

## **Minutes of Meeting Nelson Cemetery Board Monday, June 17, 2024, 3:30 PM**

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

In the initial absence of Elaine, Harry called the meeting to order at 3:34 PM.

### **Next Meeting**

Monday, July 15, 3:00 PM, in the lower level of the Library. We are meeting half an hour early to accommodate Elaine's schedule that day. The following meeting is Monday, August 19.

### **Review of Minutes**

Minutes of the May meeting were approved with correction of one date by Al. The minutes were signed by the Board members, and Laurie will deliver them to Karen. Elaine will email Edie a copy of the minutes.

### **Task Reports by Members**

#### **Elaine**

- Emailed the April minutes to Edie.
- Did not ask John Bunce if he would be willing to take down the old maple tree in the Munsonville Cemetery in exchange for the wood, but she will do this month.
- Reported that we have not heard back from Gary Kinyon regarding Munsonville.
- No agenda for the June meeting.

#### **Harry**

- No assignments for Harry in June

#### **Linda**

- Did the May minutes.
- Got the proposal from Greever & Ward for design of the new cemetery. Meet with Al and Laurie to review. (See discussion below)
- Asked Rick Church if Lidar would be useful in grave mapping. Rick said no.
- Continued to be in touch regarding Nan LaSourd's request for a green burial.

#### **Al**

- Did not help Laurie plant the geraniums.
- Attended the Subcommittee meeting to discuss the Grever and Ward proposal.
- Considered what we want the arborist to do but has not contacted one yet.

#### **Laurie**

- Laurie delivered the signed May minutes to Karen.
- Bought more geraniums and planted geraniums for Memorial Day.
- Attended the Subcommittee meeting to discuss the Grever and Ward proposal.
- Posted the official notice of the May meeting.

- Reported the \$288.53 Munsonville sign expense was categorized as Contracted Services.

### **Everyone**

- Elaine, Linda, Al, and Laurie cleaned gravestones on Sunday, June 9, 1 to 3 PM.

### **Cemetery III Design**

Linda reported that she, Al and Laurie met to review the proposal from Grever and Ward. Linda prepared notes of that meeting and circulated them to the Board. We reviewed some of the points in the notes.

Grever and Ward asked for an AutoCAD file of the survey. Laurie contacted Jon Buschbaum and he will provide it to them directly.

The proposal included a specific request related to insurance. Laurie is following up with Edie to see what is required.

Prior to finalizing the contract, Grever and Ward wants us to provide "Specific written design requests and/or elements prior to planning." Linda said this is what we need to focus on so that Grever and Ward know everything we want prior to starting the project. We wanted to discuss this with Harry and Elaine at this meeting to get their ideas and input.

All agreed that we want only single plots laid out, not groups of 2 or 3 or family plots. We won't allow fences around groups of graves.

We want some 5' by 5' cremation plots, but what percentage? Maybe 20% or 30% cremation plots, the rest to be regular 5' by 10' plots, which can be used for full burials, green burials, or cremations.

We want a separate area for green burials. Laurie had recommended a row at the far south end abutting the neighbor's field. Al suggested instead a row along the tree line. We will provide both ideas to the designer.

We want the design to include a scattering garden, perhaps 25 by 25 feet. Harry agreed and liked the size.

We thought the scattering garden could be near the entrance and provide a visual landscaped entrance to the cemetery, with benches and shrubs. Al prefers native shrubs like mountain laurel, but no to hydrangeas. We won't plant any large trees in the new cemetery.

We discussed ways to mark the names of those scattered in the scattering garden. We settled on granite cobblestones, engraved with the pertinent details, but providing a marker would be optional, not required.

We discussed leaving a space for a future monument. Elaine thought this was a good idea.

We want a water source in the new cemetery, if possible. This would be to water plants and clean gravestones. We can't afford a well and wondered if we could get access to ground source water. Al will consult Duane Schillemat.

When Linda goes back to Grever and Ward with our specifications, she will include that the shed is going to be removed and she will point out the location of the gate on the survey.

We decided we need another month to complete our design specifications. Linda will advise Greever and Ward.

The Board will walk around the new cemetery on Monday, June 24, at 2:00 PM to further consider our design options.

### **Report on Burials**

Elaine reported that Eliza Laughlin will need a plot for her brother Evan, who died a few weeks ago.

Harry reported that Keene Monument has the cornerstones ready for the Dorothy and Nina Iselin plots. They are the two cremation plots farthest along the stone wall. Harry will mark the location for Keene Monument – Elaine will help.

Elaine reported that she had spoken with Vangie McCormick's son. He asked if it was acceptable to inter his father's ashes in an artillery shell and his mother's ashes in a mason jar. Elaine said yes to both.

There was some further discussion of the Lesourde green burial request. It looks like there may be space. Further research to be done.

### **Headstone Repair**

Elaine confirmed that there is nothing in the budget for headstone repair this year. We asked why it had been included as a separate warrant article in the past. Elaine will ask Edie.

### **Munsonville Cemetery**

Members asked Elaine if Gary Kinyon has filed the necessary papers to bring the Munsonville Cemetery under the ownership of the town. Elaine has heard nothing but promised to discuss the matter with Edie immediately.

**Having no further business, Harry adjourned the meeting at 4:35 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board

## **JULY 2024 TO-DO LIST**

### **Elaine:**

- Email May minutes to Edie.
- Consult Edie about the need for a separate warrant article for headstone repair.
- Ask John Bunce if he would be willing to take down the old maple tree in the Munsonville Cemetery in exchange for the wood.
- Follow-up on the Munsonville Cemetery issue.
- Prepare and circulate agenda prior to July meeting.

### **Harry:**

- Mark the location for the Iselin cornerstones.

### **Linda:**

- Do June minutes.
- Request a one-month extension on Grever and Ward proposal.
- Follow-up regarding Nan Lesourde green burial.

### **Al:**

- Contact arborist.
- Consult with Duane Schillemat about a ground water source for the new cemetery.

### **Laurie:**

- Deliver signed May minutes to Karen.
- Follow up with Edie regarding what is necessary to execute the Grever and Ward proposal.
- Post official notice of July meeting.
- Get the monthly report of Cemetery expenses from Edie for the July meeting.

### **Everyone:**

- Walk the new cemetery on Monday, June 24, 2:00 PM, to consider design options.