

NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION
Posted Meeting of October 7, 2022, at 11:00 am
Polpis Cemetery, 264 Polpis Road

FINAL AND APPROVED MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Allen Reinhard (Chair), Lee Saperstein, and Barbara White.

Absent: Scott McIver.

1. Call to Order and Chair's Comments.

Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. He thanked the Commissioners for coming to this live meeting at Polpis Cemetery. The principal agenda item is to examine the current layout of lots and then determine if there is room for additional lots in the existing cemetery. He is pessimistic about the land swap with the owners of 268 Polpis Road occurring anytime soon; nonetheless, he considers that the portion of the cemetery that could be swapped is not appropriate for laying out lots.

He reported that he had visited the cemetery the day before and had flagged the boundary of the existing lots along with flagging the cemetery boundaries. This explained the multitude of flags in the cemetery.

2. Potential New Lots.

The reason for meeting in the field, explained Allen Reinhard, was to see where new lots could go and, also, places where they might not go because the land was too close to the possible new boundary or because the land was too steep. For these minutes, the boundary against 268 Polpis Road will be deemed the western boundary; that at the top of the hill, also against 268 Polpis because it is 'ell' shaped, is the northern boundary; against 260 Polpis is the eastern boundary; and the southern boundary lies against the layout of the Polpis Road.

He walked over the rising land to where it descends to the western boundary and pointed out that, while there is a steep fall where it descends, there is also flat land further west that could take a number of lots. All of this is 30 or more feet east of the existing boundary to 268. Turning around, he pointed to Row C, which is the one closest to the eastern boundary and said that there is room for one, even two rows, parallel to the fence against 260 Polpis Road.

Next, he led the way to the northern boundary and the Commissioners looked at the land between the ends of the lettered rows and the existing boundary with 268 Polpis Road. Although overgrown with brush, there is room there for additional lots. He showed, also, how the surveyor's tape on the trees marked the approximate northern edge of the cemetery.

At this point, there was a growing consensus to ask the DPW to clear vegetation from those portions of the cemetery that are candidates for new lots, even if the land swap never occurs.

These are several swaths west of the mowed portion of the cemetery up to what might be the new western boundary should the swap ever occur and all of the land between the ends of the lettered rows and the existing northern boundary. Lee Saperstein moved that Allen Reinhard be authorized to file work orders with the DPW for this grubbing and mowing, Frances Karttunen seconded it, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

It was agreed that a motion to lay-out new lots and to order corner and toe markers for them, would be deferred to the next regular meeting of the Commission, namely, Wednesday, October 12th. Although no motion was made, it was agreed that the Commission would consider laying out a Row B against the eastern fence for 28 lots and extending all of the existing rows up to the northern boundary for 35 lots. Allen Reinhard pointed out that there is unassigned space between the older portion of the cemetery and the inurnment lots that will serve well as a walkway.

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

Allen Reinhard said that Commissioner McIver had been unable to attend this meeting but that the two of them would meet at the cemetery on the next day, Saturday, October 8th, for him to explain to Scott McIver what had been decided. He said that he would ask Moe Moore, Deputy DPW Director, to join him soon at the cemetery to observe the spaces to be cleared and to decide which trees should be saved.

4. Adjournment.

Adjournment came at 11:45 am by a motion to adjourn made by Barbara White, seconded by Frances Karttunen, and approved unanimously.

Next regular meeting: Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 3:00 pm, in the DPW conference room at 188 Madaket Road. For those who wish to attend virtually, a Zoom link will also be sent to Commissioners.

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

Nantucket Cemetery Projects List.

- Cemetery monument condition survey (completed); awarding of four more contracts for monument conservation.
- Split rail fence at Polpis Cemetery: installed in existing cemetery; needed in newly acquired land.
- Survey to lay out additional lots at Polpis.
- Toe and lot corner markers for new Polpis lots when laid out.
- Consolidation of lots at Newtown Cemetery with recordable ground survey.
- Fencing at the Historic Coloured Cemetery: sections installed, needed against Vesper Lane.
- Fencing and brush removal at New and Old North Cemeteries.