

Minutes of Meeting Nelson Cemetery Board Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 4:00 PM

Members Present: Elaine Giacomo, Linda Cates, Laurie Smith (Harry Flanagan absent due to COVID caution and Al Stoops absent due to family obligations)

Elaine called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM in the lower level of the library.

Minutes of the December meeting were reviewed and approved as presented. The minutes were drafted by Linda and slightly amended by Elaine. The approved minutes were signed by those present.

General Update by Elaine:

Elaine reported that we should get the greenbelt area in Cemetery Two laid out for the additional plots, as we have previously agreed we would do. It is a nice chunk of land available for cremations (and burials?) We will number those plots beginning with #300. We have a little time as there are no burials allowed until April 15. Linda asked if we would retain one road into the back of Cemetery Two. Elaine said that we would.

Elaine reported that Nelson resident Michael Stewart died two weeks ago and there will be a full burial in the spring.

Al is following up with Allison Smith on her extra plot, which has already been spoken for.

Update on Test Pits:

Elaine reported that the test pits have been dug by Mike Tarr. They are 6 ½ feet deep with a capped pipe in each hole.

Update on Town Elections:

Elaine reported that Harry is up for election this year, which is a surprise and is apparently being done to stagger members coming on and going off the Board. Elaine will be in touch with Harry about filing for reelection.

Update on 2021 Annual Report and Year End:

Elaine reported that she resubmitted our Annual Report with revisions based on last month's discussion.

Elaine also reported that Michael Shawver's bill for \$3,000 came in late, after year end, which throws off our expenses for last year and this year. Eddie will try to fix it. Since Michael Shawver finishes his work in October, we should ask him to submit his last bill no later than December 1.

Elaine said that she will be available at Town Caucus and Town Meeting to discuss cemetery issues. Laurie suggested using the Nelson in Common newsletters as a way to get the word out about upcoming items, including the situation with the Munsonville Cemetery and Trust Fund. Laurie said the more information that is available ahead of time, the less contentious issues seem to be at Town Meeting. Elaine will write an article about the Munsonville Cemetery situation for the Nelson in Common newsletters. She will pass it by the rest of the Board before submitting it to Gordon.

Fencing Options for the New Cemetery – Laurie Smith

Laurie reported that while on vacation in northern New Hampshire, she visited a number of cemeteries and looked at fencing options. She presented a slide show of what she found. Of the various options she presented, we all preferred granite posts with a black chain as found in the Jackson Cemetery. Elaine wondered how much the granite posts would cost.

Some of the options included:

- Granite posts with a dark chain between them - Jackson. The chain does not go through the granite, but is bolted on each side. The granite posts are about six inches square and are 10 or 12 feet apart. The chain is anchored a little way down for the top of the post.
- Black poles with a black or yellow chain between them, seen as a budget option – Berlin.
- Defective Granite Posts – Franconia. Elaine was not fond of this option.
- Igneous rock posts with a black chain – Franconia.
- Split rail fencing – Franconia.
- Solid granite wall – North Groton.
- Picket fence, wood or plastic. The plastic ones had lichen growing on them. The wooden ones would need repair.
- Plantings of shrubs as a fence.

Some fences may belong to the neighboring property holder, rather than the cemetery, especially in cemeteries located in town centers.

Laurie also visited the Hebron Village Cemetery where Tom Daly designed a berm between the cemetery and the property line.

The Hebron Cemetery had a grid of access roads and was laid out methodically. Laurie liked that rather than having graves helter-skelter. There was discussion of whether we should open up our new cemetery section by section rather than letting people choose from any plot available. There was not consensus on this question.

Laurie noted that some cemeteries provide water spigots.

The Elmwood Cemetery in Franconia had a little equipment building. It also had a framed poster of the grid of cemetery plots with names. We liked the idea of the framed layout. The Rules and Regulations were also posted and we liked that idea, too.

Laurie said the road into the Jackson Cemetery ended in a Y and looked like that would work well. There were also plantings near the entrance to the cemetery which were nice.

Other Items:

Laurie mentioned that there is a cemetery deed in the Town Office awaiting Elaine's signature. Elaine will stop over after the meeting to sign it.

Laurie also mentioned that Linda had emailed the Rules and Regulations to Edie and asked her to make copies, as discussed at our last meeting. Edie gave the copies to Laurie, but it was our intention to have them at the Town Office, available to whoever might want them. Elaine took the copies from Laurie to put in the Cemetery Board files and Laurie will ask Edie and Karen to keep copies at the town office.

Linda will call Gary Robinson about whether he will be able to do the elevation map of the New Cemetery.

At our next meeting we will take up the question of who can be buried in our cemeteries. We agreed that our Rules and Regulations should include that information.

Next Meeting:

Having no further business, Elaine adjourned the meeting. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 15, 4:00 PM in the lower level of the library.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board