

## **Minutes of Meeting Nelson Cemetery Board Monday, September 16, 2024, 3:30 PM**

**Members Present:** Elaine Giacomo, Harry Flanagan, Linda Cates, Al Stoops.

Elaine called the meeting to order at 3:36 PM.

### **Next Meeting**

Monday, October 21, 3:30 PM, in the lower level of the Library. Elaine may be away.

### **Review of Minutes**

Minutes of the August meeting were approved. The minutes were signed by the Board members present at that meeting, and Elaine will deliver them to Karen. Elaine will email Edie a copy of the minutes.

### **Task Reports by Members**

#### **Elaine:**

- Emailed July minutes to Edie.
- Keep up with developments in the Munsonville Cemetery legal issue. (Full discussion below.)
- Did not get in touch with the Select Board regarding the lime stains on the Revolutionary War Monument and did not consult with her mineral club, but will do that this month.
- Prepared and circulated agenda prior to September meeting.

#### **Harry:**

- Met with Mike Tarr regarding several issues. (Full discussion below.)

#### **Linda:**

- Did not follow up further with Nan LaSourd green burial because we think we have provided all the necessary information.

#### **Al:**

- Continued to get estimates from arborists. (Full discussion below.)

#### **Laurie:**

- Delivered signed July minutes to Karen.
- Was the Grever & Ward contact while Linda was away.
- Did not hear further from Karen Harris Connolly.
- Posted official notice of September meeting.
- Arranged for the monthly report of Cemetery expenses, which Elaine handed out.

### **Harry's Report on Meeting with Mike Tarr**

Harry reported that Mike Tarr removed the two granite posts at the Munsonville Cemetery. They are undamaged, five feet in length, 7 inches by 7 inches across, and weigh about 400 pounds each. One still has a tether ring. The posts have been dragged to a safe location in the cemetery. Harry then raked, shoveled, seeded, and hayed the area where the posts were.

Harry said he forgot to ask Mike Tarr about the pillars in Cemetery 2. He will meet with Mike Tarr again and do that.

We have concluded that we will have to hire someone to take down and remove the maple tree in the Munsonville Cemetery. We have offered the wood to various people in exchange for taking it down and no one is interested. Liability is also an issue.

### **Al's Report on the Arborist**

Following up on the quote from King Pine Tree Care (Sandri) Al sent out emails to other arborists/tree services. He met with Potter and an assistant. They said they would get back to us with a quote, but they haven't done so yet. Al said Potter's focus was on cabling and that he pointed out several trees that should be cabled. Potter said we should have a pH test done before liming. The liming should include aeration before and watering after. We will have to rely on rain.

Al said he has just heard back from Daniel Tremblay but has not met with him yet.

We have a quote of \$2,500 for liming from Sandri. We all feel that is high. We agreed that Al should try to get additional quotes, and we should do a pH test.

Al asked what the acreage of the cemeteries is. Elaine thinks she has this information and will get it to Al.

In addition to the tree in Cemetery One that needs to come down, we also need to have the tree taken down at the Munsonville Cemetery and quotes should include that. Also, we don't know if Sandri (or other tree services) will come for just one tree in a location.

Al was looking for more tree services to contact. Elaine said that Jason and Josh Hutchins now have a tree service. They are based in Troy. Linda said they just used someone that they were very pleased with. She will find out who that was and pass it on to Al. (It was Wilcox.) Harry said he would contact Joe Merrill, who lives on Murdough Hill Road and has done work for him. Harry will also pick up a pH test at Agway.

After much discussion, we concluded that we should have just Cemetery One limed, as that is what needs it most, plus have the one tree taken down in Cemetery One and the one tree in Munsonville Cemetery. The Board voted to authorize Al to solicit bids, circulate the bids by email to the full Board and then contract to have this work done.

Elaine thanked Al for all his hard work on this.

### **Cemetery Budget**

We have \$8,000 in our budget for the Munsonville Cemetery, which we hoped to own this year and would therefore be able to spend the funds on Munsonville items. That is not going to happen. Laurie contacted Edie and asked if we could use that money for another purpose, specifically tree work in the Nelson cemeteries. Edie said that, yes, we can do that. Although it is allowed, Linda expressed her hesitation in spending funds on an item not specifically authorized in the budget approved by the town.

We reviewed our budget year to date. We have spent \$6,591.77 of our \$35,445 budget. We will still have invoices coming in for (1) the maintenance work done by Michael Shawver, (2) the legal work related to Munsonville and (3) the design of the new cemetery.

### **Elaine's Report on the Munsonville Cemetery**

Elaine was pleased to report that Gary Kinyon seems to be on top of this issue. The State needed a detailed breakout of perpetual care funds and Tom Newcomb was able to provide that. The process is proceeding from there. (Following the meeting Elaine circulated emails relating to this progress.)

### **Linda's Report on the New Cemetery Design**

Linda reported that Grever and Ward had just been in contact with us that they are starting work on the design. We had hoped it would be ready for this meeting, but perhaps it will be for the next meeting. Linda will follow up with them in a week. (Update, two days after the meeting we received the preliminary designs.)

Grever and Ward worked with Laurie during Linda's recent absence. They advised that we should have slightly larger plots for green burials (5'x12'), which we agreed.

### **Civil War Monument**

Elaine tried cleaning the Civil War monument, but did not achieve the results she was looking for. Al advised the Select Board of the problem, and they authorized Keene Monument to come and clean it. It looks great.

Al reported that he has mentioned to Bill Waterston (active member of the Church) that the monument needs landscaping.

### **Headstone Cleaning**

The Board will clean headstones in Cemetery One at 1:00 on Wednesday, September 25. (Update, Harry and Laurie will not be able to join us.)

**Having no further business, Elaine adjourned the meeting at 4:19 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board

## **SEPTEMBER 2024 TO-DO LIST**

### **Elaine:**

- Email August minutes to Edie.
- Hand deliver August minutes to Karen.
- Get information on cemetery acreage to Al.
- Keep up with developments regarding the Munsonville Cemetery
- Get in touch with the Select Board regarding the lime stains on the Revolutionary War Monument and consult Mineral Club for advice.
- Prepare and circulate agenda prior to October meeting.

### **Harry:**

- Meet with Mike Tarr about the pillars in Cemetery Two.
- Get pH test from Agway.

### **Linda:**

- Do September minutes.
- Follow-up with Grever and Ward.

### **Al:**

- Continue to get estimates from arborist and tree removal services.
- Contract to have liming done in Cemetery One and two trees removed: the one in Cemetery One and the one in Munsonville.

### **Laurie:**

- Post official notice of October meeting.
- Get the monthly report of Cemetery expenses from Edie for the October meeting.

### **Everyone:**

- Clean gravestones in Cemetery 1 on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM.

### **To Be Assigned:**

- Track down members of the Melville family regarding repairs to the Melville tomb.
- Get in touch with Jon Buschbaum regarding a ground well in the new cemetery.