

**NANTUCKET CEMETERY COMMISSION**  
**Posted Meeting of November 9, 2022, at 3:00 pm**  
**DPW Conference Room, 188 Madaket Road with Zoom Connectivity**

**DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

**Attendance:** Commissioners: Frances Karttunen, Allen Reinhard (Chair), Lee Saperstein, and Barbara White; Charlie Polachi and TaKyra Renner (DPW).

**Absent:** Scott McIver.

**1. Call to Order.**

Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. He reminded participants that the session was being recorded (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjNEQIAGyp0>). A roll-call of attendees showed that a quorum existed; the commissioners approved the agenda.

**2. Public and Commissioner Comments.**

With no members of the public present, there were no public comments. Allen Reinhard announced that the DPW will be clearing brush at the Polpis Cemetery tomorrow, November 10<sup>th</sup>, in accord with the Commission's earlier decisions to lay out new lots up to the cemetery's northern and western boundaries and to 20 feet from the eastern boundary. They are due to start at 8:00 am. He said that he had a conflicting meeting at 8:00 am and would be out at the cemetery around 9:00 am. Frances Karttunen and Lee Saperstein said that they would visit the cemetery also.

**3. Approval of Minutes from October 12, 2022.**

Allen Reinhard asked for approval of the minutes of the meeting of October 12, 2022. Barbara White moved approval, Frances Karttunen seconded, and a roll-call vote was unanimously in favor.

**4. Approval of Lot Sales Since Last Meeting.**

There have been no lot sales since last month's meeting; there have been several inquiries about the application process, reported Allen Reinhard. He mentioned that he often would go out to the cemetery with prospective purchasers to show availability and, importantly, to talk about the cemetery and its history. He expressed concern that his role could be carried on and Frances Karttunen suggested that some sort of script or guidance outline be prepared so that others could provide guidance to prospective applicants. [Action: Allen Reinhard to write brief guidance outline for meeting with prospective lot applicants.]

**5. Monument Restoration Project Report: Next Steps.**

Allen Reinhard asked Frances Karttunen to tell about her visit to Old North Cemetery with Commissioner Scott McIver to inspect the restoration and repair work done there recently by Ludlow Memorial. She said that, in general, Scott McIver was happy with the quality of the repair work. Unfortunately, she said, a memorial stone broke and fell after the work was done; Scott McIver will ask them to repair it in a manner similar to another that had broken the same way much earlier and was fixed during the project.

She also repeated an earlier concern about the variability of color of the monuments in the cemetery where those that had been restored had also been treated with the D-2 Biologic and were much paler than the untreated stones. Scott McIver had told her that all stones in the cemetery should be treated with the cleansing solution. Potentially, it can be applied as a spray that does not require much manual labor. She said that she hoped that the public would recognize the work that had been done and a good way to assure that would be to have all of the stones pristine and in their original color. Allen Reinhard asked Charlie Polachi if the DPW can apply the solution and was told that the DPW is short-handed but that a work order can go on their to-do list.

Next, Frances Karttunen and Allen Reinhard discussed the Reuben Chase historical sign, which has deteriorated over the years and is now an eyesore. Should it be renewed or simply removed, she asked. She also asked if we have the authority to do either. The sign and grave site are in the middle of the cemetery at plot U-5/5a. Allen Reinhard volunteered to talk with Ray Sylvia, the Town's sign manager. While in Old North, she noticed, directly across the street in New North Cemetery, that a lilac shrub had grown up around grave markers. [Action: Allen Reinhard to talk with Ray Sylvia about replacing the Reuben Chase sign. Allen Reinhard also to look at the shrub in New North.]

Allen Reinhard recounted that Dave Crispin, cemetery consultant, had said when he was on Island, which was prior to 2013, that we should learn to cleanse stones ourselves. Charlie Polachi recounted that the DPW had engaged, as part of a community-outreach program, two high-school students as summer interns who, if they return, could be trained to apply the D-2 Biologic. Barbara White added that the high school has a service program for its students. She learned after the meeting that seniors must complete 20 hours of service; she has contacted the service program head to explain our need. Also, Scouts and Eagle Scouts have a requirement to do service work.

Barbara White, in keeping with the Commission's wish for the public to know about the restoration project asked if before and after photographs can be posted on the Commission's web site. Lee Saperstein said that all that is needed is a short report for the Meetings Posting manager to put onto the Commission's page. Charlie Polachi volunteered to assemble a short, picture-rich report. [Action: Charlie Polachi to assemble a short, pictorial report on the restoration project.]

Allen Reinhard then moved to a discussion of restoration contracts for the remaining four cemeteries: Historic Coloured, New North, Newtown, and Quaker. Should we ask Ludlow to move onto the next one? Charlie Polachi suggested that we defer this discussion until the final report of the topographic surveyor is received and all bills are paid. Only then will we have an accurate account of fund balances. He hopes to get a good estimate of the total cost for doing all

four that, minus the funds' balances, can provide the basis of an application to the Community Preservation Committee for funding the work. He noted that he and Lee Saperstein will meet with the Finance Director, as soon as the Director can schedule such a meeting, to write a warrant article that creates a budget line for operational expenses in the cemeteries. Income to that line would be from lot sales and it would probably be part of the Parks and Recreation overall budget.

## **6. Plan for Layout of Additional Lots.**

With respect to laying out new lots after the brush is cleared, Allen Reinhard wondered if we could not do it ourselves. He noted that professional surveyors are very busy and may be difficult to get. The lot lines are straight and the individual lots are all the same size so layout should not be that difficult. Once we have corner and toe markers in place, it should be relatively easy to create a map of the lots. He also asked if it was not time to raise the price for lots. Lee Saperstein and Charlie Polachi thought that, until we had our budgets straight and knew our fund balances, it was premature to consider changing the price.

Charlie Polachi reported that we are still looking for a vendor for corner and toe markers. It may be necessary to certify a local entity as a vendor and let this entity buy supplies and then sell them to the Town. He said that we need corner markers in addition to toe markers so that the crew who dig the graves can locate the holes precisely. Corner markers need to be of magnetic material so that they may be found by a metal detector. The toe markers will need to be appropriately numbered; corner markers can be plain.

Barbara White then asked about the status of the Commission's request to the Town to resolve the encroachment that exists from the neighboring property. Allen Reinhard said that he had met with Ken Beaugrand, Real Estate Specialist, and asked if the Town's action on the encroachment would put a cloud on to the title to that property. Ken Beaugrand was not sure but would check. She noted that the Commission had moved that the Town be asked to take up the encroachment issue.

From the minutes of October 12, 2022. "Lee Saperstein suggested also that, when we advise Ken Beaugrand of this action, we tell him that the encroachment into the cemetery by the owners of 268 Polpis Road has not been resolved and that the Commission would like the Polpis encroachment referred to the Town's Encroachment Committee. He repeated this request as a motion that was seconded by Scott McIver and approved unanimously."

[Action: Allen Reinhard to write formally to Ken Beaugrand asking that the Town work to resolve the encroachment.]

## **7. Supplies Needed for Additional Polpis Lots: Toe and Corner Markers.**

The purchase of corner and toe markers was discussed in the previous agenda item. It was mentioned that Neil Paterson Inc. could be certified as a vendor for these supplies.

## **8. Cemetery Commission Capital and Operating Budgets for FY 2023.**

As discussed above, the Director of the Finance Department has been asked to advise the Commission on creating approved budgets. There is a concern that, if Annual Town Meeting approval is required, then the request has to conform to the Town's budget request time line.

### **9. Old, New, Other Business and Final Comments.**

Barbara White reminded the Commission that she hoped that, by expanding the Commission's size, there could be a place for younger, interested people in becoming commissioners or, at least alternates. Allen Reinhard agreed that this was important but that, being an independent commission, it might require Annual Town Meeting approval to amend the constituent membership of the Commission. Lee Saperstein added that interested people are welcome at any meeting; if, as Barbara White reported at the last meeting, there are people interested, they should attend and participate in our meetings. He went on to say that the Commission, subject to Zoom availability, sets its own meeting schedule and it could change meeting time if that makes it easier for the candidate member to attend. If these candidates remain interested, we could explore membership opportunities for them. She said that she would inform the candidate of this offer.

Frances Karttunen said that she had met with Niles Parker, Executive Director of the Nantucket Historical Association, NHA, because he was interested in creating a short video of the Historic Coloured Cemetery. Allen Reinhard added that he had seen one done about the Oldest House and it was excellent.

### **9. Adjournment.**

Adjournment came at 3:56 pm by acclamation.

**Next regular meeting: Wednesday, December 14, 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.