

Minutes of Meeting Nelson Cemetery Board Monday, September 15, 2025, 3:30 PM

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

Elaine called the meeting to order at 3:33 PM.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, October 20, 3:30 PM, in the lower level of the Library.

Review of Minutes:

Elaine thanked Laurie for doing the August minutes which were reviewed and approved as presented. The minutes were signed by the Board members present at that meeting. Laurie will deliver the signed minutes to Karen. Elaine will email a copy to Edie.

Task Reports by Members:

Elaine:

- Emailed copy of June minutes to Edie.
- Kept up with developments regarding the Munsonville Cemetery. See discussion below.
- Did not connect with Catherine Boyd for information about green burials.
- Prepared and circulated the agenda prior to September meeting.
- Spoke with Michael Shawver about liming the Old Cemetery and/or trees. See discussion.
- Did not yet mark out plots for the Kerber cornerstones. See discussion below.
- Left a message with the Hutchins family regarding the unpaid plot. They owe \$350 each for two plots.

Harry:

- Left a message with Joe Merrill about a separate estimate for removal of the stump in the Munsonville Cemetery.
- Spoke to Mike Tarr about the road in the New Cemetery. See discussion below.
- Did not yet order cornerstones for the Kerber plot. See discussion below.
- Counted the downed and tilted gravestones in the Munsonville Cemetery. See discussion.

Al:

- Didn't research practices and regulations for green burials.
- Didn't yet talk to Mike Tarr about further improvements to the gate to Cemetery II. This is not a high priority.

Laurie:

- Delivered signed June minutes to Karen.
- Posted official notice of September meeting.
- Got the key for the September meeting.
- Did the August minutes.

Everyone:

- Laurie has been trimming the shrubs from the stone walls.

To Be Assigned:

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

Conversation with Michael Shawver

Elaine reported on her recent conversation with Michael Shawver. He will do the liming in early October.

She told him about the cremation interment of John Hansel, scheduled for Tuesday, September 30, at 11 AM in the Nelson Cemetery. (Mr. Hansel died some time ago.) Elaine told Michael that the opening for interment of ashes needs to be 3 feet by 3 feet by 3 feet.

Elaine asked Michael to mow a 30 feet by 30 feet section in the part of the New Cemetery that we will be developing first. She will find out when that is done and let us know so that we can walk it.

She told Michael about workers blowing leaves onto the Iselin property. He will stop that.

Kerber Cornerstones

Elaine and Harry still need to mark out the plot for the Kerber cornerstones. Harry will order the cornerstones. Cornerstones are now \$350.00. The Kerbers paid \$250 for cornerstones. They wrote one check for the plot and the cornerstones. Elaine said that because of that, the cost of the cornerstones will have to come from our budget.

Harry suggested that we put a poster in the Town office stating the cost is \$500 for a plot and \$350 for cornerstones.

Update on New Cemetery Road Installation

Harry reported that he spoke to Mike Tarr and Mike wants the road to be surveyed before installation. Laurie wondered if the Town has a surveyor that they use. We discussed the fact that the money for the road is in this year's budget and really needs to be done this year. Laurie will ask Jon Buschbaum to survey the road.

Update on Munsonville Cemetery Stones

Harry reported that in the Munsonville Cemetery, there are 14 stones that have either fallen or are broken, plus three stones that are precarious – at a 45-degree angle. Elaine will contact Peterborough Granite and Marble for a quote for next year.

Update on Munsonville Cemetery Legal Issues

Elaine outlined the steps remaining in the Munsonville legal process:

1. A judge needs to approve the Attorney General's recommendation.
2. The new Munsonville Cemetery Association needs approve the AG recommendation.
3. The Association will then cede the Cemetery and the trust funds to the Town of Nelson.
4. A public hearing will take place.
5. The Select Board will accept the Cemetery and trust funds on behalf of the town.. It does not need to be a warrant article.

We are all pleased that the process is advancing.

Update on Grave Sales and Burials

Elaine reported that Sue West wants one cremation plot. Elaine has been saving three cremation plots for the Laughlins, but has not heard back from them. She will follow up with them to see if they still do.

Other Business:

The Coughlins have a large dead pine tree hanging over Cemetery 2. Edie will ask the daughter about it.

The New Hampshire Cemetery Association meeting is on Tuesday, October 7. The topics are the NH Veterans Cemetery and a QR code tour of a cemetery. The cost is \$35.00. Al, Laurie and Linda think they might attend. (Update – Linda cannot attend.)

Elaine reported that she talked to Edie about the old shed in the New Cemetery. We need to get rid of the old equipment in it. Harry will ask Gregg Philbrick if he wants the old lawnmowers or we could take them to a recycling place in Swanzey. Elaine said that perhaps the Fire Department would be interested in burning the shed as part of training.

Having no further business, Elaine adjourned the meeting at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board

OCTOBER 2025 TO-DO LIST

Elaine:

- Email copy of August minutes to Edie.
- Keep up with when Michael Shawver mows a section of the new cemetery and let the rest of us know so that we can walk it.
- Keep up with developments regarding the Munsonville Cemetery.
- Mark out the plots for the Kerber cornerstones with Harry.
- Follow up with the Laughlins about three cremation plots.
- Get a quote from Peterborough Granite and Marble for repairs in the Munsonville Cemetery next year.
- Follow up with Catherine Boyd for information about green burials.
- Prepare and circulate the agenda prior to October meeting.
- Follow up with Hutchins family regarding the unpaid plot.

Harry:

- Ask Joe Merrill to include stumping as a separate item on his estimate for removing the tree in Munsonville.
- Speak to Mike Tarr about getting the road done this year in the New Cemetery.
- Order cornerstones for the Kerber plots.
- Ask Gregg Philbrick if he would like the lawnmowers in the old shed.

Linda:

- Do September minutes.

Al:

- Consider attending the NH Cemetery Association meeting on October 7.
- At some point, talk to Mike Tarr about further improvements to the gate to Cemetery II.

Laurie:

- Deliver signed August minutes to Karen.
- Ask Jon Buschbaum if he can survey the road in the new cemetery.
- Post official notice of October meeting.
- Get the key for the October meeting.
- Consider attending the NH Cemetery Association meeting on October 7.

Everyone:

- Meet and walk through the new Cemetery to gauge its unevenness.

To Be Assigned:

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