

# **Minutes of Meeting Nelson Cemetery Board Monday, April 17, 2023, 3:30 PM**

**Members Present:** Elaine Giacomo, Harry Flanagan, Linda Cates, and Laurie Smith. Al Stoops arrived later.

Elaine called the meeting to order at 3:39 PM.

## **Next Meeting**

Monday, May 22, 3:30 PM. Location to be announced.

## **To Do**

Elaine – Send digital minutes to Edie.

Elaine – Request updated information from Michael Shawver, copying Edie on her email and forwarding Michael's response to Edie.

Elaine – Get the plants for Memorial Day

Elaine – Help draft a new warrant article regarding the Munsonville Cemetery

Harry – Talk to John Bunce about Munsonville Cemetery.

Harry – Talk to Ron Ferguson about the Munsonville Cemetery

Harry – Handle the May 15 cremains interment in Munsonville

Harry – Purchase 50 flags

Linda – Contact Leslie Downing about a field trip to the Harrisville cemeteries when weather is better

Linda – Do the minutes

Linda – Check for minutes for Michael Shawver's fees

Linda – Look into Crypt Keeper Software

Laurie – Deliver signed minutes to Edie.

Laurie – Flag the broken stones in Cemetery I

Laurie – Help draft a new warrant article for Munsonville Cemetery

Laurie – Research Cemetery Find software

Everyone – Look at additional space behind Old Cemetery One

Everyone – Spring Clean-Up May 5, 10:00 AM

Everyone - Get year-end business done at November meetings in future.

Everyone – Consider a walking tour of the Nelson Cemetery.

## **Review of Minutes**

We reviewed the minutes of the March meeting, which were drafted by Linda with additions and corrections by Elaine. The minutes were approved as previously corrected. The minutes were signed and passed to Laurie for delivery to Edie.

## **Update on Jon Buschbaum's Proposal**

The Select Board approved Jon Buschbaum's proposal and waived the requirement for a second estimate. Laurie emailed Jon the okay. Elaine also contacted him and received a return email clarifying several points.

The Select Board agreed that Mike Tarr would dig the required test pits. Jon will be in touch with Mike Tarr to coordinate

## **Update on Michael Shawver's Proposal**

Elaine reported Michael Shawver's proposal was \$9,990 including a discount for the Town. He will provide a certificate of insurance and a statement of work outlining his duties for April 15 through October 15, including mowing and leaf blowing. It has been some time since he last updated this information. Elaine will copy Edie on her email to Michael and will forward his reply with the information to Edie.

### **Report on NH Cemetery Association**

Elaine, Linda and Laurie reported on the NH Cemetery Conference. The topics were stone walls, gravestone QR codes and getting information on past burials from local funeral homes, local newspapers and town reports. Concord cemeteries have a group of volunteers working on this. During the Q & A session we heard about four cemetery record keeping systems. Linda will look into Crypt Keeper Software, and Laurie will research Cemetery Find. We learned that gravestones are privately owned while the land belongs to the cemetery. Seabrook reported that they got a cemetery listed on NH Historic Places and were able to get a Moose Plate grant of \$30,000 to fix cemetery stone walls.

### **Upcoming Burials**

Harry offered to handle the burial of cremains in the Munsonville Cemetery on May 19. Elaine reminded him to get a check from the family for Michael Shawver and the transmittal certificate from the family and give it to Karen, our Town Clerk. There will also be a Wilder full burial in Munsonville in May. Linda said she would check the minutes to find Michael Shawver's fees.

### **Set a date for Spring Clean-Up**

The Spring Clean-Up will take place on Friday, May 5, 10:00 AM in Cemetery One. Al has to work. Linda is away.

### **Update on lunch with Bert Wingerson**

Linda and Al had a pleasant lunch with Bert Wingerson to discuss the cemeteries. They reported that no new information came to light. They wrestled with many of the same issues when Bert was on the Board that we wrestle with now.

### **Memorial Day Plans**

Harry will purchase an additional 50 flags. Elaine will get the plants from the garden place on Dunbar St.

### **Munsonville Cemetery**

Elaine sent the letter to Gary Kinyon after our last meeting, with a copy to the Select Board. Elaine and Laurie said they will sit with Edie and draft a new warrant article for next Town Meeting. Two of the tree funds from Munsonville are perpetual care funds.

### **Other Business**

Harry said that we really need a water spigot for the new cemetery. Others said that the water line would freeze, people would leave it running, etc. We wondered about water barrels as a solution.

Laurie mentioned the broken stones in Cemetery One and the trees down around the stones in the back corner. She will flag the broken stones.

Elaine is waiting to receive the deed from Allison Smith then Harry will buy the plot for \$500.

**Having no further business**, Elaine adjourned the meeting at 4:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board