

Minutes of Meeting Nelson Cemetery Board Monday, August 17, 2026, 3:30 PM

Members Present: Harry Flanagan, Linda Cates, Laurie Smith. Elaine Giacomo and Al Stoops were absent by prior arrangement.

Harry called the meeting to order in the lower level of the Library at 3:34 PM.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, September 21, 3:30 PM. Meet in the lower level of the Library.

Review of Minutes:

The July minutes were reviewed and approved as revised. The minutes were signed by the Board members present. Laurie will deliver the signed copy to Karen and Linda will email a copy to Edie.

Task Reports by Members:

Elaine:

- Emailed approved June minutes to Edie.
- Gave a copy of the revised "Cemetery Board Member cheat sheet," which reflects the new costs, to Bill Mullen.
- Give Karen a copy of our newly updated prices for plots, and cornerstones and interments.
- With Harry, arranged installation of Chase and Sousa cornerstones. (See discussion below.)
- Met with the Select Board on July 29, regarding Game of Village. (See discussion below.)
- Prepared and circulated the agenda prior to August meeting.

Harry:

- Did not contact the American Legion post in Keene to get additional veteran markers, but will do so.
- Followed-up with Jeremy Hamilton regarding work at the Munsonville Cemetery. Sent an email this week. No response yet. Will keep trying.
- With Elaine, arranged installation of Chase and Sousa cornerstones. (See discussion below.)

Linda:

- Did July minutes.

Al:

- Develop list of all veterans in our cemeteries. Ongoing.
- Research green burials. Ongoing.

Laurie:

- Delivered the signed June minutes to Karen.
- Followed-up with Andover Marker regarding our order. (See discussion below.)
- Posted official notice of August meeting.
- Got the key for the August meeting.

Everyone:

- Review the Rules and Regulations to be discussed at a later meeting.
- Review the four cemetery record keeping software packages. This is on hold until the marking of the New Cemetery has been completed.

To Be Assigned:

- Look into getting a water tank for the New Cemetery.

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

Game of Village Discussion:

Laurie briefed Linda and Harry on the July 29 Selectboard meeting regarding the Game of Village children playing in the cemetery. The Selectboard agrees that it is not appropriate. The minutes of that meeting were referenced.

Elaine wrote that she wondered if we should follow-up with Margaret Iselin. Laurie thinks we should. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

Cemetery Rules and Regulations:

In light of the situation with the Game of Village children playing in the cemetery, we should review our Rules and Regulations. Laurie brought in samples of several other cemetery's Rules and Regulations dealing with cemetery etiquette and behavior. For example, the Amherst, NH, regulations prohibit recreational activities and say, "Cemetery grounds are NOT a place for children to play."

Our Rules and Regulations also need to be revised in preparation for the New Cemetery, especially relating to green burials and scattering garden procedures. For the next meeting, Harry will try to get Harrisville's Rules and Regulations regarding green burials. Linda will look for the NH State regulations.

Any revision of the Rules and Regulations will include the stipulation that the Cemetery Board has the right to change the Rules and Regulations at any time.

Recent and Upcoming Grave Purchases, Burials and Gravestones:

Wendy Kasper's father, Robert Forney, was buried on Sunday, August 9, the day after Old Home Day, with only the family present. Bill Mullen has been paid for his services.

Corey Spydell is purchasing a plot in Cemetery 2. She had an appointment with Elaine, but that has now been postponed until later in the month.

Cornerstones for Sousa have been installed.

Harry reported that the cornerstones were slated for installation before he and Elaine had the opportunity to mark out the plots. The Sousa plot was fine, but the Chase plot that was supposed to be 5 by 5 feet is actually only about 30 inches across on one end. It's because of the serpentine nature of the stone wall. Elaine and Harry marked out another plot for the Chase family and it is being considered. Harry spoke to Peterborough Marble and Granite, and they said they will move the cornerstones when we are ready.

Updates on Markers:

Laurie reported that the markers for the New Cemetery have arrived. She said that the order includes six veteran's markers which she put upstairs. It was \$15.00 each for the veteran's markers. Harry has not yet, but will try to get free veteran's markers from the American Legion post in Keene.

Update of Surveying of the New Cemetery:

Laurie reported that Jon Buschbaum told her his bid (which has already been approved by the Selectboard) for \$1,500 to place the markers in the new Cemetery was too low. He asked to be paid in full up front. Laurie said that he could request a 50% up front payment directly from the Selectboard. Laurie will follow-up with Jon about the timing of the marking of the cemetery and will arrange for some of us to be present when that is being done.

Gravestone Cleaning Day:

We will clean gravestones from 1 to 3 PM on Monday, September 21, prior to our regular 3:30 Cemetery Board meeting in the lower level of the Library.

Other Business:

Laurie reported that she and her husband Jonathan have been clearing along the stone wall in the New Cemetery to the left of the gate. She will at some point ask Mike Tarr to haul away the cuttings. Thank you, Laurie and Jonathan!

Having no further business, Harry adjourned the meeting at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board

SEPTEMBER TO-DO LIST

Elaine:

- Meet with Corey Spydell regarding purchase of a plot.
- With Harry, arrange moving of the Chase cornerstones when the family has decided on a plot.
- Prepare and circulate the agenda prior to September meeting.

Harry:

- Contact the American Legion post in Keene to get additional veteran markers.
- Follow-up with Jeremy Hamilton regarding work at the Munsonville Cemetery.
- With Elaine, arrange the moving of the Chase cornerstones when the family has decided on a plot.

Linda:

- Do August minutes.
- Email approved July minutes to Edie.
- Review NH State Law and Regulations regarding green burials and other cemetery issues.

Al:

- Develop a list of all veterans in our Cemeteries.
- Research green burials.

Laurie:

- Deliver the signed July minutes to Karen.
- Continue to follow-up with Jon Buschbaum regarding placing the markers in the New Cemetery.
- Post official notice of September meeting.
- Get the key for the September meeting.

Everyone:

- Clean gravestones on September 21, 1 – 3 PM.
- Review the Rules and Regulations to be discussed at a later meeting.
- Review the four cemetery record keeping software packages, after marking of the New Cemetery has been completed.

To Be Assigned:

- Look into getting a water tank for the New Cemetery.
- Track down members of the Melville family regarding repairs to the Melville tomb.