

Minutes of Meeting Nelson Cemetery Board Monday, August 18, 2025, 3:30 PM

Members Present: Elaine Giacomo, Harry Flanagan and Laurie Smith.

Al Stoops was in Maine. Linda Cates had a previously scheduled appointment.

Elaine called the meeting to order at 3:37 PM. In Linda Cates' absence, Laurie Smith volunteered to take the meeting minutes.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, September 15, 3:30 PM, in the lower level of the Library.

We decided to start our meeting by walking up to inspect the new cemetery since it was such a beautiful day:

Mike Tarr had mowed the area we have decided to develop first. The grasses have grown in a bit since he mowed. We wonder what it would look like if it were mowed with a lawn mower instead of a tractor. Our initial opinion is that we can't see any reason why road construction couldn't begin. Harry volunteered to talk to Mike Tarr about that.

We then noticed the dilapidated shed in the corner. Elaine will talk to Brenna, of the Nelson Select Board, about how best to get rid of the shed and its contents. The contents are primarily a few landscaping tools and two old lawn mowers.

We all agreed that the stone wall running along the edge should be cleared off of the unsightly brush and some of the trees that are covering it.

We returned to the library lower level meeting room to continue the meeting.

Review of Minutes:

Minutes of the June meeting were reviewed and approved as presented. The minutes were signed by the Board members present at that meeting. Laurie will deliver the signed minutes to Karen. Elaine will email a copy to Edie.

Task Reports by Members:

Elaine:

- Emailed copy of May minutes to Edie.
- Kept up with developments regarding the Munsonville Cemetery. Not final yet but getting close.
- Asked Mike Tarr to mow a section of the new cemetery so we could see land contours.
- Still needs to contact Catherine Boyd for information about green burials.
- Prepared and circulated the agenda prior to August meeting.
- Still waiting for an estimate from Michael Shawver about liming the Old Cemetery trees. He agreed to the job. Elaine will talk to him again.
- Asked Mike Tarr to contact John LaCroix, (603) 305-4825, to coordinate work on the New Cemetery road and grading.

- The Barndt nieces found the deeds to the two Barndt plots and they are listed as heirs.
- The Hutchins family has two unpaid plots. One is for Josh and his wife. The other is for Ricky and Debbie. Ricky is already buried there but it has not been paid for. Elaine will call Josh to get payment for both plots.

Harry:

- Will speak to Joe Merrill about an estimate for the stump removal once the tree in the Munsonville Cemetery is taken down. We reminded ourselves we do not yet own that cemetery.
- Will speak to Mike Tarr about getting the new cemetery road done and ask if Mike thinks that he needs to have the land surveyed beforehand. If he isn't sure, Harry will suggest that he call John LaCroix.

Linda:

- Did the June minutes
- Contacted Grever & Ward and reported to all members via email.

Al:

- Got limited permission to get water from Owen Iselin with a hose when we are cleaning headstones. There is only one faucet and Owen is concerned about stress on his well. It's easier than bring water from home, but cleaning gravestones will still require hauling water.
- Didn't research practices and regulations for green burials.
- Didn't talk to Mike Tarr about further improvements to the Cemetery II gate.

Laurie:

- Delivered signed June minutes to Karen.
- Posted official notice of August meeting.
- Got the key for the August meeting.
- Did not research practices and regulations for green burials this month, but will.
- Finished reading Diocese of Manchester Rules and Regulations and made notes. Happily passed it on to Elaine.
- Has watered and fed the geraniums at the Memorial markers.
- Did some trimming of shrubs along stone wall of Nelson Cemetery. Cut down a pine tree that was growing **IN** the wall!
- Did some trimming around the entrance to the new cemetery.

Everyone:

- Considered the hemlock hedge and shrubbery growing out of the stone walls.
- Discussed the dead pine tree that overhangs Cemetery II, but is on the Coughlin property. No decision made.
- Elaine did not see any chips on the Quigley headstones.

Update on Grave Sales and Burials:

Beverly Kerber of Granite Lake purchased two plots in Cemetery II. Elaine and Harry will mark them off for the placement of the cornerstones. Harry will order the cornerstones from Keene Monument. We don't know how their payment was handled,

but Elaine thinks that Beverly may have written one check for the total amount instead of a separate check to Keene Monument; she will check with Karen Castelli. Harry mentioned that the cost of four cornerstones has increased from \$350 to \$450, which means that we will need to charge the purchasers more going forward.

Nadine and Buzz Loughlin will buy one of the cremation plots for their son's remains. They may buy additional plots but are undecided on placement. To be continued.

Budget Discussion:

Of the \$32,315.00 in our budget for 2025 we have spent \$5,375.00 as of 8/12/25, mostly on mowing.

Other Business:

Having no further business, Elaine adjourned the meeting at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Smith for the Nelson Cemetery Board

August 2025 TO-DO LIST

Elaine:

- Email copy of June minutes to Edie.
- Keep after Michael Shawver for a quote on liming trees.
- Keep up with developments regarding the Munsonville Cemetery.
- Follow up with Catherine Boyd for information about green burials.
- Prepare and circulate the agenda prior to September meeting.
- Mark out plot for Kerber cornerstones.
- Follow up with the Hutchins family regarding the unpaid plot.

Harry:

- Ask Joe Merrill to include stumping as a separate item on his estimate for removing the tree in Munsonville.
- Speak to Mike Tarr about getting the road done in the new cemetery.
- Order cornerstones for Kerber plot and clarify payment.
- Will count how many downed and tilted grave stones are in the Munsonville Cemetery and report to Elaine. She wants to get a repair estimate from Peterborough Marble and Granite.

Al:

- At some point, talk to Mike Tarr about further improvements to the gate to Cemetery II.
- Research green cemeteries

Laurie:

- Deliver signed June minutes to Karen.
- Post official notice of September meeting.
- Get the key for the September meeting.
- Do August minutes.

Everyone:

- Bring clippers to trim shrubs from stone walls.

To Be Assigned:

- Track down members of the Melville family regarding repairs to the Melville tomb.