

MINUTES OF MEETING
Nelson Cemetery Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 17, 2018 6:30 PM

Members Present: Elaine Giacomo, Harry Flanagan, Linda Cates

The new meeting time will be 6:00 PM.

Elaine and Harry welcomed new member Linda, who is filling out Candyce's term, and provided her with information about the Cemetery Board. Elaine will tell the Selectmen that Linda would be joining the Board. Linda needs to get sworn in by the Town Clerk. We also need to find a replacement for Sarah Wilson. We could also use an alternate to fill out quorum; Elaine will ask Maureen Lord.

There has been no quorum at recent meetings and therefore, no minutes.

Elaine reported that there were quite a few people buried in the past two months. Bud French does the grave excavation. In blocking out the plots for burial, she discovered that cornerstones were hard to find. Harry will learn to assist with finding cornerstones and marking the location for excavation. There is an interment in August and she has been unable to locate the cornerstones. Harry and Linda offered to help her look.

Drainage work is needed in the current new cemetery on the hill running down beyond the Prawdzik stone. Harry will talk to Phil Hamilton and report back.

The three of us will meet at the gate to the new cemetery at 10 AM on Wednesday, July 18, to review the drainage issue, look for cornerstones and perhaps select headstones for cleaning.

Elaine reported that a woman wants to sell her family plots in the Munsonville Cemetery. Since the plots are very old and the deed is long gone, Elaine discussed the matter with the Select Board, and they agreed that she may sell them for \$350.00 per plot, which is the current rate. Once she is able to contact the woman, she will provide the woman's name and phone number to anyone interested in purchasing a plot. The town clerk will then assign the purchaser a new deed.

Elaine also reported that there have been kids playing hide and seek in the Old Nelson Cemetery. She is worried about headstones being knocked over and people being injured. She will talk to the parent.

Tree work is needed as there is dead wood to be removed. The town uses Asplundh and Edie offered to get a quote from them. Frank Stuckey in Stoddard gave Elaine a quote of \$7,000. Elaine will follow up with them.

We need to make the road more visible in the New Cemetery and to swing it wider coming from the Old Cemetery. There is a pile of pea stone in the Newest Cemetery that could be used. Harry will also talk to Phil Hamilton about spreading the pea stone.

Henry Fuller donated the land across the road to expand the Cemetery. Since available graves are becoming increasingly scarce in the New Cemetery, it's time to begin work on that. The property was surveyed 15 years ago and 3 different sketches were done of how it could be laid out. Elaine will get this information to Linda who will talk to Bert

Wingerson about it. We will need to designate pauper plots as well as a separate area for cremains.

We would like to change access to the cemeteries into a one way system, with entry via the Old Cemetery gate and exit through the New Cemetery gate. Signs will be needed at both gates.

Elaine said that the Munsonville Cemetery sign has rotted and needs to be replaced. She will request funds from the Munsonville Cemetery Trust fund for its replacement. We have woodworkers in Nelson. We should get something that will last, granite, perhaps. Elaine will get a price from Keene Signworks.

We will take turns taking minutes at meetings. Elaine will do this month.

The Cemetery Board agreed to do headstone cleaning the last week of September when we are all here. Two hours is about what is needed. We will set a date and time and Elaine will write an article for the Grapevine describing the project and asking for help. Slate headstones are old and brittle, and marble is very delicate, so we must choose with care. Laurie Smith and Anita helped last year. We have a pump sprayer and four gallons of D2, which was used with great success last fall. We will need to purchase nylon scrub brushes, plastic scrapers, sponges, and bring old toothbrushes, rags and buckets. There is no running water in the Cemetery, so Elaine will ask the Coughlins if we can get water from their hose.

We have no Sexton. Michael Shawver is doing grounds maintenance this year and his work has been very good.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 21 at 6:00, in the Library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Giacomo, Chair

Notes from the Cemetery Walk on Wednesday, July 18

We would like to repair or at least stabilize the old wrought iron fence around the Harris plot. Elaine will try to find Harris descendants to check with about this.

The road improvement in the New Cemetery will be pea stone tracks only. Harry will get a quote. The road will need to swing wider coming out of the Old Cemetery as Michael Stewart's plot, which was a triangle, is being squared up.

We probably need two trenches, running from above the Prawdzik headstone down the hill beyond. Harry will talk to Phil Hamilton.

We looked for and located several missing cornerstones. Harry will stop by Tuckers and get a metal rod to make the search process easier.