

## **Minutes of Meeting Nelson Cemetery Board Monday, May 19, 2025**

**Members Present:** Elaine Giacomo, Harry Flanagan, Al Stoops, Laurie Smith. Linda Cates will be with us in June.

Elaine called the meeting to order at 3:37 PM.

**Next Regular Meeting:** Monday, June 16, 3:30 PM, in the Library basement. No July meeting.

### **Review of Minutes:**

Minutes of the April meeting were reviewed and approved with changes. The minutes were signed by the Board members. Laurie will deliver the signed minutes to Karen. Elaine will email a copy to Edie.

### **Task Reports by Members:**

#### **Elaine:**

- Emailed copy of March minutes to Edie.
- Forwarded Michael Shawver's bid for 2025 to the Select Board
- No new developments regarding the Munsonville Cemetery.
- Advised Amy Whitney it's okay to graze sheep, with restrictions for work being done. Use the other entrance away from construction.
- Did not contact Catherine Boyd for information about green burials but will do so.
- John LaCroix was emailed twice and texted. John called in during our meeting.
- Contacted Michael Shawver about applying calcitic lime to the oldest cemetery. He will provide us with an estimate.
- Contacted Michael Shawver about damage done to a soapstone marker. He will tell his workers to be more careful.
- Prepared and circulated the agenda prior to May meeting.

#### **Harry:**

- Did not get an estimate from Joe Merrill for removal of the tree in Munsonville. We are concerned that he may not be bonded. Also, we have no jurisdiction.
- NH regulations and practices for scatter gardens are focused on respect and common sense. Scatter gardens must be at least 50 feet from a state road, but Lead Mine Rd. is not a state road.
- Opened gate to Munsonville Cemetery and placed flags for Memorial Day
- Acquired list of perpetual care funds from Tom Newcombe for Nelson's cemetery graves.

#### **Linda:**

- Did April minutes.
- Was going to talk to Bert Wingerson regarding the names of our cemeteries.

#### **Al:**

- Research practices and regulations for green burials. Ongoing.
- Did not talk to Mike Tarr about further improvements to the gate to Cemetery II.
- Will ask Owen Iselin if we can use water from his place for future stone cleanings.
- Forwarded photos of Phil Kohl's chipped soapstone marker to Elaine.
- Opened gates to Nelson Cemeteries and distributed flags for Memorial Day.

#### **Laurie:**

- Delivered signed March minutes to Karen.

- Posted official notice of May meeting.
- Got the key for the May meeting.
- Researched practices and regulations for green burials. Ongoing.
- Read Diocese of Manchester Rules & Regulations, will pass along. Ongoing.

#### **Everyone:**

- **Elaine, Al and Laurie** cleaned gravestones in Cemetery 1 and the Revolutionary War Monument on May 14. The War Monument will need a 30% stronger vinegar spray, which is available at Home Depot.
- Track down members of the Melville family regarding repairs to the Melville tomb.

#### **Elaine Met With Select Board:**

The Nelson Select Board was concerned about the shrubbery growing out of the stone walls surrounding the two cemeteries. They were also concerned about the size of the hemlock trees growing between Cemetery 2 and the neighboring property. Apparently the hemlocks are on Cemetery property and were planted by Win French and Mike Blandschun. One option discussed was to cut the hemlocks down. Who would we have do these two jobs? To be continued.

#### **Layout of New Cemetery:**

John LaCroix called Elaine during our meeting. **(603) 305-4825** is his number for calling or texting. He has visited the site of the new cemetery three times. To pin the first section to be developed, John needs to have the area graded and seeded. The area is currently too uneven for him to do it.

John would like Mike Tarr to contact him so they can discuss the placement of the road that must "jive" with the Grever and Ward plan and to do the grading of that area. John highly recommends the use of the fescue seed mix called "**Jonathan Greene Black Beauty Ultra**". It is expensive as an initial investment but more than pays back over time. We noted that we did not budget for grading in the development of the new cemetery. Budget details from April minutes are shown below. Who will contact Mike Tarr to initiate this process ?

*(The sub-category "New Cemetery Design" \$1,975 at the bottom of the Cemetery Budget in the Annual Report includes \$1,000 for the layout, i.e., \$975 final payment to Grever & Ward and \$1,000 for the layout of the cemetery. Those two items appear in Budget Line 4196.7 New Cemetery Design & Construction, which also includes \$7,500 for the access road, for a total of \$9,475. Plantings of \$1,000 are included in Budget Line 4195.5 Supplies/Services/ Plantings. That also includes \$500 for headstone cleaning solvent for a total of \$1,500.)*

#### **Area of the Old Cemetery to be Limed:**

Elaine will consult with Michael Shawver about getting two estimates for calcitic lime application. One will be for liming the whole cemetery and the other for liming around the maple trees only.

#### **Cemetery Names:**

We will wait for Linda to call Bert Wingerson and ask what the cemeteries were called when she was chair.

#### **Other Business:**

Beverly Kerber is interested in a plot in Cemetery 2. She will come back with her husband. Al Guida may also be interested in a plot in the Munsonville Cemetery if one becomes available.

**Having no further business, Elaine adjourned the meeting at 4:33 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Smith for the Nelson Cemetery Board

## May 2025 TO-DO LIST

### Elaine:

- Email copy of April minutes to Edie.
- Keep up with developments regarding the Munsonville Cemetery.
- Contact Catherine Boyd for information about green burials.
- Prepare and circulate the agenda prior to June meeting.
- Get an estimate from Michael Shawver about liming the Old Cemetery and/or trees.
- Arrange for Mike Tarr to contact John LaCroix, (603) 305-4825, to coordinate work on the new cemetery road and grading.
- Ask Mike Tarr if he can place the fallen stones back in the wall of the Old Cemetery.

### Harry:

### Linda:

- Call Bert Wingerson to discuss names of the cemeteries.

### Al:

- Arrange to get water from Owen Iselin for the future cleaning of gravestones
- Research practices and regulations for green burials.
- At some point, talk to Mike Tarr about further improvements to the gate to Cemetery II.

### Laurie:

- Deliver signed April minutes to Karen.
- Post official notice of June meeting.
- Get the key for the June meeting.
- Continue to research practices and regulations for green burials.
- Finish reading Diocese of Manchester Rules and Regulations, then pass them along.

### Everyone:

- Consider the hemlock hedge and shrubbery growing out of the stone walls.
- How to repair the fallen stone wall. Is it a job for Mike Tarr or Michael Shawver?

### To Be Assigned:

- Track down members of the Melville family regarding repairs to the Melville tomb.