Minutes of Meeting
Nelson Cemetery Board
Monday, October 19, 2026, 3:30 PM

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

Elaine called the meeting to order in the lower level of the Library at 3:35 PM.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, November 16, 3:30 PM, in the lower level of the Library.

Review of Minutes:

The September minutes were reviewed and approved as revised. 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:

- Met with Corey Spydell, who purchased Plot #315. The burial will be later this month.
- The Chase cornerstones have been installed in Plot #310.
- Did not arrange a date to clean headstones. It's too late in the year. Postponed until next year.
- Asked Michael Shawver not to mow the new cemetery until after the markers are in place.
- Prepared and circulated the agenda prior to October meeting.

Harry:

- Tried to contact the American Legion post in Keene several times to get additional veteran markers, but have yet to make contact with Commander Robert Campbell.
- Followed-up with Jeremy Hamilton regarding work at the Munsonville Cemetery and got a quote. (Discussion below)
- Harry reported that we need two 9 foot posts to hang the sign in Munsonville. If granite is too expensive, we could use cedar. Perhaps Peterborough Marble could do the work. Harry will follow up with Kaufhold.

Linda:

- Did the September minutes.
- Emailed the approved August minutes to Edie and delivered the signed hard copy to Karen.
- Emailed Harry regarding granite posts and the estimate for Munsonville erosion work.
- Did not review NH State Law and Regulations regarding green burials and other cemetery issues, a task for the winter.

Al:

- Develop a list of all veterans in our Cemeteries, to be done.
- Research green burials. Listen to green burial zoom meeting, to be done.
- Made a decision to lime next spring rather than this fall. Will talk to Mike Tarr about purchasing and storing lime for us.
- Follow-up with Margaret Iselin regarding Game of Village, to be done at some point.

Laurie:

- Continued to work with Jon Buschbaum regarding placing the markers in the New Cemetery. (Discussion below)
- Followed up with Mike Tarr regarding brush cleaning and moving the pile of dirt. (Discussion below)

- Did not ask Edie to delete the word " Design" from our New Cemetery budget line, but will do so.
- Posted official notice of October meeting.
- Got the key for the October meeting.

Everyone:

- Did not establish a new date to clean gravestones. Postponed until spring.
- Review the Rules and Regulations to be discussed at a later meeting.
- Review the four cemetery record keeping software packages, after marking of the New Cemetery has been completed.

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.

Mike Tarr New Cemetery Update:

The brush along the stone wall in the New Cemetery has been cleared and the area looks great. Laurie reported that Mike Tarr suggested using the excess stones to form a wall/line across the field between the cemetery property and the abutting landowner. We all agreed and Laurie will give Mike Tarr the go ahead on that. Elaine will talk to the abutting landowner and tell her about the stones.

Laurie discussed the pile of dirt at the end or the road and Mike said he has a plan for it. Laurie told him to go ahead.

Jon Buschbaum New Cemetery Update:

Laurie reported that Jon Buschbaum has completed surveying sections A and G in the New Cemetery. Adjustments have been made as necessary to fit the design to the land. There is a problem next to the stone wall where the cremations plots are to go. It will be necessary to omit the first row of cremation plots in order to fit that area between the stone wall and the road next to the scattering garden. We agreed that should be done and Laurie will advise Jon to go ahead. When the work is complete, Jon will print a new map for us of the final plot layout.

Laurie said the part of the road that has been surveyed but not built will be marked with markers.

Elaine thanked Laurie for all the work she has done with both Jon Buschbaum and Mike Tarr regarding the New Cemetery. Thank you Laurie!

Lime for Next Year:

Laurie reported that Mike Tarr said he will be ordering his own supply of lime for next year. He gets it at half the price we paid this year. We would only need half of a pallet. Al will ask Mike Tarr to order a pallet of lime if he has enough space to store half a pallet for us. Al said it should be high calcium lime.

Munsonville Erosion Project:

Harry reported that he met with Jeremy Hamilton and got an estimate for the erosion work to be done at the Munsonville Cemetery. The quote was $3,800. Jeremy said it would be a two-day job. Harry said he wants to suggest adding loam with grass and a native wildflower mix to help secure and beautify the area. We agreed that would be good. Harry will also tell Jeremy that he can use our two too-short granite posts to help shore up the area if needed.

2027 Budget Discussion:

Laurie gave us copies of our year-to-date expenditures, which shows that we have only spent 40% of our budget so far this year.

Contracted services of $18,000 in this year's budget include headstone repair. Michael Shawver's price will probably go up now that mowing is needed in the New Cemetery.

Supplies and services last year was $500, of which we have spent only $148.28. Elaine recommends decreasing that to $300 for next year.

We need to include $4,500 for erosion work in Munsonville, which we will take from the Munsonville Trust funds. Elaine will contact the NH Cemetery Association to see how to account for that. We will also include an explanation in the Cemetery Annual Report. We also need funds to cover new posts and hanging the sign in Munsonville.

We need to figure out how much we will need to spend on the New Cemetery next year. We want to make progress on the Scattering Garden, but don't have a sense of what that will involve and how much it might cost.

We also need to include amounts for tree trimming and liming.

We will continue the budget discussion at November's meeting.

Other Business:

Elaine reported that the New Hampshire Cemetery Association meeting is coming up in early November. She will email us with the details.

Veteran's Day is November 11. Al and Harry will take down the flags after that.

Elaine said she would ask the Black Fly to include a blurb asking people to remove old planters and other items out of the cemetery prior to winter.

We will discuss and revise our Rules and Regulation this winter. Al will give a copy to Margaret Iselin when they are revised.

Elaine reported that the Sousa funeral took place earlier this month and Bill Mullen did a nice job.

Having no further business, Elaine adjourned the meeting at 4:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board

NOVEMBER TO-DO LIST

Elaine:

- Email Board members details of the NH Cemetery Association November meeting.
- Put a blurb in the Black Fly about closing the cemeteries for the winter
- Talk to the abutting landowner about the row of stones in the New Cemetery
- Contact the NH Cemetery Association regarding how to account for expenditure of trust funds
- Email approved September minutes to Edie.
- Prepare and circulate the agenda prior to November meeting.

Harry:

- Keep trying to contact the American Legion post in Keene to get additional veteran markers
- Check with Alan Rumrill for a contact regarding green burial procedures.
- Contact Peterborough Marble about installing the Munsonville sign
- Ask Jeremy Hamilton to include loam and native wildflower mix in the Munsonville erosion project
- Tell Jeremy Hamilton that he can use our old granite posts in the Munsonville project
- Take down flags in the Munsonville cemetery after Veterans Day

Linda:

- Do October minutes
- Review NH State Law and Regulations regarding green burials and other cemetery issues

Al:

- Develop a list of all veterans in our Cemeteries.
- Research green burials. Listen to green burial zoom meeting and report to Board
- Ask Mike Tarr if he has space to store a half pallet of lime for us. If so, order a pallet from him
- Take down flags in Nelson cemeteries after Veterans Day

Laurie:

- Deliver the signed September minutes to Karen
- Work with Jon Buschbaum placing the markers in the New Cemetery. Advise Jon to delete one row of cremation plots
- Make sure the surveyed road in the New Cemetery is marked
- Tell Mike Tarr to go ahead on the stone wall/line boundary in the New Cemetery
- Post official notice of November meeting
- Ask Edie to remove the word “Design” from our New Cemetery budget line
- Bring year-to-date expenditures to November meeting
- Get the key for the November meeting

Everyone:

- Review the Rules and Regulations to be discussed at a later meeting
- Review cemetery record keeping software packages, after marking of the New Cemetery has been completed

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