

**Minutes of Meeting
Nelson Cemetery Board
Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 4:00 PM**

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

Elaine called the meeting to order just after 4:00 PM.

Review/Approve Minutes of the Last Meeting

Minutes of the April 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved as written. The minutes were drafted by Linda and finalized by Elaine.

Full Burial Last Weekend

We discussed the full burial on Saturday that did not go as smoothly as we would have liked. There was only five days' notice. The plot was on a steep bank and therefore the hole had to be dug very deep to comply with the six feet regulation. Two boulders had to be removed. This was Michael Shawver's first burial for us. We were not working with any of our usual contacts. The concrete coffin enclosure was delivered from Concord and the other arrangements were handled by a funeral home in West Hartford. Due to the depth of the grave, for safety reasons the mourners were not allowed to gather around the grave. We heard complaints of equipment and workers visible during the service. Elaine spoke to the family today.

Memorial Day Plans

Elaine updated us on plans for the Memorial Day event on Sunday, May 30. The parade will be at noon from the Village. There will not be a gun salute as Michael Blaudschun is out of town. The minister from the Nelson Church will be there. Susan Peery is arranging for members of the Town Band to be there. Elaine has arranged for cub scouts and boy scouts to plant geraniums at the veterans' graves. Elaine and Al will do the flags and medallions in the Nelson Cemetery and Harry has already done the Munsonville Cemetery.

Cemetery Maintenance

Al mentioned again the two dead trees in Cemetery 1 that need to come down. Elaine has talked to Edie about it and Edie will talk to Mike Tarr.

Michael Shawver will mow before Memorial Day weekend.

Update on Veterans' Graves

Al reported that Elaine had sent him a list of 93 veterans in the Nelson cemeteries. There are some discrepancies on the list which they are trying to sort out. Al said we have 73 medallions. He picked up medallions and flags from Town Hall. Harry reported that there are six or eight veterans' graves in the Munsonville that he could not find.

We asked the question - do we honor all veterans or only the ones who served during wartime? The consensus is that we honor all veterans.

Plans for New Cemetery 3

Elaine reported that Tom Daly of Cemetery Helpful Solutions is coming to do a site assessment on June 15. The cost is \$395. He was recommended by the New Hampshire Cemetery Association of which we are a member. We all plan to be present for his site assessment.

Al will follow up on the issue of whether we could swap a piece of the wooded area of the new cemetery site for a piece of open land. In the meantime, Elaine suggests we lay out some new cremation plots in the area that used to be a loop road in Cemetery 2.

Someone asked if Cemeteries 1 and 2 extend into the woods. Elaine said they do not.

Munsonville Cemetery Maintenance and Trust Fund Update

Elaine reported that she has been in communication with Tom Newcombe about the Trust Fund for the Munsonville Cemetery and that we are allowed to use those funds for the upkeep of that cemetery. Elaine will get an estimate for the new sign that is needed. Harry will get an estimate from Keene Monument for 13 graves stones that need repair. He will mark them with orange flags.

Elaine said that going forward the retaining wall will eventually need attention.

Elaine also told us that she has just learned that there is another acre for expansion of the Munsonville Cemetery. It lies in the wooded area just behind the existing cemetery, and is accessible via a right of way to the right of the present cemetery.

Cemetery Records Database

Elaine reported that she talked to Gordon Peery. He said that the software that Candyce Fulford used is complex and out of date. He can meet with Elaine in July or August to discuss this further. He suggested that Tom Newcombe might be able to help if it's beyond Gordon. We need an accessible database.

Replacing Marty on the Cemetery Board

Elaine said that she didn't realize that Marty's term expires this year. Harry has a possible replacement and he will ask her again. Elaine suggested another person who Linda will talk to.

Next Meetings

- Tuesday, June 15 midmorning. Site visit to Cemetery 3 with Tom Daly of Cemetery Helpful Solutions. Exact time to be determined.
- Tuesday, July 20, 4:00 PM in Town Hall
- Tuesday, August 17, 4:00 PM in Town Hall

Linda will invite Leslie Downing, Chair of the Harrisville Cemetery Board to one of our next meetings to update us on their activities, especially regarding green burials.

Elaine adjourned the meeting shortly after 5:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,