

**Minutes of Meeting
Nelson Cemetery Board
Monday, February 20, 2023, 3:30 PM**

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

Guest Present: Jon Buschbaum, Land Surveyor

We met in the lower level of the Library.

Elaine called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

Next Meeting

Monday, March 20, at 3:30 PM in the lower level of the Library. This is our regular meeting schedule, the third Monday of each month at 3:30 PM.

To Do

Elaine – Send Jon Buschbaum a map of New Cemetery Three.

Elaine – Bring a copy of the 1890 Munsonville Cemetery deed to the next meeting.

Elaine – Contact Gary Kinyon regarding the Munsonville Cemetery

Elaine – Tell Edie not to renew our membership in the New England Cemetery Association.

Linda – Ask Leslie Downing how the Harrisville Cemetery keeps its records.

Laurie – Deliver signed minutes to Edie.

Everyone – Set a date for Spring Clean Up at the next meeting.

Everyone - Look at additional space behind Old Cemetery I when weather permits.

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

Guest, Land Surveyor, Jon Buschbaum

When Mike Blandschun learned at the recent Select Board meeting that we were looking for someone to do the elevations in the New Cemetery III, he recommended Jon Buschbaum. Laurie followed up with Jon and arranged for him to attend today's meeting. Jon lives on Murdough Hill Road.

Jon has looked at the property. He asked if we have a map. Elaine does have a map and will send it to him. Laurie had a copy of the deed which she handed to Jon. The new cemetery is designated Lot 1. Elaine explained that the property line runs all the way down through the woods to the road.

After discussion, the Board agreed that we are looking for a topo map of the property, not a map of the actual elevation.

Jon said we should find out where the water table is. We described the test pits that were dug last year. He said they would like to dig a couple of pits, 6 or 7 feet deep and analyze the soil. He said it's moderately well drained soil there.

After discussion, the Board agreed that it would be good to have this work done to determine the water table.

Jon asked us if we wanted a survey. We described the work Harry and Al did previously identifying the corners of the property and marking the property line across the field. Jon would locate all the corners and mark them. He would overlay Tom Flavin's survey onto the topo map he develops.

After discussion, the Board agreed that while we don't need a formal survey, we would like to have the complete boundary survey that Jon is suggesting.

Jon will send an estimate for this work (topo map, water table, boundary survey) to Laurie. Laurie asked that he break out the cost of each item separately. She also said that Edie will need the estimate, job description, tax ID, insurance, I-9 and W-9.

Jon left the meeting with our thanks after providing us with much interesting information.

After he left, Elaine said that we may need to get two estimates. Linda wondered if our first estimate, which was just the rental equipment cost for the elevations, might serve as one estimate.

Review of Last Month's To Do List

Elaine - Did not talk to Jon Bunce about Munsonville Cemetery land as it turns out the land abutter is the Town.

Elaine - Did not check the archives about Munsonville Cemetery land as it turns out Edie has all the background information.

Elaine - Scheduled the Select Board meeting which took place on February, 8.

Elaine - Checked her records and found the copy of the Munsonville deed dated around 1890. Several people donated little chunks of land for the cemetery.

Elaine - Reported that we cannot space out the terms of the Cemetery Board members as the terms are required to be three years.

Elaine - Has the new lock and key for Cemetery Two on her desk; she will bring it to the next meeting.

Harry - Does he have a copy of the Munsonville deed?

Harry - Buy chains as discussed and get them to Al.

Linda - Checked old minutes for information about Munsonville and circulated a summary.

Linda - Included a To Do List at the top of the minutes.

Laurie - Delivered the signed December minutes to Edie.

Laurie - Contacted the Stoddard Cemetery Board for leads on elevations and learned that their project is stalled and they didn't have any information to share.

Laurie - Followed up with surveying engineer, Jon Buschbaum and stopped at that.

Munsonville Cemetery

Elaine, Al and Laurie attended the meeting with the Select Board regarding Munsonville Cemetery. They reported that the Select Board knows what's going on and they felt that we are being listened to.

Laurie sent a letter to someone named Amy at the Department of Revenue. She forwarded it to someone else. The Attorney General's office said that they cannot give legal advice. We need a lawyer, the town lawyer, Gary Kinyon or someone else, perhaps Tom Hanna, who was recommended by Mike Blaudschun. The Town lawyer was busy settling a suit that they hope will soon be settled. Laurie said that any legal expenses will be covered under the Town's legal budget.

Acting in her role as Cemetery Board Chair, Elaine will send a letter to Gary Kinyon. Linda said she doesn't know why he would be responsive to us when he is not responsive to the Town who is his direct client. Elaine said the problem is that the Town never filed the deed in 2005.

Elaine said the goal is to have a warrant ready for the 2024 Town Meeting.

Spring Clean Up

We will set a date for this at the next meeting when Harry is back.

Burials

Elaine reported that there will be a burial in Munsonville on May 15 of Jim Wilder's aunt. Laurie wondered if we need to check that the eroding road is passable. Elaine said that the grave is straight back so there will be no problem.

Elaine mentioned that she met with Nina and Dorothy Iselin because they wanted to purchase a plot in Cemetery Two. They mentioned that their governess is buried in the back part of the Old Cemetery.

Cemetery Associations

Elaine told us that the NH Cemetery Association meeting is Thursday, April 13 in Manchester. Several of us expressed interest in attending. Elaine will tell Edie not to renew our membership in the New England Cemetery Association.

Cemetery Record Keeping

Elaine is currently keeping records on an Excel spread sheet. At the NH Cemetery Association meeting we will ask everyone what system they use.

Linda will ask Leslie Downing of the Harrisville Cemetery Board how they keep their records.

Cemetery Walk Ideas

We discussed the fact that some cemeteries are doing walking tours to encourage people to visit the cemetery. We thought it might be nice to do a tour of some of the more well-known or interesting graves in the Nelson cemeteries. We need to find a group willing to undertake the project, to do some research on the 10 or 12 most interesting people buried in Nelson and to give a brief talk on each person as the walking tour passes that grave. Maybe for Old Home Day 2024.

Having no further business, Elaine adjourned the meeting at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board