

Minutes of Meeting Nelson Cemetery Board Monday, October 16, 2023, 3:00 PM

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

We began at 3:00 at the Harrisville Scattering Garden and then continued our meeting in the lower level of the Library. Elaine called the business meeting to order at 4:00.

Next Meeting:

Monday, November 13, 3:00 PM, in the lower level of the Library. We will start half an hour early (3:00 instead of 3:30) to allow extra time to complete year-end tasks.

To Do List

Elaine

- Waiting for an estimate from Troy Tucker on Cemetery Two gate and Harris iron fence.
- Continue follow up with Gary Kinyon.
- Talk to the New Hampshire Cemetery Association about perpetual care funds.

Harry

- Advise sign maker of our choice of colors for the Munsonville Cemetery sign.
- Talk to Michael Shawver about moving the granite post at the Munsonville Cemetery.
- Book the lower library meeting room for next month's meeting.
- Remove Munsonville flags after Veterans Day.
- With Al, move a couple of cornerstones.

Linda

- Contact Grever and Ward for an estimate on layout & design for new cemetery.
- Do October minutes.
- Provide a more complete report on Crypt Keeper software at the January meeting.

Al

- Follow up with Kirk Dale for an estimate on repairing Cemetery II gate and the Harris iron fence.
- Check out the condition of huge old maple tree near Munsonville Cemetery sign.
- Remove Nelson cemeteries flags after Veterans' Day.
- Talk to Margaret Iselin about children playing in the cemeteries.
- With Harry, move a couple of cornerstones.

Laurie

- Contact Historic Harrisville for information on how to reach the Harris family about repairs to their iron fence.
- Get a more detailed year-to-date expenditure report for next meeting.

Everyone - Get year-end business done at November meetings in future.

Harrisville Scattering Garden

We met Leslie Downing, Chair of the Harrisville Cemetery Board, and Serena Wilder, new member of the Harrisville Cemetery Board, at Harrisville's scattering garden in the Island Cemetery in Harrisville. We discussed the design and use of their scattering garden.

Review of Minutes

Minutes of the September meeting were approved as previously amended.

Review of Last Month's To-Do List

Elaine

- has not yet called Keith Gordon about selling his plot in Munsonville back to the town. We will pay him the price he paid for the plot.
- sent the July minutes to Edie in digital form.
- sent another email to Gary Kinyon.
- had a chat with Troy Tucker about the Cemetery gate and the Harris iron fence, but has not gotten as estimate.
- spoke to John LaCroix about cemetery designers.

Harry

- has had conversations with the sign maker.
- cannot get a list of veterans as there is no source available.
- reported that cornerstones are in for the Johnsons.

Linda

- arranged today's visit to the Harrisville Scattering Garden.
- will provide amore complete report on Crypt Keeper software at January's meeting.

AI reported that he has talked to Kirk Dale about the repair of Cemetery Two gate and the Harris iron fence in Cemetery One, but that Kirk has not looked at it yet.

Laurie

- delivered the signed August minutes to Karen.
- did the September minutes.
- provided an expenditure report year-to-date from Edie.

Update on Burials and Cemetery Plot Sales

Elaine reported that Nina and Dorothy Iselin are purchasing cremation plots.

Elaine represented the Cemetery Board at Warren Hammack's service. She said it was just family and very moving.

There will be a graveside ceremony this weekend for Jeffrey Felix's aunt and uncle. They want the ashes buried prior to the ceremony. The ashes will be dropped at Elaine's house. She will have Michael Shawver bury them before Saturday.

Gary Kinyon Update

Elaine copied us on her follow-up email to Gary Kinyon asking him to pursue both options. She hasn't heard from him since August.

Keene Monument Work in Cemetery Two

Keene Monument didn't show up the day they had scheduled with Harry, but showed up the next day when Elaine was there.

Linda wondered if there are other plots that should have cornerstones, but don't. Should we contact those people and offer to arrange with Keene Monument to have it done at their expense?

Elaine asked Harry and Al to move a couple of cornerstones. On Pamela White's sister's plot one side is butted up against a root in the way. Move both cornerstones over one foot. Also, move John Warner's because of the roadway.

Munsonville Cemetery and Sign

Harry said the sign maker acquired a piece of Trex for \$50.00 that is the same shape and size as the original Munsonville Cemetery sign. We chose white and forest green for the colors of the sign.

We talked about looking into the price of new six-foot granite posts to mount the Munsonville Cemetery sign like the Nelson school sign is mounted. The Munsonville sign is currently on a piece of plumbing pipe. Someone pointed out that there are a couple of beautiful granite posts outside the Munsonville Cemetery. Harry will talk to Michael Shawver to see if he can move those up to where we need them for the sign.

There is a huge old maple tree right next to the Munsonville Cemetery sign that should probably come down. Al will look at it, and Elaine will talk to Mike Blandschun to see if the town would have it removed, or if we need to first settle the Munsonville Cemetery ownership issue.

Update on Cemetery Two Gate Repair and Harris Iron Fence Repair

Elaine has asked Troy Tucker for an estimate and will follow up. Al has asked Kirk Dale for an estimate and will follow up.

While at the Harrisville Scattering Garden, we asked Leslie Downing if she knew of any members of the Harris family still around. She said there are still local members of the Harris family and they might be willing to pay for the repair of their iron fence. Leslie suggested asking Historic Harrisville for contact details. Laurie volunteered to do that.

Other Business

1. We discussed perpetual care funds with Leslie Downing. She said you can charge a small maintenance fee. Elaine said that Tom Newcombe has a list of who has how much money is in perpetual care. Leslie suggested talking to the Secretary of State about it. Elaine is going to reach out to the New Hampshire Cemetery Association to see if they can provide some guidance.
2. Elaine talked to John LaCroix about cemetery designers; John and his brother maintain Catholic cemeteries throughout the region. John recommended Ward and Grever out of Buffalo, New York. We have had other recommendations for them. Linda will contact them for an estimate that we can use in the 2024 budget. We think the new cemetery is about two acres.
3. The expenditure report from Edie was not detailed enough. We noticed the following items were missing: \$40 or \$50 for flags, over \$100 for flowers, the cost of the New Hampshire Cemetery Association conference that several of us attended, headstone cleaning supplies, about \$50 for the chain Harry bought, Gary Kinyon legal fees. Laurie will get a more detailed report for the next meeting.
4. Elaine mentioned that there were children playing in the cemetery this summer and Michael Shawver almost hit one with his truck. They may have been from the Game of Village camp. Al will talk to Margaret Iselin about this.
5. Linda asked how one transfers cemetery deeds from one owner to another. The answer is to see Karen about it.
6. Harry and Al will remove flags after Veterans' Day on November 15.

7. Linda received a copy of Jon Buschbaum's map of the new cemetery. Edie has a copy. An additional copy will be given to town clerk Karen.
8. We discussed getting an arborist to review trees in the cemeteries sometime next year.

Having no further business, Elaine adjourned the meeting at about 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board