

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of June 10, 2020, at 3:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video Conference

FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Scott McIver, Allen Reinhard (Chair), Lee Saperstein, and Barbara White; Staff: Hannah Nicolle. Attendance was verified by voice roll call.

Guests: None

Absent: Rob McNeil, Cemetery Administrator

1. Call to Order.

Chair Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. There was a quorum at all times.

2. Public Comment.

None

3. Chair and Commissioners' Comments.

Allen Reinhard suggested, in light of our time away due to the pandemic, that comments from the commissioners would be in order.

Scott McIver volunteered that the monument restoration project was on hold until he can get back on track with Rob McNeil, DPW Director.

Frances Karttunen spoke about the records for the Nantucket Society of Friends (Quakers) that had long been held on the mainland. She mentioned that these records had been kept by Robert Leach ("Quaker Nantucket, The Religious Community") but were now at the NHA's Research Library. As soon as she is able, she would like to create a comprehensive list of Quakers. She will contact the Research Librarian to find out if she might go into the Library. Barbara White offered to help.

4. Approval of Minutes from March 11, 2020.

Scott McIver moved approval of the minutes from March 11, 2020, and Barbara White seconded the motion. Approval by voice roll call vote was unanimous.

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

Allen Reinhard reminded us that Scott McIver had quoted \$7000 dollars for a monument at Quaise Asylum, installed, to commemorate the residents, including victims of the fire, buried

there. Scott McIver said that the stone would be rustic in design and that the text (attached) had been reviewed and approved. The purchase had been approved at the Commission's last meeting. Lee Saperstein, however, suggested that in light of the time that has passed that we should confirm this purchase with a current vote. He so moved, Frances Karttunen seconded and approval, by voice roll call vote, was unanimous. The next steps will be for Allen Reinhard to discuss funding with Rob McNeil and Brian Turbitt, including, as was suggested at the last meeting, the use of CPC grant funds. Once details are set, a purchase order can be made. [Actions. Scott McIver to proceed with ordering the approved monument; Allen Reinhard to meet with Rob McNeil and Brian Turbitt on use of the CPC grant and on creation of a Cemetery Fund Account.]

6. Work Plan Priorities: Fencing, Brush Removal, Monument Restoration

Allen Reinhard said that many of the routine maintenance items may be delayed because of the Town's financial exigencies; he can report, though, that mowing progress is current. He is concerned that fencing renewals may be delayed. He is hopeful that the DPW will keep up with brush removal.

Scott McIver pointed out that his concern for condition surveys of monuments, as discussed above, should be matched with recordable land surveys of all public cemeteries. Lee Saperstein agreed and suggested that our next agenda item on Newtown will need an approval before it can be surveyed. He also noted that the hospital is doing final work on its parking area and that we should follow up with the hospital on landscaping at the entrance to the Historic Coloured Cemetery. Frances Karttunen also noted that if daffodil bulbs are to be planted around the entrances to that Cemetery, they need to be ordered now. Hannah Nicolle added that she is about to make a purchase order for bulbs and will add a number of bulbs for the Cemetery. Allen Reinhard volunteered to follow up with hospital personnel on the landscaping.

Frances Karttunen reminded the group that she has suggested an arbor gate for the Historic Coloured Cemetery and Allen Reinhard said that he would research designs and prices. Allen Reinhard also reported that he is in contact with the Nantucket Conservation Foundation, whose land surrounds the Quaise Asylum Cemetery, to obtain approval for a directional sign at the parking area. A sign on Polpis Road would be on Town land and might be made soon. He will contact the sign shop on this. [Action Items: Allen Reinhard will discuss work plans with Rob McNeil and landscaping at Historic Coloured Cemetery with the hospital. He will also research arbor gates and meet with the Conservation Foundation on signage at Quaise.]

7. Polpis and Newtown Cemeteries: Next Steps.

Allen Reinhard reported that, with a lack of response from the owners of the property abutting Polpis Cemetery on a land swap, it may be hopeless. He spoke of asking them to remove their landscaping and personal property from the Cemetery grounds. Lee Saperstein felt that the Commission had asked earlier for a formal encroachment letter, particularly for the building that intrudes into the cemetery. He moved that the Commission re-affirm this request for an encroachment letter; it was seconded and approved unanimously by a roll-call voice vote.

[Action Item: Allen Reinhard will discuss an encroachment letter with Ken Beaugrand and seek from him follow-up steps.]

In the case of Newtown Cemetery, it remains necessary for the Select Board to review the Commission's request to declare all of Newtown Cemetery officially a cemetery. If they approve the request, we may proceed with a recordable survey and an extended Ground-Penetrating Radar, GPR, survey in preparation for designating additional burial plots. [Action Item: Allen Reinhard will discuss progress on the request with Ken Beaugrand and Andrew Vorce.]

8. Digitizing NHA and Town Burial Records.

After an introduction by Allen Reinhard on the need to create a digital data base for the cemeteries, Lee Saperstein volunteered to research past minutes and found, in the March 11th minutes, the following comments.

“The commissioners agreed that we need to engage the company recommended by the Cemetery Administrator, Rob McNeil (Newcom Technologies, CMS), as soon as possible. Lee Saperstein reminded the commissioners that we now have the index to the Lewis Records on file, which is a good start. Scott McIver, who converted the PDF to an Excel file, will try some sorting procedures for surnames and cemetery name. [Action. Start digitizing project with appropriate contract steps.]”

It was acknowledged by those present that we should start as soon as we can.

8. Commissioners Comments, Old, New and Other Business.

There were no additional comments.

8. Adjourn.

Adjournment came by voice roll-call vote at 4:05 pm.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, July 8, 2020, at 3:00 pm by Zoom Video Conferencing

Respectfully submitted: _____; Date: _____
Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary

FINAL RESTING PLACE
RESIDENTS OF THE QUaise FARM ASYLUM
FOUNDED 1822
AMONG THOSE KNOWN TO BE INTERRED HERE
BENJAMIN DAVIS 1757 — 1841
ELIZA MORRISON D 1841
TEN VICTIMS OF THE QUaise ASYLUM FIRE
FEBRUARY 21 1844
SOPHIA BEEBE B 1788
LYDIA BOWEN B 1810
JONATHAN CATHCART B 1784
ABIEL DAVIS 87 B 1757
WEALTHY DAVIS B 1791
WILLIAM HOLMES JR B 1784
THOMAS HULL JR B 1776
WILLIAM HUTCHINSON (UNKNOWN)
PAUL JENKINS B 1777
PHEBE JONES B 1762