation of new corner markers for the extended lots in Polpis Cemetery that face the Polpis Road. Charlie Polachi said that the manufacturer was in the process of fabricating them; with the need to tailor each one with the individual lot numbers there is a modest delay.

5. Monument Restoration Project Update.

Charlie Polachi said that the inclement weather has delayed a start to restoration work in New North Cemetery. He added that Hager-Richter, the geophysical firm that is doing ground-penetrating radar under contract with the Town, is currently surveying the extensive portion of Old North Cemetery that has no obvious monuments to see if, indeed, there are graves in that area. He will share the report when it is ready.

6. Newtown Cemetery: Plan for Consolidation Update.

Charlie Polachi reported that Blackwell & Associates have performed a recordable survey of Newtown Cemetery in anticipation of Article 81 at the forthcoming Annual Town Meeting. Real Estate Specialist, Tracy MacDonald asked that this be done for legal procedure reasons.

Lee Saperstein felt that the article would draw no attention and would not be "called." If, for any reason, it is called, he suggested that key members of the Commission speak strongly in favor of the article.

7. Thoughts on Commission Future.

Allen Reinhard noted that he included this item in the agenda so that Commissioners can identify potential new members and find ways to recruit them. The two members of the Nantucket Historical Association were mentioned and it was suggested that we maintain contact with them.

Debora Gourdemond talked about the Nantucket Talent Bank as a place for future members to register their interests: <https://www.nantucket-ma.gov/2128/Volunteer-Talent-Bank>.

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, for release near to Juneteenth.

12. Adjournment.

Adjournment was by acclamation at 3:38 pm.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 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: 03/17/2026

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.

LUDLOW MEORIAL COMPANY INC.

SIZE: 3-6 X 0-10 X 1-6
COLOR: STORMY GRAY
DRAWN BY: JTRUSZ
DATE: 12925
REV 21726

PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY

WE CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE
FOR ANY ERRORS ONCE THIS
ORDER HAS BEEN APPROVED.

APPROVAL: _____
DATE: _____