

**Minutes of Meeting
Nelson Cemetery Board
Monday, March 20, 2023, 3:30 PM**

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

Elaine called the meeting to order at 3:33 PM.

Next Meeting

Monday, April 17, 3:30 PM in Cemetery One. This is our regular meeting schedule, the third Monday of each month at 3:30 PM.

To Do

Elaine – Revise Gary Kinyon letter, discuss it with Edie and then send it.

Elaine – Present Jon Buschbaum’s estimate to the Select Board at this week’s meeting.

Elaine – Register Elaine, Linda & Laurie for the NH Cemetery Association meeting.

Harry – Talk to John Bunce about Munsonville Cemetery.

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

Linda – Get the language of the 2006 warrant article on Munsonville Cemetery.

Al – Arrange a lunch with Bert Wingerson.

Laurie – Deliver signed minutes to Edie.

Everyone – Look at additional space behind Old Cemetery One at next meeting.

Everyone – Set a date for Spring Clean-Up.

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

Everyone – Consider a walking tour of the Nelson Cemetery.

Review of Minutes

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

Review Draft of Elaine’s Letter to Gary Kinyon

We reviewed the draft of Elaine’s letter to Town attorney Gary Kinyon, asking for assistance with the Munsonville Cemetery issue. Various suggestions were made including to copy Edie and the Select Board. Elaine will revise the letter, discuss it with Edie and then send it to Gary Kinyon.

Review 1890 Munsonville Cemetery Deed

We have information on the Munsonville deed from 1828 to 1921. There is a paper trail available to be looked at.

Report on Jon Buschbaum's Estimate

Laurie passed out copies of Jon Buschbaum's estimate which totals \$4,000 for the work discussed at last month's meeting. The Board is in favor of accepting this estimate and proceeding with the work. Elaine will present it to the Select Board at their meeting later this week. Our thought is to do this within this year's budget and include cemetery design in next year's budget. There is a designer in Buffalo that we should contact.

Report on How Harrisville Keeps Their Cemetery Records

Linda reported that she talked to Leslie Downing, the chair of the Harrisville Cemetery Board and that they keep their cemetery records the same way we do. They have a map with the names on the map and a second sheet with more details. They also report all burials to the Town Clerk at the end of the year and Leslie doesn't know what the Town Clerk does with that information.

Linda said that Leslie was impressed with our board of five interested and active members. There are only three members of the Harrisville Cemetery Board and Leslie has trouble finding people to serve on the Board.

Linda reported that Leslie said Harrisville's scattering garden is up and running and the ashes of two people have been scattered there. The total cost for the scattering garden was \$7,000. The names are recorded on 6 by 12-inch granite stones.

We agreed that we would like to go on a field trip to the Harrisville Cemetery when the weather is better. Linda will follow up with Leslie.

Discuss Date for Spring Clean-Up

We will schedule a date for the spring clean-up after we do a walk around to see what is needed.

Walk Around Nelson Cemetery

We agreed that next month's meeting would be at the Cemetery and would include a walk around the back of Cemetery One, plus a look at the trees and stones that are down.

Al wondered why we never expanded into the back area of Cemetery One. He will arrange a lunch with Bert Wingerson to discuss that and other issues from her time on the Cemetery Board. Linda offered to join him. Thursday, April 7 was discussed as a possible date.

Al said there are some trees leaning over stones that should be taken down. We discussed again trees as an asset and a liability. We still need to get the professional opinion of an arborist. We wondered if we have money for that in this year's budget. (Laurie later confirmed that we have \$3,000 for tree maintenance and that someone mentioned Johnson and Melville as a possible arborist.)

NH Cemetery Association Meeting – Thursday, April 13

Elaine said she forgot to bring the flyer about the NH Cemetery Association meeting but it is April 13. Elaine, Linda and Laurie will attend. Elaine will register us for the meeting and will get a check from Edie.

Last Month's To Do List

Everyone completed their tasks. Elaine handed a lock for the Cemetery Two gate to Al. Harry reported he bought the chains and they are in the Town Hall box.

Discussion of Munsonville Cemetery

Harry said that he will talk to John Bunce to see if he has any additional information about the Munsonville Cemetery. Linda reported that she talked to Ron Ferguson when the issue first came up. Elaine said Tom Newcombe has been managing the Trust Fund since 2006. Linda will try to locate a copy of the 2006 Annual Report to see exactly what the warrant said.

Having no further business, Elaine adjourned the meeting at 4:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board