

Minutes of Meeting Nelson Cemetery Board Monday, March 18, 2024

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

Elaine called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Next Meeting

Monday, April 15 at 3:30 p.m. in the lower level meeting room of the library. Laurie has reserved the room. The following meeting will be Monday, May 20, same time, same place.

Review of Minutes

Minutes of the February meeting were approved and signed. Laurie will deliver them to Karen Castelli. Elaine will email Edie Drinkwater a digital copy.

Review of Last Month's To-Do-List

Elaine

- Emailed the January minutes to Edie.
- Prepared and shared agenda prior to the March meeting

Harry

- Tried to contact the American Legion. It doesn't open until noon.

Linda

- Did the February minutes
- Will present Crypt Keeper record keeping software package at the April meeting.

Al

- Took a look at the gate at Cemetery 2 and thinks it can be wedged back to vertical. Harry and/or Elaine will talk to Mike Tarr to see if he might be able to do that task.
- He also looked at the maple tree at the Munsonville Cemetery. It does need to be taken down. Elaine will talk to John Bunce to see if he would be willing to take the tree down in exchange for the wood. Discussion ensued regarding the replanting of a sugar maple and the moving a granite post to use as a support for the new sign

Laurie

- Got the minutes to Karen Castelli
- Reserved the room
- Posted the meeting
- Historic Harrisville will get back to her about the Harris family and recommendations for restoring the family plot's iron fence
- She is waiting a response from the Select Board regarding quotes for cemetery designs. (We have since been told to ask the Board to waive the additional quote requirement.)

Munsonville Cemetery and its Perpetual Care Funds (ongoing)

Elaine updated us on the latest developments. Edie Drinkwater suggested we request a joint meeting with Terry Knowles and the Select Board. Terry Knowles has retired from the NH Department of Charitable Trusts, but is apparently still available to help with her vast knowledge of New Hampshire laws and statutes. It is hoped Ms. Knowles can direct us on obtaining

ownership of the Munsonville Cemetery for the Town of Nelson and also ownership of the related Trust Funds and Perpetual Care Funds.

We noted that there is a list of all the individuals who have perpetual care funds. The Select Board is willing to pay her travel expenses. We thought even a telephone conference call would do. Elaine will contact Edie and the Select Board to see what can be arranged. Cemetery Board members are asked to submit questions for Ms. Knowles to Elaine ASAP.

Munsonville Cemetery Erosion Problem (ongoing)

We again thank Mike Tarr and John Bunce for the work they did last fall.

Al has discovered another spot where the roadway has begun to gully. He asked permission to install a water bar to deter water and prevent further erosion. Permission was granted with offers to assist.

Grazing Sheep on the New Cemetery Property in 2024

Gary Robinson and Amy Whitney have asked if they can once again graze their sheep on the field which will be our newest cemetery. We all agree this is a mutually beneficial arrangement, at least until construction begins. They asked for permission to trim some trees along the stone wall. Permission was granted. They asked if a gravel mound could be moved which we declined for the present time. The gravel will be used for road or pathway construction in the future. Its placement has yet to be determined. Elaine will notify them.

Design of the New Cemetery (ongoing)

We look forward to viewing a video on cemetery design at our next meeting on April 15. We remind ourselves that Linda Cates has already made contact with Grever & Ward, a design firm that has been recommended to us by John LaCroix. Al and Laurie have volunteered to be on a sub-committee with Linda going forward.

Damaged Harris Family Plot Iron Fence (ongoing)

Laurie has made contact with Historic Harrisville. They will get back to her with recommendations for repair of the fence and also try to contact a descendant of the Harris family. One who regularly attends the Harrisville Annual Meeting may be of help. Laurie will get another quote from Peterborough Marble & Granite. It was mentioned that we would like to see the plot weeded.

Miscellaneous

Elaine mentioned that she intends to clean the Civil War monument this spring. Laurie and Al offered to help her.

Having no further business, Elaine adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Smith for the Nelson Cemetery Board

To-Do List for April

Elaine:

- Email Edie the digital version of February's meeting minutes.
- Contact Edie and the Select Board to set up some sort of meeting for us all with Terry Knowles for assistance with the Munsonville Cemetery problem. (Perhaps we can hire Ms. Knowles to do this project?)
- Contact Gary and Amy and give them the okay to trim trees along the stone wall and to let them know to just work around the piles of gravel as they will be used in the future cemetery development.
- Coordinate with Harry contacting Mike Tarr to ask his help with straightening the gate post at the entrance to Cemetery 2.
- Ask John Bunce if he would be willing to take down the old maple in the Munsonville Cemetery in exchange for the wood.
- Do agenda for next meeting.

Harry:

- Coordinate with Elaine to contact Mike Tarr to ask his assistance in straightening the gatepost to Cemetery 2.
- Contact American Legion or VFW when they are open, to see if veterans can receive funeral assistance.

Al:

- Install water bar in Munsonville Cemetery to deter the forming gully.

Laurie:

- Give Karen the signed February minutes.
- Do the March minutes.
- Post April's meeting.
- Report expenditures if there are any.
- Contact Peterborough Marble and Granite to see if they know anyone who does iron fence repair. (Harris Plot)

Everyone:

- Submit questions for Elaine to ask Terry Knowles regarding the Munsonville Cemetery issues, including how to establish ownership of the Perpetual Care Funds
- Let Elaine know if you are interested in attending the NHCA meeting on Thursday, April 18 at The Deerfield Restaurant, 625 Mammoth Rd, Manchester