

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of July 8, 2020, at 3:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via Zoom Video Conference

DRAFT MINUTES FOR APPROVAL AND REVIEW

Attendance: Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Scott McIver, Allen Reinhard (Chair), Lee Saperstein, and Barbara White; Staff: Rob McNeil, Cemetery Administrator (3:37 pm), Hannah Nicolle. Attendance was verified by voice roll call.

Guests: None

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. Annual Reorganization; Election of Commission Officers for FY 2021

Allen Reinhard reminded Commissioners that this was the first meeting of the new Fiscal Year and that we needed to elect officers. After a short discussion of who has been doing what, Frances Karttunen moved that we renew the existing officers, Barbara White seconded, and the motion passed unanimously on a roll-call vote. For Fiscal Year 2021, Allen Reinhard is Chair, Scott McIver is Vice-Chair, and Lee Saperstein is Secretary.

4. Approval of Minutes from June 10, 2020.

Barbara White moved approval of the minutes from June 10, 2020, and Frances Karttunen seconded the motion. Approval by voice roll call vote was unanimous.

5. Memorial Stone at Quaise: Approval Process and Update on Funding.

Allen Reinhard introduced the topic of a memorial stone at the Quaise Asylum Burial Ground to commemorate those buried there, particularly the victims of the fatal fire, by saying that the Commission had approved the project and that Scott McIver had estimated a total cost of \$7000.00 installed. The Commission discussed the source of funding for the stone and agreed that one of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds dedicated to Cemetery maintenance and upkeep should be used. Rob McNeil, who was present for this part of the discussion, asked Scott McIver to submit a proposal for the project that he will discuss with Brian Turbitt, Finance Director, for the assignment of a fund account.

[Actions. Scott McIver to generate a proposal and submit it to the DPW: Rob McNeil to select an appropriate fund account.]

6. Work Plan Priorities: Fencing, Brush Removal, Monument Restoration; Establish Priorities by Cemetery.

Allen Reinhard began this discussion by reporting that, in general, the cemeteries look good. Others agreed and Lee Saperstein reported that landscaping has been done against the fence between the Hospital and the Historic Coloured Cemetery. The following comments were made for the respective cemeteries.

Existing Work Orders for Newtown, New North, Old North, and Polpis. Each of these cemeteries has existing work orders for brush cutting, fence repair, and other maintenance. It was noted that brush still covers a few monuments in Old North Cemetery.

Monument Restoration Project. Scott McIver reported, now that Town processes are returning to normal, he will work with the DPW to define the monument restoration project and to suggest items to be included in a request for a bid.

Historic Coloured Cemetery. A number of issues were discussed for the Historic Coloured Cemetery. Hannah Nicolle reported under Item 9. but included here, that an order for daffodil bulbs to the Nantucket Garden Club would include bulbs to be placed at the Hospital entrance to the Cemetery. Commissioners agreed and encouraged that supportive comments be included in the application.

Lee Saperstein noted that the path from the Hospital parking lot to the entrance to the Historic Coloured Cemetery needs an ADA (Americans with Disability Act)-compliant ramp from the parking lot surface up to the concrete pad. Allen Reinhard said that he would report that to the Hospital's property supervisor.

Frances Karttunen reminded the Commission that the Cemetery should have a prominent entrance visible from Vesper Lane. The former path between the adjacent Land Bank property and the hospital is now a driveway into the hospital. She hopes that the Land Bank will review parking on Vesper Lane or on their property and that the Commission would provide a well-defined entrance from the Land Bank land into the Cemetery. Lee Saperstein said that this was a good idea and suggested that, however the entrance be marked, that it be of durable and low maintenance material. Scott McIver offered to research various designs that could be made from stone.

Newtown. Allen Reinhard reported that things looked good at Newtown Cemetery except for a flagpole that is in poor condition and might well be removed. Lee Saperstein remembered that the veterans like to decorate all of our cemeteries on Memorial Day and they might be informed before we ask the DPW to remove it. Names of veteran leaders were given to Allen Reinhard for him to notify them of the potential removal. The legal status of Newtown was discussed in Agenda Item 7.

Polpis. The clearance work for Polpis Cemetery was discussed. Commissioners expressed a concern that there should be some progress on the work order generated by Richard Moore, Operations Manager, when he visited Polpis with Allen Reinhard, Lee Saperstein, and Barbara

White. He had marked a number of trees for removal. One of them, a pine at the top of the hill appears to be dead and should be removed soon for safety. Brush and tree clearance were among the items in the work order. With respect to the trees, the Commission suggested that the Town's Arborist look at the trees and suggest any that should be retained. Fence restoration and expansion to the cemetery borders was an important part of the work order. Allen Reinhard said that he would follow up with Steve Arcenaux, Deputy DPW Director. [Action. Hannah Nicolle said that she would contact the DPW staff.]

Issues of encroachment were discussed under the next Agenda item.

Quaker Cemetery. The Quaker Cemetery looks good from the road reported Allen Reinhard but clean-up against the Winn Street properties needs to be undertaken. Several commissioners said that a letter had been composed and was supposed to have been sent to the landowners reminding them that disposal of construction debris onto the cemetery plus allowing vegetation to grow from their property onto the cemetery were forms of encroachment that should be removed.

Frances Karttunen spoke vigorously about the delay in sending the letter and asked that something be done very soon. Rob McNeil said that the Town's Encroachment Committee was now operating but had had only two meetings. He committed to bringing the draft letter before the committee so that it could be sent from the Town promptly. Subsequent to the meeting, Frances Karttunen sent a copy of her draft letter to the DPW and Lee Saperstein, Secretary, sent copies of the minutes for December 2019 and January 2020 in which the letter was appended. [Action. Allen Reinhard will follow up with Ken Beaugrand and Rob McNeil on progress for sending an encroachment letter to the Quaker Cemetery neighbors.]

7. Polpis and Newtown Cemeteries.

Newtown. Allen Reinhard reported that we are still awaiting action from the Town on our request to define all of the land known as Newtown Cemetery as a cemetery. Lee Saperstein asked that we get a definitive report from the Town at our next meeting.

Polpis. As discussed in the previous item, the Cemetery Commission has accepted that the adjacent landowners will not proceed with a curative land swap. In this case, the Commission asked that the Town proceed with an encroachment order against the intrusion of real estate into the cemetery and the deposition of chattel property onto cemetery grounds. Lee Saperstein suggested strongly that the physical intrusion of real property into the cemetery could be of great legal concern. Rob McNeil said that this was another encroachment issue that he would take up with the Encroachment Committee. [Action: Allen Reinhard will contact Ken Beaugrand, Real Estate Specialist, for a status report.]

8. Digitizing NHA and Town Burial Records Update..

Allen Reinhard reminded the Commission that we had discussed the establishment of a comprehensive digital archive to incorporate recent sales of lots and of burials as well as any historical records that we could locate. When asked about his contacts with companies that

provide digital services for cemeteries, Rob McNeil noted that he would be happy to ask them to provide the Town with information about their services and pricing. Lee Saperstein noted that the original Lewis Burial Records and microfilm copies of them belong to the Town and are archived in the vault of the Town Clerk. The spread sheet that incorporates all of the ledger indices is available and would give the project an easy start.

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

As noted above under item 6., Hannah Nicolle asked about ordering daffodil bulbs for the new entrance to the Historic Coloured Cemetery and she was encouraged to go ahead and order them.

10. Adjourn.

Adjournment came by voice roll-call vote at 4:08 pm.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, August 12, 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