

**Minutes of Meeting
Nelson Cemetery Board
Monday, May18, 2026, 3:30 PM**

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

Guest Present: Jon Buschbaum

Elaine called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, June 15, 3:30 PM, in the lower level of the Library.

Discussion with Jon Buschbaum:

Our first order of business was a discussion with Jon Buschbaum regarding the laying out of plots in the New Cemetery. We talked about the two areas that we want to have done now – the area to the left of the access road, and the scatter garden area. Elaine said that we have between three and six burials a year. We reviewed the schematic on the Grever & Ward plans of how the plots should be marked. Jon said that he will try to lay out the plots using GPS. He, as surveyor, and Grever & Ward, as designer, used different methodologies in their plans so he cannot work directly from their coordinates. Jon uses Model 2800 New Hampshire State Plane Coordinates, which gives him 3D imaging.

When discussing the time frame, Laurie reported that the markers to mark the plots will not arrive until some time in June or July. Jon will wait until they are here to begin his work. Laurie said that one of us could be available when they are placing the markers if that would be of assistance.

Jon told us his fee will be \$1,500. He will prepare a proposal that we can take to the Select Board.

We discussed the space between the cremation plots and the stone wall. Laurie said the space is sloped and should be leveled before those plots are marked. We wondered who has a backhoe who could do this, perhaps Mike Tarr. A big concern is the buckthorn bushes, which are extremely invasive. Jon recommended regular mowing to keep them under control.

Review of Minutes:

The April minutes were reviewed and approved as presented with one minor spelling correction. 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 the approved March minutes to Edie.
- Followed up with Michael Shawver about regular mowing of a portion of the new cemetery. Michael asked how big the space was and Elaine said 100 by 200 feet. Michael said “Okay” but did not give a price quote for the additional work. Elaine will follow up.
- Did not give Karen a copy of our current prices for plots and cornerstones but will do so now.
- Talked to Edie about money for the Munsonville gravestone repairs. Edie said that we can use money from the Munsonville Trust funds without prior budget approval.
- Did not follow up with Catherine Boyd for information about green burials.
- Prepared and circulated the agenda prior to May meeting.

Harry:

- Followed up on the granite posts necessary to get the new Munsonville Cemetery sign hung. Broderick Kaufhold said their granite posts, 7 by 7 inches, are \$55 a foot, \$50 to \$100 for antique or natural granite. Peterborough Marble and Granite have brackets available.
- Worked with Al to lime the trees in the Old Cemetery.
- Did not talk to Jeremy Hamilton about the erosion work in the Munsonville Cemetery.

Linda:

- Did the April minutes.

Al:

- Still to do - develop list of all veterans in our Cemeteries.
- Fixed the gate to Cemetery 2.
- Worked with Harry to lime the trees in the Old Cemetery.

Laurie:

- Delivered the signed March minutes to Karen.
- Followed up with Jon Buschbaum for a quote to lay out the plots in the New Cemetery and arranged for him to attend today's meeting.
- Followed up with Andover Marker Company for a firm price on the markers and ordered the markers.
- Posted official notice of May meeting.
- Got the key for the May meeting.

Everyone:

- Review the Rules and Regulations - to be discussed at a later meeting.
- Review the four cemetery record-keeping software packages for a later meeting.
- Harry and Al covered a bit of the space in the scattering garden with black plastic that came with the lime pallets. Laurie covered the remaining space with cardboard.

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.

Finding a Grave Digger:

Harry reported that Jeremy Hamilton is not interested. Elaine will ask Michael Shawver for suggestions, although he probably would have suggested people already if he knew of anyone. Harry will ask Mike Tarr for suggestions. Elaine will also talk to Jeff or Jason Walter. Harry wondered if we should post the job in the Black Fly Express.

April 16 Cemetery Workday Recap:

The scattering garden area has now been fully covered and the trees in the Old Cemetery have been limed. Harry and Al reported that it took 5 or 6 hours. Al said that the second year would only require about half as much lime.

Memorial Day Parade and Service:

Elaine reported that Memorial Day is a week from today. She oversees the event, which will be much as in previous years. People will gather at 11:30 and the parade will be at noon. Laurie will get the flowers. Elaine and Laurie will discuss the flowers after today's meeting. Harry reported that he has placed flags on the veterans' graves in Munsonville. Al has picked up the flags for the Nelson

cemeteries and will take care of that. Elaine asked Al to be sure to place a flag on Rick Lothrop's grave.

Recent Plot Purchases:

Elaine reported that the Laughlins paid for their three plots. Cornerstones have been ordered.

Rick and Betsey Church ordered a headstone, the design of which should have been approved by the Cemetery Board ahead of time. However, people are not necessarily aware that should be done, even though it appears in the Rules and Regulations. The design of the headstone is fine.

Elaine has been in discussion with Ed Scott about a headstone.

Other Business:

No one has heard from Gary Robinson about grazing their sheep in the new cemetery this year.

Having no further business, Elaine adjourned the meeting at 4:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board

JUNE TO-DO LIST

Elaine:

- Email approved April minutes to Edie.
- Follow-up with Michael Shawver about the cost of regular mowing of a portion of the new cemetery.
- Ask Michael Shawver for suggestions for a grave digger.
- Talk to Jeff and Jason Walter for suggestions for a grave digger.
- Manage the Memorial Day Event.
- Give Karen a copy of our current prices for plots and cornerstones.
- Prepare and circulate the agenda prior to June meeting.

Harry:

- Ask Mike Tarr for suggestions for a grave digger.
- Talk to Jeremy Hamilton about the erosion work in the Munsonville Cemetery.

Linda:

- Do May minutes.

Al:

- Put flags on veterans' graves in the Nelson Cemeteries prior to Memorial Day.
- Develop list of all veterans in our Cemeteries.

Laurie:

- Deliver the signed April minutes to Karen.
- Get flowers for Memorial Day.
- Post official notice of June meeting.
- Get 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.