Minutes of Meeting
Nelson Cemetery Board
Monday, September 21, 2026, 3:30 PM

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

Al called the meeting to order in the lower level of the Library at 3:34 PM. Due to a discrepancy in posting, no decisions were made or votes taken.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, October 19, 3:30 PM. Meet in the lower level of the Library.

Review of Minutes:

The September minutes were reviewed and revised. The minutes were signed by Linda and Laurie, who were present at both meetings. Linda will deliver the signed copy to Karen and email a copy to Edie.

Task Reports by Members:

Elaine:
- Arranged to meet with Corey Spydell on September 22 regarding purchase of a plot.
- The Chase family has selected a plot. The cornerstones will be moved when Peterborough Marble installs the Spydell cornerstones.
- Prepared and circulated the agenda prior to September meeting.

Harry:
- Contact the American Legion post in Keene to get additional veteran markers. We await Harry's update.
- Follow-up with Jeremy Hamilton regarding work at the Munsonville Cemetery. We await Harry's update on this important issue.
- With Elaine, arrange the moving of the Chase cornerstones when the family has decided on a different plot. See above.

Linda:
- Did the August minutes.
- Emailed approved July minutes to Edie.
- Did not review NH State Law and Regulations regarding green burials and other cemetery issues.

Al:
- Develop a list of all veterans in our Cemeteries. Ongoing.
- Did preliminary research on green burials. See discussion below.

Laurie:
- Delivered the signed July minutes to Karen.
- Continued to follow-up with Jon Buschbaum regarding placing the markers in the New Cemetery. See discussion below.
- Posted official notice of September meeting.
- Got the key for the September meeting.

Everyone:
- Did not clean gravestones on September 21, 1 – 3 PM. This will be rescheduled by Elaine.
- Review the Rules and Regulations, which will 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.

Update on New Cemetery:

Laurie reported that Jon Buschbaum has begun laying out the plots in the New Cemetery and placing the markers. There are roots and brush (buckthorn and bittersweet) next to and growing in the stone wall that will have to be removed in order for the cremations plots to be laid out. Laurie consulted Edie and left a message for Mike Tarr asking him to remove the brush. He has the equipment to do it.

Laurie also reported that Jon Buschbaum did not have a copy of her revised layout, which removed the odd corner plots. Elaine noticed that he was laying these out and it has been corrected. Laurie expects work will continue later this week.

Elaine will ask Michael Shawver not to mow the New Cemetery until all the markers are in place.

It was also necessary to make some adjustments to the green burial plots. The process and varying surveys and maps are confusing.

Laurie mentioned the pile of dirt from the building of the road and will ask Mike Tarr to do something with that, perhaps use it to level that area or at least get rid of the pile.

Liming the Maples in the Old Cemetery:

We wondered if the trees in the Old Cemetery should be limed this fall. Al said that the advice was one pallet the first year and then half a pallet each year after that. The question is whether to do it this fall or next spring. We left this undecided.

Al will ask Mike Tarr if there is a place to store the remaining half pallet that we didn't use.

Questions Regarding the Munsonville Cemetery:

We would like to get the new Munsonville Cemetery sign installed. The questions of the posts is still open. Elaine offered via email to look for old granite posts online but doesn't know how long they need to be. Linda will email Harry and ask him to let Elaine know.

We are awaiting an estimate from Jeremy Hamilton on the cost of dealing with the erosion in the Munsonville Cemetery. (See the budget discussion below.)

Cemetery Rules and Regulations:

Elaine suggested via email that we begin updating our Rules and Regulations by specifying activities that are and are not acceptable within cemetery grounds. Linda said that the rules and regulations of other cemeteries that Laurie provided last month will be helpful in drafting our language. We will take this up at a later meeting.

We also need to draft regulations regarding green burials and use of the scattering garden. Further research needs to be done. Al reported that he recorded a zoom meeting of the NH Conservation Committees on green burials. He will listen to the recording and report back to the Board.

Follow-up with the Game of Village:

Al will follow up at some point with Margaret Iselin.

Recent and Upcoming Grave Purchases, Burials and Gravestones:

The Sousa burial is scheduled for October 9. Elaine has arranged for Bill Mullen to dig the hole.

Gravestone Cleaning Day:

Because only two of us were able to make the scheduled gravestone cleaning, we will ask Elaine to reschedule it for a later date.

Preparation of the 2027 Budget:

Laurie provided copies of our 2026 Budget and the actual year-to-date. We talked about our 2027 budget and some of the items we will want to include.

We plan to do erosion remediation work in the Munsonville Cemetery in 2027. We need an estimate this year in order to include that in the budget for next year. Linda will email a reminder to Harry, who is getting the estimate.

We briefly discussed what work/expenditure will be required for the New Cemetery next year. Linda said that we should include money for the design and/or plants in the scattering garden. We will need to give that some thought to arrive at a number to include in the budget. We need to refer to the Grever and Ward design. Laurie suggested that the benches around the scattering garden should face east as the view is better that direction.

We will need to add in the cost of mowing the New Cemetery.

Linda felt the word “Design” should be removed from the “New Cemetery” expense line, as the design was phase one and is complete, except for the scattering garden.

Having no further business, Al adjourned the meeting at 4:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Cates for the Nelson Cemetery Board

OCTOBER TO-DO LIST

Elaine:
- Meet with Corey Spydell on September 22 regarding purchase of a plot.
- Follow up on moving the Chase cornerstones when the Spydell cornerstones are installed.
- Arrange new date to clean headstones.
- Ask Michael Shawver not to mow the New Cemetery until the markers are in place.
- Prepare and circulate the agenda prior to October meeting.

Harry:
- Contact the American Legion post in Keene to get additional veteran markers.
- Follow-up with Jeremy Hamilton regarding work at the Munsonville Cemetery.
- Discuss granite posts for Munsonville sign with Elaine.

Linda:
- Do September minutes.
- Email approved August minutes to Edie and deliver the signed hard copy to Karen.
- Email Harry regarding granite posts and estimate for Munsonville erosion work.
- 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.
- Make a decision on whether to lime this fall or next spring. See if Mike Tarr has a place to store our remaining half pallet of lime.
- Follow up with Margaret Iselin regarding Game of Village – at some point.

Laurie:
- Continue to work with Jon Buschbaum regarding placing the markers in the New Cemetery.
- Follow up with Mike Tarr regarding brush cleaning and moving the pile of dirt in the New Cemetery
- Ask Edie to remove the word “Design” from our “New Cemetery” budget line.
- Post official notice of October meeting.
- Get the key for the October meeting.

Everyone:
- Clean gravestones on new date to be established.
- 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.