

**Minutes of Meeting
Nelson Cemetery Board
Monday, June 19, 2023, 3:30 PM**

Members Present: Harry Flanagan, Linda Cates, Al Stoops and Laurie Smith. Elaine Giacomo was out of town.

Harry called the meeting to order at 3:30PM. We met in Cemetery II.

Next Meeting

Monday, July 17, 3:30 PM, in the Lower Level of the Library. (Linda will not be able to attend.)

To Do

Elaine – Request updated information from Michael Shawver, copying Edie on her email and forwarding Michael's response to Edie. (Carried forward.)

Elaine – Ask Troy Tucker for an estimate to repair the Gate to Cemetery II

Harry – Follow up to get the cornerstones installed including getting a check from Edie.

Linda – Follow up with Leslie Downing about a field trip to the Harrisville cemeteries

Linda – Do June minutes

Linda – Send digital May minutes to Edie

Linda – Provide a more complete report on Crypt Keeper Software

Linda – Check with Bert Wingerson to see if there is information in the Archives about transfer of the Munsonville Cemetery.

Laurie – Deliver signed May minutes to Edie.

Laurie – Ask Jon Buschbaum to come and give us a report that we can understand

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

Update on Recent and Upcoming Burials

Laurie and Al reported that they were present for the interment of Susan Hansel's son. The hole was not deep enough for the urn. (Laurie reported later that Michael Shawver came by later that day and deepened the hole and buried the urn.)

Harry is available on July 8 for the burial that date if necessary.

Review of Minutes

We reviewed the minutes of the May meeting, which were drafted by Linda with additions and corrections by Elaine, Al and Laurie. The minutes were approved as previously corrected and signed and passed to Laurie for delivery to Edie. Linda will send Edie a digital copy.

Cornerstones Ordered by Harry

Harry reported that he ordered the four sets of cornerstones for Levy, Craig, Tewksbury and Scott. The price is \$1,000 and they will be ready within five weeks. Harry will go to Edie for a check.

Laying out of Cremation Plots in Cemetery Two

We laid out six 5 by 5 feet cremation plots along the stone wall between Cemetery One and Two. The western most plot should probably be a single due to the number of roots present in that area. The other plots can accommodate two interments.

Hemlock Hedge

Laurie would like a further discussion of the hemlock hedge which is encroaching on Cemetery II. She will work on it with clippers.

Repair of Gate to Cemetery Two

We believe that this repair can be done relatively inexpensively by simply moving up the two anchor pivots, perhaps even attaching them to the existing hinges. Al will talk to Kirk Dale again and we will ask Elaine to talk to Troy Tucker.

Munsonville Cemetery Sign

Al talked to his friend who was a sign maker but did not get any useful information. Harry has a friend, Mark from Fitzwilliam, who is a sign maker. Harry will show him the Munsonville sign and get an estimate for a new sign.

Work in Cemetery Three

Laurie reported that the granite posts mark the border across the field. Jon Buschbaum reported that the line marked by Harry and Al was very close. He plans to dig the test pits this week.

Update on the Munsonville Cemetery Issue

Laurie read into the minutes, the letter Elaine received from Gary Kinyon.

“Based on our research, here’s the status of the issues to resolve ownership and care of the Munsonville Cemetery.

1. Ownership of the real estate itself. The survey plan recorded in 2006 for the cemetery gives a good description of its boundaries. Based on the deeds cited on the survey plan, the Cemetery Association of Munsonville has owned the cemetery since 1896. The New Hampshire Secretary of State’s Office records indicate the Cemetery Association of Munsonville was created in 1896 and was dissolved administratively in about 2010 (this arises for failure to file a report with the Secretary of State every 5 years). The last report filed by the Association with the Secretary of State was in 2005. We find no record that the Association ever transferred ownership of the cemetery to the Town.

The 2006 town vote that DRA disallowed presumably would have authorized the Town to accept a deed of the real estate. It appears DRA disallowed it because of the funding language included in the warrant article.

Since the Association has never conveyed the real estate by deed, it still owns it, notwithstanding its administrative dissolution.

If possible, the Association should file with New Hampshire Secretary of State a "Certificate of Revival," accompanied by a fee, and a certification that since 2005 the Association has continued to operate consistent with its charter since repeal and that the revival will be in the public good. This certification can be signed by the Directors of the Association who were the Directors in 2005, the Directors who remain on the Board from 2005, or new Directors elected by the Bylaws of the Association.

Assuming this revival can occur, the Association would then be in a position to convey ownership of the real estate to the Town.

The Town, in turn, would either vote at Town meeting to accept this transfer, or it may be able to acquire the real estate without a Town Meeting vote by the Selectboard in accordance with RSA 41:14-a, if the Town has previously at Town Meeting authorized the Board of Selectmen to allow acquisition of real estate in accordance with the procedure set forth in 41:14-a. Edie thinks the Town has adopted RSA 41-14-a by previous Town Meeting vote and is checking to confirm. Either way, after the Town is authorized to acquire the real estate, a deed from the Association to the town needs to be executed and recorded in the Cheshire County Registry of Deeds.

2. The Cemetery Association previously transferred its funds for care of the cemetery to the Town, but the Cemetery Board has not expended any of these funds as yet. I am not clear why the Cemetery Board has not expended any of these funds. Is it because the Town does not own the real estate?"

Linda noted that this is the same information she found out last year when she contacted the Secretary of State's Office. Linda will check with Bert Wingerson to see if there is anything in the Town Archives that might be helpful.

Report on Crypt Keeper Software

Linda reported that Crypt Keeper cemetery software looks promising. It's \$60 a year for the online version or \$250.00 one-time for the laptop version. There is a brief video explaining the features that we can go over at the next meeting.

Additional Space behind the Old Cemetery One

There is some additional flat space at the back of the Cemetery One. We wondered if the woodland scattering garden that we have talked about could be here instead of in the New Cemetery III.

Having no further business, Harry adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board