

Minutes of Meeting Nelson Cemetery Board Monday, June 15, 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, July, 20, 3:00 PM. Meet in the Munsonville Cemetery.

Review of Minutes:

The May minutes were reviewed and approved as corrected. 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 April minutes to Edie.
- Followed-up with Michael Shawver about the cost of regular mowing of a portion of the new cemetery.
- Did not need to ask Michael Shawver for suggestions for a grave digger as we now have Bill Mullen.
- Did not need to talk to Jeff and Jason Walter for suggestions for a grave digger.
- Managed the Memorial Day Event. (See report below.)
- Did not give Karen a copy of our current prices for plots and cornerstones, but will send her a copy of the new one.
- Prepared and circulated the agenda prior to June meeting.
- Did not send the veterans list to Al, but will do so.

Harry:

- Harry spoke to Mike Tarr for suggestions for a grave digger. He recommended Bill Mullen. (See discussion below.)
- Talked to Jeremy Hamilton about the erosion work in the Munsonville Cemetery. (See discussion below,)

Linda:

- Did May minutes.

Al:

- Put flags on veterans' graves in the Nelson Cemeteries prior to Memorial Day.
- Did not yet develop list of all veterans in our Cemeteries. Elaine will send Al a list of the veterans she's aware of.

Laurie:

- Delivered the signed April minutes to Karen.
- Got flowers for Memorial Day.
- Posted official notice of June meeting.
- Got the key for the June meeting.

Everyone:

- Review the Rules and Regulations to be discussed at a later meeting.
- Review the four cemetery record keeping software packages.

To Be Assigned:

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

Michael Shawver Update:

Michael Shawver will include mowing the new cemetery. It has now been mowed shorter and Laurie reports that it looks great. Elaine was unable to determine how much the additional cost will be for this work, but it shouldn't be too much as there is no trimming around gravestones involved.

New Grave Digger:

Harry reported that Mike Tarr suggested Bill Mullen, who will be our new grave digger. Mike Tarr has agreed to be our back-up if we are stuck.

We discussed prices for digging the graves and decided an increase is in order. The new rate for a full burial is \$500 on weekdays and \$600 on weekends. For cremations, it's \$250 on weekdays and \$300 on weekends. Elaine will update the Cemetery "Cheat Sheet" with those new prices before giving it to Karen.

Updated Contact Information: Elaine will update Al's phone number, which is now 603 762-1027.

Review of Finance Report:

We have spent \$5,625.91 year to date, primarily on "Contracted Services" i.e. Michael Shawver.

We have to pay social security and retirement for Mike Tarr for the time he spends on cemetery work.

Report on Memorial Day:

Elaine reported that it rained on Memorial Day. It was a very damp but nice ceremony. The Town Band played in Town Hall. Pastor Elliot Fay accompanied Elaine and others to the cemetery where there the trumpet player played taps and three rounds were shot by the color guard..

Munsonville Cemetery Erosion Update:

Harry talked to Jeremy Hamilton about the erosion work to be done at the Munsonville Cemetery. He is interested in doing it, but will have to do it later as he is very busy. This is fine as we don't have the money in the budget to do it this year. We want to have a plan and an estimate in place this year and do the work next year.

We agreed to start next month's Board Meeting at the Munsonville Cemetery to take a look at the erosion problem there. The hillsides and stone walls are falling apart. We need a professional opinion on what exactly needs to be done.

Discussion of Veteran Markers:

Harry reported there are a few veteran's markers with crosses in the box. One is unusable and the others are old. He suggested asking the VFW for more markers. We wondered if the very old markers we have are worth anything.

Laurie has asked for a sample veteran's marker from the marker company that we are using for the markers for the New Cemetery.

Update on Burials and Markers:

Elaine and Harry placed the markers for the Laughlin cornerstones.

Mrs. Spydell will purchase one plot for four cremations and will inter the cremains of her parents Carolyn and Herbert Sprague, who lived on Taylor Mill Road. Elaine will meet with her in July so she can choose a plot.

Wendy Kasper's father died over the winter and will be interred the Sunday after Old Home Day.

Kathy Schillemat's daughter spoke to Elaine about purchasing a plot for Duane Schillemat and will call Elaine again when they are ready.

Other Business:

Laurie has emailed the marker supplier about when our markers for the New Cemetery might be ready. She has not received a reply and will follow up.

We are awaiting Jon Buschbaum's proposal regarding the laying out of the New Cemetery so that we can present it to the Select Board. Laurie will follow up with him.

Laurie handed out maps of the New Cemetery showing the sections as they will be marked.

Elaine will be away June 26 to July 3.

Having no further business, Elaine adjourned the meeting at 4:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board

JULY TO-DO LIST

Elaine:

- Email approved May minutes to Edie.
- Follow up with Michael Shawver to ascertain what he is charging us for the regular mowing of a portion of the new cemetery. Negotiate a lower cost if he is charging full price.
- Update the "Cemetery Board Member cheat sheet" to reflect the new costs. She will pass this information on to Bill Mullen.
- Give Karen a copy of our newly updated prices for plots, and cornerstones and interments.
- Prepare and circulate the agenda prior to July meeting.

Harry:

Linda:

- Do June minutes.

Al:

- Develop list of all veterans in our Cemeteries.

Laurie:

- Deliver the signed May minutes to Karen.
- Follow-up with the marker company about when our markers will be ready.
- Follow-up with Jon Buschbaum to get his estimate and proposal for laying out the New Cemetery.
- Post official notice of July meeting.
- Get the key for the July meeting.

Everyone:

- Review the Rules and Regulations to be discussed at a later meeting.
- Review the four cemetery record keeping software packages.

To Be Assigned:

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