

Minutes of Meeting Nelson Cemetery Board Monday, August 21, 2023, 3:30 PM

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

Elaine called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM in the lower level of the Library.

Next Meeting

Monday, September 18, 3:30 PM, in the lower level of the Library. (Linda will not be able to attend.)

To Do

- Elaine – Ask Troy Tucker for an estimate to repair the Gate to Cemetery Two.
- Elaine – Advise Selectboard that we prefer the Petition to Quiet Title option.
- Elaine – Let Harry know if he should take care of the Sept 15 Munsonville burial.
- Elaine – Advise Michael Shawver that cremation holes should be three feet deep.
- Elaine – Ask Karen to keep an envelope of cornerstone checks for Harry.
- Elaine – Okay payment for Jon Buschbaum.
- Elaine – Advise Selectboard that we don't think Halloween tour is appropriate.
- Elaine – Inform Anne Johnson that her daughter can purchase two plots.

- Harry – Follow up to get the cornerstones installed for himself and the Lothrops.
- Harry – Get a price for the Munsonville sign.
- Harry – Develop a list of all veterans buried in our cemeteries.

- Linda – Arrange with Leslie Downing a visit to Harrisville scattering garden.
- Linda – Do August minutes
- Linda – Provide a more complete report on Crypt Keeper Software

- Al – Contact Kirk Dale for an estimate on Cemetery Two gate repair.

- Laurie – Deliver signed July minutes to Edie.

- Everyone – Research cemetery design firms
- Everyone - Get year-end business done at November meetings in future.

Review of Minutes

Harry, Al and Laurie reviewed, approved and signed the minutes of the July meeting. The minutes were given to Laurie to pass along to Edie.

Gary Kinyon Update

Elaine briefed us on Gary Kinyon's response regarding the Munsonville Cemetery, which she had previously shared with us via email. He says there are two options: 1) Petition to Quiet Title, (which was suggested by Edie immediately when the question arose) and 2) file suit under the Voluntary Corporation Law. After discussion, we unanimously agreed to advise the Selectboard that we would prefer to proceed with the first option, Petition to Quiet Title. Edie has indicated that she would like to proceed with both options. We will leave that up to the Selectboard.

Update on Burials

Elaine provided a list of recent and upcoming burials:

May 19, Jean Wilder, Munsonville, cremation

June 19 John Hansel, Cemetery Two cremation

July 8 Gerhard Bedding, Cemetery Two cremation

August 19 Ethan Murray, Cemetery Two cremation

September 15 Daughter of Frank and Dot Ball, Munsonville cremation

September 17 Buffum wife and son, Cemetery Two cremation

September 25 Warren Hammack, Cemetery Two cremation

October 21 Francis and Jacqueline Felix, Cemetery Two cremation

Al suggested that we include burial information in the minutes as another source of that information. He also suggested that we include the plot number, if applicable.

Harry offered to help Elaine with the upcoming burials. Elaine said perhaps he could take care of the Munsonville one.

Depth of Holes for Cremation Burials

Linda reported that the hole dug for her nephew's urn was not deep enough. Elaine mentioned that this also happened in the case of Susan Hansel's son. There are no regulations in New Hampshire regarding the depth for cremation burials; however the guidelines suggest three feet. We decided that Elaine will advise Michael Shawver that holes for cremation burials should be three feet deep in future.

Update and Discussion on Sale of Plots

Elaine reported Hope Lothrop purchased plot 330. Ellen Levy has plot 322. Warren Hammock and Pamela White have plots 131 and 133, which are side by side.

Nina and Dorothy Iselin want to buy cremation plots.

Elaine said that she would like to sell Plots 331 and 332 to the Johnson daughter as has been requested. We agreed.

The price of burial plots is currently \$500, plus \$250 for four cornerstones, subject to price changes of the cornerstones. Cremation plots are currently \$300. The amount due for the cornerstones should be paid by check made out to Keene Monument. We will ask Karen to keep the checks in an envelope for Harry.

Elaine suggested dropping a small piece of metal under the cornerstones to make them easier to find in the future. Maybe we can recommend this to Keene Monument as a service they can provide.

Harry is our liaison with Keene Monument. He is currently getting cornerstones for himself and for the Lothrops.

Discussion of Jon Buschbaum's Report

We reviewed the map provided by Jon Buschbaum and discussed the report he presented at the July meeting. We agreed to accept his completed work and recommend that he be paid.

Discussion of Cemetery Designers

Linda suggested that we should get estimates for the design of the new cemetery now so that an amount can be included in our budget for 2024. Laurie mentioned there is a company in Buffalo that does cemetery design and has a website. Elaine has a friend that she can ask for suggestions. We all agreed to research cemetery design firms.

Review of Cemetery Two Map

Elaine said that we need to click on tabs to print all five pages. The map has not been updated for the sale of Plot 330 to Hope Lothrop and the sale of Plots 331 and 332 to the Johnson daughter.

Update of Cemetery Two Gate Repair

Al still has to contact Kirk Dale and Elaine still has to contact Troy Tucker.

Munsonville Cemetery Update

Harry reported that since there are no trees in the Munsonville Cemetery, the tree debris that Michael Shawver threw over the fence actually belonged to that landowner. Nevertheless, Michael will now throw tree debris over the back wall onto town property.

Harry will get a price for a laminated wood sign from Mark Sandri.

Proposed Halloween Tour of the Cemetery

Elaine reported that Jen Pepin of Munsonville asked about doing a Halloween tour in the cemetery with people dressed as old buried people, spooky music and fake fog, at night with candles. Jen is part of an ad hoc Halloween Event Committee. After discussing liability and respect issues, we unanimously concluded the "The Cemetery Board doesn't think it is an appropriate use of the Cemetery." Elaine will pass that on to the Select Board and let them take it from there.

Schedule Visit to Harrisville Scattering Garden

Linda will try to schedule this with Leslie Downing for 3:00 on Monday, September 18, just before our next Board meeting.

Report on Crypt Keeper Software

Linda will bring her laptop to the October meeting to demonstrate this affordable software.

Flowers for Memorial Day

Laurie was not happy with the marigolds used in the cemetery this year. They looked dinky. She asked that we rethink it for next year. Geraniums are expensive and scarce. Maybe we should just put flowers at the gates instead of on the veteran's graves.

Harry will try to get a list of all veterans in our cemeteries.

Having no further business, Elaine adjourned the meeting at 4:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board