

Minutes of Meeting Nelson Cemetery Board Monday, January 16, 2023, 3:30 PM

Members Present: Elaine Giacomo, Linda Cates, Laurie Smith, Al Stoops

We met in the lower level of the Library.

Next Meeting

Monday, February 20, 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 in the lower level of the Library.

To Do List

Elaine - deliver signed December minutes to Edie.

Elaine - Talk to John Bunce about Munsonville Cemetery land.

Elaine - Check archives about Munsonville Cemetery land.

Elaine - Schedule Selectboard meeting for February.

Elaine - Check her records for a copy of the Munsonville deed.

Elaine - Arrange the spacing out of Board members terms.

Elaine - Get the new lock and key to Al.

Harry - Do you have a copy of the Munsonville deed?

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

Linda - Check old minutes for information about Munsonville.

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

Laurie - Contact the Stoddard Cemetery Board for leads on elevations.

Laurie - Follow up with surveying engineers in Milford, Keene and Jaffrey.

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

Everyone - Get year-end business done at November meetings in future.

Review of Minutes

We reviewed the minutes of the December meeting, which were drafted by Linda with additions and corrections by Elaine and Laurie. The minutes were approved with one additional correction, the spelling of Tewksbury. The minutes were signed and returned to Elaine for delivery to Edie.

Clarification of the Price of Cornerstones

We agreed that cornerstones would be priced at the going rate, which is currently \$250.00 for four installed.

Clarification of the Location of Cremation Plots in Cemetery Two

Laurie had added that information to last month's minutes, "the plots along the left (south) side wall should be laid out as cremation plots due to roots and rocks in that area."

Additional Cemetery Space

Al reminded us that there is additional space at the back of the Old Cemetery One. There is a fairly level area as least as large as the size of the lower level of the Library. We will take a look at that on a walk when weather permits.

Elaine reminded us that there is an extra pie-piece shaped acre behind the Munsonville Cemetery. Elaine will talk to property abutter John Bunce or will check the archives for more information. Elaine said it is hard to get into the archives. Someone has to be there or Edie has to be with her while she is there. Elaine will talk to Susan Hansel about getting in.

Meeting With Select Board in February to Discuss Munsonville

As agreed at the last meeting, Elaine will arrange with Edie for us to meet with the Select Board in February to discuss the status of Munsonville Cemetery. Linda said that we, the Cemetery Board, don't have the authority or resources to resolve this issue. The Town has to do it. Elaine will check her records looking for a copy of the deed. Does Harry have one? Linda will check old minutes to see what we have found out about it in the past.

Getting Elevations Done for New Cemetery Three

Laurie has identified members of the Stoddard Cemetery Board (Bobbie and Carolyn Ewells and Jim Anderson) and will contact them for possible leads on someone to do our elevations.

Laurie did a search and will follow up by contacting surveying engineers in Milford, Keene and Jaffrey. She also came across a cemetery designer, Jack Goodroe. The elevations need to be in 2-foot increments.

Spacing the Expiration of Terms of Cemetery Board Members

The terms of Linda, Laurie and Al all expire next year. Elaine will talk to Edie about rescheduling the expiry of one member so that all three don't expire the same year going forward.

Closing the Cemetery Gates

Elaine has a new lock and key to give to Al. Harry will get the chains.

Mystery G Cornerstones

No progress in discovering who these belong to. Laurie suggested not mowing this area and seeing who complains.

Updating Cemetery Records

Elaine said there is a deed book. Karen puts the deed in the book and Elaine updates it. We need a better system, but not as expensive as what we've seen available. Candyce used Microsoft Access, which is difficult to use. We want our records to note if the person is a veteran.

Cemetery Kiosks

Linda showed photos of the Mid-County Cemetery information shelter, which included a map of the plots in the cemetery indicating who is buried in each plot. We thought something like that might be a good idea for our cemeteries.

To Do List

Linda asked if she should include a To Do List at the top of the minutes. Everyone concurred that it would be helpful.

Future December Meetings

Laurie proposed that we take care of all year-end business at our November meetings and not schedule December meetings in the future. This year's December meeting on December 19 was very close to Christmas. We agreed that we will plan to do this going forward. We will hold a December meeting only if we need to.

Having no further business, Elaine adjourned the meeting at 4:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board