

**Minutes of Meeting  
Nelson Cemetery Board  
Monday, January 19, 2026, 3:30 PM**

**Members Present:** Elaine Giacomo, Harry Flanagan, Linda Cates, Al Stoops, Laurie Smith.

Elaine called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Monday, February 16, 3:30 PM, in the lower level of the Library. As the meeting is on President's Day when the Library will be closed, the key will have to be picked up in advance.

**Review of Minutes:**

The December minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. The minutes were signed by the Board members. Laurie will deliver the signed copy to Karen and Elaine will email a copy to Edie.

**Task Reports by Members:**

**Elaine:**

- Emailed approved November minutes to Edie.
- Got the good photo of the Entrance to Cemetery from Gordon to Edie.
- Got a rough estimate from Peterborough Marble and Granite to repair 15 headstones in Munsonville. (See discussion below.)
- Did not follow up with Catherine Boyd for information about green burials.
- Prepared and circulated the agenda prior to January meeting.

**Harry:**

- Did not provide Edie with information on Barney Quigley. Will do so today or tomorrow.
- Wilcox took down the tree in Munsonville Cemetery this year and submitted their invoice.

**Linda:**

- Did December minutes.
- Took a photo of Helen Milbank's stone and got it and information on her to Edie.
- Sent Edie photos of Barney Quigley and Ralph Page's stones.

**Al:**

- Got information on Ralph Page to Edie
- Did not yet develop the list of all veterans in our Cemeteries.

**Laurie:**

- Delivered the signed minutes to Karen.
- Got information on Olivia Rodham to Edie. Edie got the information on May Sarton.
- Posted official notice of January meeting.
- Got the key for the January meeting.

**To Be Assigned:**

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

**Expiring Cemetery Board Terms:**

Only Elaine's term is expiring this year. She has kindly agreed to run for reelection and will register to do so. She has heard from Karen about it.

### **Repairing Headstones in Munsonville:**

Elaine spoke to Peterborough Marble and Granite. They said the cost would vary between \$75 to \$200 each, depending on the degree of damage. They will have a look in the spring and give us a quote then.

Laurie gave Edie a collage of photos of broken headstones in Munsonville, which will hopefully be included in the Town Annual Report.

### **Review of 2025 Cemetery Board Goals:**

From the March 2025 Board Meeting, these were the Goals for 2025:

- Finalize ownership of the Munsonville Cemetery. DONE
- Complete the Layout Survey of the area of the New Cemetery that will be developed now.
- Have the road built in the areas of the New Cemetery that will be developed now.
- Proceed with plans and initial planting of the Scattering Garden.
- Proceed with Crypt Keeper as the record keeping system for the New Cemetery
- Lime the maples in the Old Cemetery
- Clean gravestones in the Old Cemetery and the Revolutionary War Monument. DONE

The major goal of finalizing ownership of the Munsonville Cemetery was completed. Hurray!

We did not have the plots surveyed/laid out in the New Cemetery and will carry that goal forward.

The road has been surveyed and started but was not finished due to winter weather. That goal will be carried forward.

We did not make progress on the Scattering Garden this year and will carry that goal forward.

We did not proceed with Crypt Keeper and will carry that goal forward.

Although we engaged someone to lime the maples in the Old Cemetery, we were not satisfied with the results and will do it again ourselves in the spring.

We cleaned gravestones in the Old Cemetery, and the Civil War Monument in front of the church was cleaned.

We also had these lower priority tasks for 2025:

- Look into getting a water tank, instead of a well, in the New Cemetery.
- Improve the gate to Cemetery II. It is better than it was but still does not close properly.
- Remove the tree in Munsonville Cemetery. DONE
- Track down members of the Melville family regarding repairs to the Melville tomb.

### **Cemetery Board Goals and Tasks for 2026:**

#### **2026 Goals**

- Find a new grounds maintenance company if necessary.
- Hire someone to help us lay out plots in the new cemetery.
- Complete the road in the areas of the new cemetery that will be developed now.
- Lay out, cover ground, and develop design for the Scattering Garden.
- Revisit the issue of record keeping software for the new cemetery.
- Lime the maples in the Old Cemetery
- Erect new sign in Munsonville Cemetery.
- Research erosion remediation work to be done in Munsonville so that we can include an appropriate amount in the 2027 budget.

**2026 Maintenance Tasks**

- Fix the broken headstones in the Munsonville Cemetery
- Continue cleaning headstones in the Old Cemetery
- Improve the gate to Cemetery 2.

**2026 Tasks to Do if We Have Time**

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

We talked about revising the Nelson Cemetery Rules and Regulations, but decided to put that off to 2027 as we have a lot on our agenda this year. Linda will circulate a copy of our current Rules and Regulations that we need to update for prices.

Harry reported that the Munsonville sign is ready to go, but the granite posts need to be placed and the sign hung.

We will take another look at the Crypt Keeper software for record keeping in the new cemetery. Linda said she will not be able to work on this project. Al said he can do data entry.

**Other Business:**

Elaine reported that the spring meeting of the New Hampshire Cemetery Association is in April. She will get the exact date to us.

**Having no further business, Elaine adjourned the meeting at 4:21 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board

## **February TO-DO LIST**

### **Elaine:**

- Email approved December minutes to Edie.
- Circulate copy of first page of Town Annual Report.
- Register to run for reelection.
- Circulate 2026 goals.
- Provide the exact date for the NHCB spring meeting.
- Follow up with Catherine Boyd for information about green burials.
- Prepare and circulate the agenda prior to February meeting.

### **Harry:**

- Provide Edie with information on Barney Quigley.

### **Linda:**

- Do January minutes.
- Circulate a copy of the current Rules and Regulations.

### **Al:**

- Develop list of all veterans in our Cemeteries.

### **Laurie:**

- Deliver the signed minutes to Karen.
- Post official notice of February meeting.
- Get the key for the February meeting.

### **To Be Assigned:**

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