

Minutes of Meeting Nelson Cemetery Board Monday, November 17, 2025, 3:30 PM

Members Present: Harry Flanagan, Linda Cates, Al Stoops, Laurie Smith, Elaine was absent by prior arrangement.

Guest Present: Edie Drinkwater

Harry called the meeting to order at 3:34 PM.

Nelson Cemeteries to be Theme of this Year's Town Report:

Edie told us that the Nelson Cemeteries and the work of the Board will be the theme in this year's Town Report. She needs photos and ideas from us. She suggested that a photo of the Munsonville Cemetery sign decorated with greenery and red bows would be good for the back cover. Edie would like about a dozen photos to choose from. We thought perhaps a photo of May Sarton's stone or Ralph Page's stone would be good. Also, a photo of Mike Tarr working on the road in the New Cemetery. A photo of a fallen or damaged stone might also be good. January 10 is the deadline, but Edie would like stories and photos from us as soon as possible.

We are flattered to be featured in the Town Report.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, December 1, 3:30 PM, in the lower level of the Library. Note, this meeting is being held two weeks early to finalize the budget in a timely manner.

Review of Minutes:

The October minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. The minutes were signed by the Board members present. Laurie will deliver the signed copy to Karen and Elaine will email a copy to Edie.

Task Reports by Members:

Elaine:

- Emailed approved September minutes to Edie.
- Talked to Mike Tarr to find out if he still has time to do the road in the new cemetery this year.
- Got wine for Edie as a thank you for her Munsonville work.
- Talked to Michael Shawver about the liming. We will not be charged for the liming. Did not talk to him about blowing leaves on the stone walls and fences.
- Kept up with developments regarding the Munsonville Cemetery. See report below.
- Followed up with the Laughlins about three plots. They are still interested.
- Did not get a quote from Peterborough Granite and Marble for headstone repairs in the Munsonville Cemetery for next year. Harry will do this.
- Did not follow up with Catherine Boyd for information about green burials.
- Prepared and sent the agenda to Harry for circulation prior to November meeting.

Harry:

- Did not check with Wilcox and Hutchins tree companies about removing the tree in Munsonville, but will now do so, getting quotes to include stumping. Will try to get the work done in this year's budget.
- Invited Tom Newcombe to the November 5 public hearing on the Munsonville Cemetery.
- Removed flags from Munsonville Cemetery after Veteran's Day.

Linda:

- Did October minutes.

Al:

- Got a price on a pallet of lime delivered to the cemetery. See report below.
- Removed flags from the Nelson Cemeteries after Veteran's Day.

Laurie:

- Was in touch with Jon Buschbaum about the cost and timing of his survey work. See report below.
- Got flowers for Edie as a thank you for her Munsonville work.
- Posted official notice of November meeting.
- Got the key for the November meeting.

To Be Assigned:

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

Update on Munsonville Cemetery:

Elaine reported via email that she signed the paperwork authorizing transfer of the Munsonville Cemetery to the Town. This includes the trust funds associated with the Munsonville Cemetery. Elaine also signed the paperwork necessary to dissolve the Munsonville Cemetery Association.

Laurie reported that a nice reception took place after the hearing to accept the Munsonville Cemetery. The Selectboard members were in attendance, as were Edie, Mike Tarr, Elaine, Harry, and Laurie. Edie was presented with wine and an orchid. The charcuterie board received rave reviews.

Update on New Cemetery:

Laurie updated us on the road work at the new cemetery. Mike Tarr encountered a wet area (perhaps a spring) and stopped work. He will continue after the ground freezes if it's not snowing by then.

Laurie reported that Jon Buschbaum surveyed the entire road, not just the part we plan to develop now. It is marked with stakes, and we need to figure out a way to retain the marking until we develop the road, which could be years from now. The cost for the survey work was \$800.00 and has been paid.

Elaine and Laurie cleared out the shed, which Mike Tarr has since removed. The old equipment piled outside the shed is gone.

Elaine reported via email that she talked with Brenna Kucinski about the possibility of the Town purchasing the other half of the field that the new cemetery is in. Laurie reported that the property is in Conservation Easement in Perpetuity and can only be used for agricultural purposes. It cannot be developed by us or by anyone else. Therefore, there is no reason to acquire it.

Discussion with Peterborough Marble and Granite Works:

The cornerstones for Kerber and Hutchins have been installed.

Harry reported his conversation with Peterborough Marble and Granite. They are willing to provide and install four cornerstones for \$250.00, a hundred dollars less than Keene Monument Company. Peterborough will drop off four cornerstones for \$180.00, but we would have to install them. We voted that going forward we will purchase cornerstones from Peterborough, rather than Keene, and have them install them. Harry reported that Keene Monument has been slow in getting the last few cornerstones installed.

Update on Liming:

Al reported that Agway, now Blue Diamond does not carry lime anymore. He got a quote from Horse and Buggy: 40 X forty-pound bags delivered for \$344.00. He needs to confirm that it is the high calcium lime that we have been advised to use.

Al will arrange to have the lime delivered to the Cemetery on a day when there is no rain in the forecast for a few days. Harry and Al will spread it. Harry has a spreader, and Al will borrow one from Gary Robinson. Al will ask Horse and Buggy to bill the Town by December 10.

We told Al to proceed if he's able to get this done this year. If not, we will wait until Spring.

2026 Cemetery Budget:

Laurie kindly brought to the meeting copies of our 2025 budget and actual, as well as her mark-up draft of next year's budget.

This is the proposed budget, which we will review and finalize at our December 1st meeting.

\$15,000 Mowing and Raking of the Cemeteries
 \$6,500 Completion of Access Road in New Cemetery
 \$6,000 Survey Plotting of New Cemetery
 \$1,000 Development of Scattering Garden
 \$2,000 Tree Removal/Pruning
 \$4,000 Munsonville Cemetery Work
 \$ 500 Headstone Cleaning Solvent
 \$ 120 Office Supplies and Postage
 \$ 220 Membership, Travel, Workshops

\$35,340 TOTAL

We added \$6,000 for surveying plots in the New Cemetery. We thought we could spend the winter months trying to come up with someone to do this job. Perhaps we can check with other cemeteries in the area.

We would like to ask Michael Shawver to mow the section to be developed in the New Cemetery each month all season, so we can see what it looks like. Mike Tarr thinks it will look like grass.

Edie would like our budget by the first week of December. We should send the preliminary budget to Edie and then Elaine will go in and discuss it with the Select Board.

Other Business:

Al volunteered to take on the task of trying to identify all the veterans buried in our cemeteries. It will be added to his monthly To-Do list.

Having no further business, Harry adjourned the meeting at 4:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board

DECEMBER TO-DO LIST

Elaine:

- Email approved October minutes to Edie.
- Talk to Mike Tarr to find out if he still has time to do the road in the new cemetery this year.
- Follow up with Catherine Boyd for information about green burials.
- Prepare and circulate the agenda prior to December meeting.

Harry:

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- Get quotes from Wilcox and Hutchins tree companies about removing the tree in Munsonville, including stumping. Try to get this done in this budget year.
- Get quote from Peterborough Marble and Granite to repair headstones in Munsonville Cemetery.

Linda:

- Do November minutes.

Al:

- Get lime delivered and spread.
- Develop list of all veterans in our Cemeteries.

Laurie:

- Post official notice of December meeting.
- Get the key for the December meeting.

Unassigned:

- Get photo of Munsonville Cemetery sign as requested by Edie.
- Get photos and stories to Edie about the Cemeteries and our work this year.

To Be Assigned:

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