

**Minutes of Meeting  
Nelson Cemetery Board  
Monday, October 17, 2022, 3:30 PM**

**Members Present:** Elaine Giacomo, Linda Cates, Laurie Smith

We met in Cemetery Two at 3:30 to lay out more new burial plots in the area previously designated as a traffic circle.

**Layout of New Plots in Cemetery Two:**

We laid out five additional plots. Elaine showed us the number scheme for the new plots. Numbers start with 301. At 3:47 we moved to the lower level of the Library to continue the meeting.

**Review of Minutes:**

We reviewed the minutes of the September meeting. The minutes were approved with two changes. Linda will adjust the map to show plot number 324 in its correct location and will move the apostrophe in Priscilla Walter's name. We corrected and signed the minutes which Elaine will give to Edie. Linda will correct the digital minutes and forward them to Elaine.

**Cemetery Board Budget for 2023:**

We discussed the various components and passed the budget as follows:

Maintenance of existing cemeteries \$10,000  
Planning & Design of New Cemetery \$7,000  
Tree Maintenance \$3,000  
Office Supplies & Postage \$150  
Miscellaneous Expenses, Not Elsewhere Classified \$500  
**Total: \$20,650.00**

Elaine will check with Michael Shawver on his price for next year. We agreed that he is doing a good job on maintenance and getting better with burials. We approved using his services for another year.

Postage is to cover the cost of the mailing that Elaine will do after our new pricing has been officially approved by the full Board.

We still need to hire an arborist for a review of trees in the cemeteries. Laurie said there is still half a tree near the Mausoleum that should come down. There is also a branch hanging over the Johnson plots that should be removed.

There will be no warrant article this year for repair of headstones. We can't repair the headstones in Munsonville at this time and Harry reported to Elaine that Peterborough Marble and Granite said there are only five headstones to be repaired in the Nelson cemeteries. Because there are so few headstones to be repaired Broderick Kaufhold of Peterborough Marble and Granite agreed to include cleaning of all headstones instead.

## **Munsonville Cemetery Update:**

Elaine updated us on the situation with the Munsonville Cemetery. These are the problems:

- 1) There is no proof that all the pieces of land donated for the cemetery were put into one deed.
- 2) There is no proof that the deed was passed over to the Munsonville Cemetery Association.
- 3) There is no proof that the Munsonville Cemetery Association passed the deed to the Town of Nelson.

Eddie suggested that notices could be put in the local papers that Nelson is taking over the Munsonville Cemetery. The term for this is "quieting the deed." **It may be the least expensive way to accomplish the transfer, but the process for acquiring a deed for the properties making up the Munsonville Cemetery is a bit more complicated and will still require legal services.**

Elaine reported that Mike Tarr hauled away the debris from the Munsonville Cemetery following our work day on October 1. Elaine, Laurie and Linda were able to accomplish a lot and the Munsonville Cemetery looks much better. Tom Murray assisted with chainsaw work.

## **Winterizing the Cemeteries:**

Michael Shawver still has to blow leaves. Flags will be taken in after Veterans Day on November 11. We agreed that the cemeteries will be closed for the winter on November 15. The gates will be closed and a chain or rope will be used where the gate does not close.

## **Elevation Work in the New Cemetery:**

Linda reported that Gary Robinson is still planning to do the elevations in the new cemetery and plans to complete it before the snow flies. If not, we can revisit this over the winter.

## **The Issue of Buying Multiple Plots:**

After discussion, we agreed that until after Cemetery 3 is up and running we will limit the number of plots available for sale to any one individual or family. This is to be sure that we have plots available to Nelsonites when they need them. We also wondered if plots should be purchased only by the people planning to be interred in them. We don't want to end up with a large number of unused plots. Elaine reported that she agreed to sell four more plots to the Johnson family.

## **Recent and Upcoming Burials:**

Elaine reported the burial of a member of the Cady family in the old cemetery on October 8.

## **Gifts to the Cemetery:**

Laurie reported that Bill Raynor's two sisters gave **\$200** each to the Cemetery. Eddie will set up an account for the funds.

**Cemetery Board Memberships:**

We agreed to drop our membership in the New England Cemetery Association and join the New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association. We will continue our membership in the New Hampshire Cemetery Association.

**Other Business:**

Elaine reported that she has located the grave of Stanley Hardy Walters.

Unless Elaine hears otherwise from the owner of the plot accidentally promised to Josh Hutchins, we will need to assign him another plot. In addition, both he and his mother still need to pay for their plots.

There was a suggestion of some kind of Open House or other event at the cemeteries.

**Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, November 15, 7:00 PM in the lower level of the Library. We agreed that we need more reminders of meetings. Elaine will send out the agenda before meetings. Laurie has also been sending an email when she places the notices of our meetings.

**Having no further business**, Elaine adjourned the meeting at 4:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board