

Minutes of Meeting Nelson Cemetery Board Monday, February 19, 2024, 3:30 PM

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

Elaine called the meeting to order at 3:36 PM.

Next Meeting

Monday, March 18, 3:30 PM, in the lower level of the Library. Laurie will reserve the room. Linda will miss the meeting as she will be away.

Future meeting dates are April 15 and May 20.

Review of Minutes

Minutes of the January meeting were approved as presented. The minutes were signed by the members present and Laurie will deliver them to Edie. Elaine will email Edie a copy of the minutes.

Review of Last Month's To-Do List

- Elaine emailed the November minutes to Edie.
- Elaine revised and submitted the Cemetery Board's Annual Report.
- Elaine spoke to Troy Tucker on election day regarding the cemetery gate and Harris fence. He seems very busy.
- Elaine got our papers regarding the Munsonville Cemetery back from Gary Kinyon and gave them to Edie.
- Elaine did not check with the Selectboard to see if we need a second estimate for the design of the new cemetery. Laurie will take over this task.
- Elaine prepared and circulated the agenda for the February meeting.
- Harry contacted Keene Parks and Recreation regarding plot sizes and monument restrictions. (See discussion below.)
- Linda did the January minutes.
- Linda contacted Leslie Downing regarding plot sizes and monument restrictions. (See discussion below.)
- Linda did not contact the NH Cemetery Association regarding perpetual care funds as Elaine did that. (See discussion below.)
- Linda was prepared to review Crypt Keeper software at this meeting but couldn't get on Wi-Fi.
- Al will follow up with Kirk Dale after the snow melts.
- We don't know if Al examined the old maple tree in the Munsonville Cemetery.
- Laurie delivered the signed November minutes to Edie.
- Laurie reserved the room for the February meeting.
- Laurie arranged with Edie to get regular monthly reports of Cemetery expenses, to begin next month as we haven't had any expenses yet this year.

- Laurie contacted Keene Monument regarding repair of the Harris fence. (See discussion below.)
- Laurie posted official notice of the February meeting.

Gary Kinyon Update

Elaine reported that she went to Gary Kinyon's office and picked up our papers relating to the Munsonville Cemetery issue. She gave the papers to Edie who reported that it looked like Gary Kinyon had done some background work, similar to what we did. We will follow up with another lawyer when one has been identified.

Update on Harris Family Plot

Laurie reported that she spoke with Stephanie at Keene Monument regarding repair of the Harris fence. Chad came out and looked at it and provided an estimate for repair of \$1,275.00. The repair would include disassembly of the fence, replacement of the badly damaged granite posts and reassembly of the fence. Laurie thought the quote was high. She will contact Peterborough Monument.

There are seven people buried in the Harris plot.

Now that we have an estimate, Laurie will continue her follow up with the Harris family descendants.

Perpetual Care Funds

Elaine had earlier circulated the email she received from Terry Knowles regarding perpetual care funds. It was reconfirmed that we are only able to spend the interest, not the principal. Elaine expects to receive a follow-up email from Teri Knowles.

Elaine gave us each a detailed list provided by Tom Newcombe of the Munsonville perpetual care funds by name. Linda pointed out that the interest totals \$4,184.53 and wondered if that is the amount that could be spent.

We thought it would be a good idea to plot out the graves who have perpetual care funds so that we could perhaps undertake a project that benefits only these specific graves.

Plot Sizes and Monument Size Restrictions

Harry updated us on his conversation with Keene Parks and Recreation regarding plot sizes. There are no state regulations on plot sizes or monument restrictions. Seventy percent of burials are cremations.

Keene cremation plots are 4' by 4', the same as Harrisville. Nelson is 5' by 5'. Keene charges \$750 for one cremation plot which is for two cremations.

Keene allows a 3' by 3' monument on cremation plots, on a 42-inch deep concrete base.

Linda reported that she had spoken with Leslie Downing of Harrisville. Their burial plots are 11' by 11', with cremation plots 4' by 4'. They have no restrictions on monument sizes on burial plots. The monument restriction on cremation plots is 1½ feet high and 3 feet wide.

Miscellaneous

Harry reported that he has placed the order for the Iselin cornerstones.

Elaine said that Ed Scott asked if they could have one stone that spans their two plots.

Elaine mentioned that cemeteries usually have some "pauper plots" and that is something we may want to consider in our new cemetery design. Harry wondered if the VFW or American Legion would help with burial costs of a veteran who could not afford a plot and burial.

Having no further business, Elaine adjourned the meeting at 4:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board

March To-Do List

Elaine:

Email January minutes to Edie.

Prepare and circulate agenda prior to March meeting.

Harry:

Contact the American Legion about the military helping with burial costs.

Linda:

Do February minutes.

Review Crypt Keeper software at the April meeting.

Al:

Follow up with Kirk Dale for an estimate on Cemetery II Gate.

Check out the condition of the maple tree in Munsonville Cemetery.

Laurie:

Deliver signed January minutes to Edie.

Reserve the room for the March meeting.

Post official notice of March meeting.

Get the monthly report of Cemetery expenses from Edie for the March meeting.

Contact Peterborough Monument to see if they could repair the Harris fence.

Check with the Selectboard to see if we are required to have more than one estimate for the design work in the new Cemetery.