

# MINUTES OF MEETING NELSON CEMETERY BOARD MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023, 3:30 pm

**Members Present:** Harry Flanagan, Al Stoops, Laurie Smith

**Members absent:** Elaine Giacomo, Linda Cates

**Guest:** Jon Buschbaum

Harry called the meeting to order at 3:35pm.

## Next Meeting

Monday, August 21, 3:30 pm, library lower level Meeting Room. This is our regular meeting schedule, the third Monday of each month, (except December), at 3:30 pm.

## To Do List

### Elaine

- Send digital version of June's approved minutes to Edie. **Done**
- For August meeting, report on an estimate from Troy Tucker of adjusting metal hinges on gate for Cemetery 2 so the gate will close once again.
- For August meeting, report on July 8 Internment. **Gerhard Bedding – cremation. Okay**
- For August meeting, report on any upcoming interments. **Will do.**
- For August meeting, report on status of Auclair grave and headstone. (Bea Warner's daughters) – **Taken care of by Bea Warner's daughters.**
- For August meeting, any plot sales? (Johnson daughters, Iselin) **Will report**
- For August meeting, report on the discovery of the "Mystery "G" Stones" and Barbara Gard, plots 303 & 304. **Barbara Gard purchased plots last year. Nothing on mystery stones.**
- Be in touch with Jon Buschbaum regarding a map he said he would finish this week. He is supposed to contact you.

### Harry

- Contact Michael Shawver, (603) 903-8246, regarding the dumping of brush on land belonging to John Bunce. (Perhaps it was Mike Tarr and Nick?) It should be removed.
- For August meeting, get a price estimate for a wood sign for the Munsonville Cemetery. We will then decide what to do.

### Al

- For August meeting, report on an estimate from Kirk Dale of adjusting metal hinges on gate for Cemetery 2 so the gate will close once again.
- Check Cemetery 2 to see if corner stones have been placed. **Done**

### Linda

- We are still interested in seeing Harrisville's scatter garden. Can we schedule a visit for September or October?
- For August meeting, report on "Crypt Keeper" software and video. **Didn't Linda already report to us at the May meeting?**

### Laurie

- Turn in approved minutes to Edie. **Done**
- Distribute draft minutes of 7/17 meeting to members.
- Get phone number for Harry. **Done**
- Check if invoice has been paid to Keene Monument for cornerstones.
- Make available the Jon Buschbaum recording to anyone interested.

## **Everyone**

- Visit Munsonville Cemetery. Harry reported that the recent heavy rains have created run off!
- Check out Cemetery 3. Gary Robinson will be grazing his sheep there and has cut some of the brush along the stone wall.
- Elaine sent out an email back in late May? / Early June? It was an article on Cemetery Design. Should we discuss it?
- Get year-end business done at November's meeting.

## **Review of Minutes**

We reviewed the minutes of the June meeting which were drafted by Linda. The minutes were approved, signed and passed to Laurie for delivery to Edie.

It was noted that July's minutes will need to be converted to a digital format once approved to be transmitted to the Town Administrator, Edie. Would Elaine or Linda be able to do this? **Done**

## **Installation of Cornerstones**

The first item on the agenda was the question, whether the cornerstones had been installed by Keene Memorial, in the most recently sold plots. Al said he would check on this. (He did and they were.) Laurie will check to see if there has been an invoice and payment. (There is an Invoice. Payment to be determined)

## **Price of Plots**

Discussion ensued regarding the price we charge for cremation plots with cornerstones and the price we charge for full plots with cornerstones. Harry noted that the cost of four cornerstones is now \$250.00. We were not clear as to what is currently being charged for plots and decided to table the discussion for our next meeting. It is noted that there is a document titled "Nelson Cemetery Board Cheat Sheet," that may need to be updated with the new price structure and as well as the new (2023) meeting times. Perhaps the Town Clerk and website (?) need to be alerted of any price changes as well. **Karen was already notified, but I will also let Edie know when we settle on a new price. The last approved cost was decided at the December meeting - \$500 for the plot, plus \$250 for the four cornerstones.**

## **Broken Gate at Cemetery Two**

Repair of the gate at Cemetery 2 will have to be on the August agenda as there was no new information.

## **New Sign for Munsonville Cemetery**

Harry reported that he had met with a sign maker who visited the Munsonville Cemetery with him and offered several options on materials and treatments for us to consider. We decided we would like a price on a wooden sign with painted lettering as a basic option.\* Harry will pursue.

\*Mostly because a large investment in a sign does not make sense until ownership issues have been solved.

## **Rain Damage in Munsonville**

Harry reported that the torrential rains we have had of late have not been kind to the Munsonville Cemetery. This makes our pursuing ownership of the cemetery an ongoing priority. We suggest members take a look for themselves.

## **John Bunce's Property**

John Bunce has complained that brush from the Munsonville Cemetery has been dumped on his property. We are not sure if this was done by Michael Shawver this year or the highway crew last year. Harry will contact Michael Shawver. Whoever is responsible, it will have to be cleared away.

### **July 8 Interment**

We asked Harry to report on the July 8th interment. He reported that Elaine covered it. We asked if anyone knew anything about future internments. We did not.

### **Topics for August Meeting**

Since no one knew whether Anne Johnson's daughters had purchased their plots or what was the discovery story on the mystery "G" cornerstones, or what the development was on the Auclair grave and headstone, we decided to table those topics for next meeting.

### **Cemetery Two Map has Five Pages**

We wanted to review the most recent map that Elaine had emailed out to us to use when we plotted the 6, (5-1/2), cremation plots in Cemetery 2 last month. Al noted that the map contained five pages altogether, not just the one page we were looking at. We thought it may be helpful to review all five pages at next meeting as there are fewer and fewer plots available to sell.

### **Harrisville Cremation Garden**

Harry expressed an interest in visiting the Harrisville Cremation scatter garden together as a group. We thought a September or October visit might work. Perhaps Linda could contact Leslie Downing.

### **Jon Buschbaum Report**

Jon Buschbaum arrived to report his findings from test pits at Cemetery Three and turn over the survey maps he had ready. He said he has another map to finish up, which he will do by the end of this week and then contact Elaine. Laurie recorded our discussion with him. It took about 30 minutes. If anyone has the app. that transcribes from dictation that would be nifty. I'm not exactly sure what I should do with this recording and would appreciate ideas. There are a lot of technical terms and side topics.

Basically, Jon was not surprised by what he found. The area is comprised of Marlow fine sandy loam with hard pan underneath that, which is common throughout Cheshire County and our part of NH. He estimates the water table to be 30 inches, which is lower than in Cemetery One or Two. The water table is higher on top of the hill than it is in the lower part of the field. It is higher in the spring, not surprisingly. There are no springs in the area that he found. Also, the grade gets very steep in the wooded area of the property. He came across very few stones in his digging and believes the field was pretty well cleared of stones by the folks who came before us.

In his opinion, we are going to need fill, but he would defer to a cemetery architect on that point. Any road way we put in will definitely need to be built up with gravel.

His map shows the two foot grade we requested. He has an addition to make to the map. He said he would get it done by the end of the week and turn it over to Elaine. He also came with four copies of the reports and map. We each have a copy and there is one for Elaine but maybe it should go to Linda as Elaine will be getting the finished version? We thanked him for his time.

### **Sheep in Cemetery Three**

Gary Robinson has asked to graze his sheep on the grass of Cemetery Three; he has cleared some brush from along the stone wall already. We thought it best to vote for him to be allowed

to do this until the cemetery is developed. Al moved and Harry seconded. The vote was unanimous. It is understood that all risks and liabilities are his.

**Having no other business** to discuss, Harry ended the meeting at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Smith, for the Nelson Cemetery Board