

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of February 12, 2020, at 3:00 pm
Department of Public Works Office, 188 Madaket Road

FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Scot McIver, Allen Reinhard (Chair), Lee Saperstein, and Barbara White; Cemetery Administrator, Rob McNeil (left at 4:00 pm).

1. Call to Order.

Chair Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. There was a quorum at all times.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Comments from the Chair

Allen Reinhard said that he had heard a news report from National Public Radio stating that the Select Board in Provincetown, MA, had approved green burials. Secretary's note: several web sites confirm the report:

<https://www.newsbreak.com/massachusetts/provincetown/news/003BV0v4/dust-to-dust-in-provincetown-green-burials-to-be-considered-by-the-select-board>.

4. Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2020.

Barbara White moved approval of the minutes from January 8, 2020. When moving to second, Frances Karttunen said that a missing word, "not," had been put into Item 8. Approval was unanimous.

5. Polpis Latest Update: Survey, Layout Additional Lots and Brush Removal.

Allen Reinhard reviewed commissioners Reinhard, Saperstein, and White visit on January 13, 2020, to Polpis Cemetery with Richard (Mo) Moore, DPW Operations Manager. They marked the boundaries of the existing cemetery, identified areas for brush and tree removal, examined encroachments from the abutting property, and considered areas for the layout of additional lots. The Commission was reminded that it had offered to swap land with the abutters to cure their encroachment and side-lot setback intrusion. Subsequent to the visit, the owner's attorney sent Ken Beaugrand, Real Estate Specialist, an e-mail that asked for a sketch plan of proposed new plots. Ken Beaugrand replied to him that the encroachment needs to be removed but that the swap would cure it. Lee Saperstein suggested that Allen Reinhard review with Ken Beaugrand the status of this correspondence. Barbara White stated that we should continue to pursue a solution to the encroachment and that they should be informed that we intend to brush cut soon unless they agree to the swap now. [Action: Ask that the Town send a formal demand for the removal of encroachments; perform a recordable survey as requested last month.]

6. Memorial Stone at Quaise Cemetery: Cost, Approval Process and Next Steps.

Allen Reinhard shared draft wording for a monument that commemorates the victims of the Quaise Asylum fire. His first question of the commissioners was on a preferred shape. Scott McIver said that the wording was too long to go on a faced boulder and then asked if the monument was intended to look something like the two at Founders' Burial Ground. Allen Reinhard replied that it is a rural setting and maybe the monument should be a little more rustic. Lee Saperstein added that the monument could have rustic sides and not be totally polished. Scott McIver said that he had a source who quoted \$8500 for the stone and its engraving plus there would be approximately \$400 for installation. Allen Reinhard asked if we wanted to spend this amount. All present replied positively. Barbara White asked about a source of funds and Lee Saperstein said that we could investigate use of the Community Preservation Committee, CPC, grant with the CPC. Frances Karttunen suggested that we get publicity out of the installation.

Scott McIver will revise the draft design for the monument and share it with the Commission. He hopes that some of the suggestions for a more rustic design will lead to a more precise and lower estimate of cost. It was agreed that the Commission will review this design for its approval and will share it with the Sign Advisory Board of the HDC. [Action: Scott McIver will prepare a revised draft of the monument design and text and share it. Allen Reinhard will talk to the CPC about using the grant.]

7. Work Plan Priorities: Fencing at Historic Coloured, Old, and New North Cemeteries.

Allen Reinhard reviewed work plans for renewal of fencing at three cemeteries. He has met with hospital officials who were enthusiastic for cooperation and agreed that we would coordinate on landscaping at the boundary with the Historic Coloured Cemetery. Barbara White spoke with Mary Malavase about buying daffodil bulbs for the Historic Coloured Cemetery. She was told that the Garden Club might be amenable to a grant for the purchase of bulbs. Mary Malavase suggested that 500 to 750 dollars' worth of bulbs would be a good number. Rob McNeil said the he might be able to combine this application with another that the Town is writing for new trees. All agreed to support the application for bulbs.

The suggested priority order for installing new fencing would be the Historic Coloured Cemetery, Old North, and then New North Cemeteries. In that they cannot all be done at once, they would be done in stages. Rob McNeil added that the Quaker Cemetery could be done in the summer. It was pointed out that brush cutting in Old North may be needed. Frances Karttunen suggested that, if staging was in order, street-facing fences should be first. Rob McNeil said that he would work the fencing into his planning. Frances Karttunen urged action at the Historic Coloured Cemetery as soon as possible.

8. Newtown Cemetery Next Steps.

Allen Reinhard said, with regret, that he is still waiting for action from the Town on Newtown Cemetery. He will ask Ken Beaugrand for an update. Rob McNeil said that the Sparks Avenue

project for a new multi-use path is being surveyed in advance of a design. The State's Historic Commission has asked that the Town do a search for Native-American archaeological artefacts along the cemetery fence. [Action: Allen Reinhard will urge Ken Beaugrand to move this issue to the Select Board.]

9. Digitizing NHA and Town Burial Records.

Allen Reinhard reminded the commissioners that it is our intention to have a searchable data base of cemetery records. Lee Saperstein then reviewed his searches for the Lewis Burial Records. Thirteen ledgers covering the period from 1894 to 1965 can be viewed on the NHA web site. In addition, there is a printed index of all entries in those ledgers that is in the form of an 186-page spread sheet in a PDF format. Also, on the NHA site is the cemeteries' page with access to photographs of inscriptions and maps of the cemeteries. The public cemeteries with maps and locations of grave markers are Historic Coloured, New North, Newtown, Old North, and Quaker. He was able to project images of these items onto the smart board in the conference room.

The physical ledgers are in the Town Clerk's office vault. Lee Saperstein said that he is following up on his search for the original spread sheet file. Once we have it, either by finding the original or by transcribing the PDF back to an Excel format, we begin to build our data base. Allen Reinhard agreed and said that we need to get the records into our computers and then bring the index up to date with current burial records.

Barbara White asked if we should start to seek an estimate of services and costs for installing software for a record-keeping system. Scott McIver added that if we have the system, we could insert into it the spread sheet information plus Town records of burials from 1965 to the present. Allen Reinhard reminded the group that Rob McNeil had offered to contact a cemetery software company (Newcom Technologies, CMS; November 2019 minutes) on our behalf to see what digitization services they can offer.

Barbara White noted that we have a lot of the content for making brochures for visitors to the cemeteries along with creating illustrative material for the web site.

10. Comments, Old, New and Other Business.

There was agreement that we should participate in the Nantucket Litter Derby on March 28th within one or more cemeteries.

11. Adjournment.

Adjournment was at 4:16 pm by acclamation.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at 3:00 pm in the conference area of the DPW Office, 188 Madaket Road.

Respectfully submitted: _____; Date: _____

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary