

DIVISION OF CEMETERIES

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ONE COMMERCE PLAZA
99 WASHINGTON AVENUE
ALBANY, NY 12231-0001
TELEPHONE: (518) 474-6226
FAX: (518) 473-0876
WWW.DOS.NY.GOV

KATHY HOCHUL
GOVERNOR

CEMETERY BOARD
ROBERT J. RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY OF STATE
CHAIR

LETITIA JAMES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JAMES V. McDONALD, M.D., M.P.H.
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

DRAFT

Cemetery Board Minutes March 7, 2024

Department of State
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue Albany, New York 12231

Office of the New York Attorney General 44 South Broadway
White Plains, New York 10601

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Pattison, Department of State, Chair
Jill Faber, Office of the New York State Attorney General

Thomas Fuller, Department of Health

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Leonard Breen, Division of Cemeteries
Kathleen Chittenden, Division of Cemeteries
John Fatato, Department of State
Sarah Levin, Division of Cemeteries
Michael Morris, Department of State
Natesha Salmon, Division of Cemeteries
Steven Troutman, Division of Cemeteries
Alicia Young, Division of Cemeteries

Michael Catena, Division of Cemeteries
Lisa Dooley, Division of Cemeteries
Kerry Forezzi, Division of Cemeteries
Nathan McCarthy, Division of Cemeteries
Lewis Polishook, Division of Cemeteries
Michael Seelman, Division of Cemeteries
Robert Vanderbles, Department of State

GUESTS:

Anthony Biolsi, Montefiore Cemetery
Brendan Boyle, NYS Ass'n of Cemeteries
David Fleming, Featherstonhaugh, Wiley & Clyne, for NYS Ass'n of Cemeteries
Carol Haff
Jay Ivler, Mount Lebanon Cemetery
Jim
Rich Moylan, Green-Wood Cemetery
Brendon Stanton, Department of State

Some "guests" attended solely via WebEx phone call-in; their names may not be listed above.



Department
of State

Opening Remarks

Mr. Pattison called the meeting to order at 10:01~~0~~ a.m. Mr. Pattison introduced himself and had the other Board members introduce themselves.

24-03-A-13 ~~—~~ Minutes of Previous Meetings

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the minutes of the February meeting.

24-03-B-14 ~~—~~ Legislation and Regulation

1. Pending Legislation

Robert Vanderbles referred the Board to the legislative update he prepared.

2. Regulations

Mr. Vanderbles ~~had no additional comments on developments in regulations this month~~ relayed that he and the Division continue to assess the public comments received on proposed regulations for natural organic reduction.

24-03-C-15 ~~—~~ Division Report

Director Lewis Polishook informed attendees that Brendon Stanton has left his role as Investigator for The Division but is staying at ~~The~~ the Department of State. He will continue working with ~~T~~ the Division on technology-related projects.

Sarah Levin highlighted ~~her~~ Division efforts to assist ~~The~~ Chapman Cemetery in Ontario County in communicating with their ~~town~~ Town of Hopewell to get assistance with maintenance projects. The ~~town~~ Town of Hopewell agreed to a \$10,000 donation-contribution and additional service aid to assist Chapman Cemetery with necessary maintenance and repairs.

We have seven upcoming Cemetery 101 sessions scheduled ~~for~~ for: March 7 at St. Agnes Cemetery in Menands, March 18 at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla, April 11 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cohocton, April 18 at Electricians Union Hall in Harriman, April 25 at Willsboro Union Methodist Church in Willsboro, April 30 at VFW Post 6200 in Ovid, and April 30 at Scipio Center Fire Department in Scipio Center.

We will also present at the Association of Town Clerks meeting on March 20 in Albany. Our final Annual Report Tutorial will be held March 14 and a recording of one of the Tutorial sessions will be posted online. We are continually seeking additional locations and dates to hold Cemetery 101 sessions throughout 2024.

Director Polishook highlighted two columbarium approvals made possible by the delegation of that approval process, one at Forest Lawn in Erie County, and one at ~~Oakwood~~ Woodlawn in the Bronx.

Assistant Director Alicia Young highlighted the annual report progress made for 2023. We have received 469 reports so far for 2023, 240 of which were filed online.

24-04-D-16 - Vandalism, Abandonment and Monument Repair or Removal Fund Report

Assistant Director Alicia Young highlighted that the Division has paid \$1.4M of its vandalism and hazardous monument repair budget through fiscal year 2023-24 and has greater than \$400,000 of payment vouchers awaiting payment.

There are eight applications for funds from the vandalism fund to be reviewed at this meeting.

08-003 Breesport Hilltop Cemetery (Chemung), \$28,997.13

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 29 dangerous monuments. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the application by this cemetery for funds to repair these dangerous monuments for a total cost of \$28,997.13, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 8:06-10:58.

18-011 Perth Center Cemetery (Fulton), \$40,568.89

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 44 dangerous monuments. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the application by this cemetery for funds to repair these dangerous monuments for a total cost of \$40,568.89, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 10:59-14:38.

27-022 Oneida Cemetery (Madison), \$38,332.39

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 71 dangerous monuments. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the application by this cemetery for funds to repair these dangerous monuments for a total cost of \$38,332.39, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 14:39-17:34.

29-003 Canajoharie Falls Cemetery (Montgomery), \$77,221.26

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 53 dangerous monuments. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the application by this cemetery for funds to repair these dangerous monuments for a total cost of \$77,221.26, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 17:35-20:43.

34-018 Jacksonville Cemetery (Onondaga), \$25,727.53

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 21 dangerous monuments. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the application by this cemetery for funds to repair these dangerous monuments for a total cost of \$25,727.53, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 20:44-23:40.

34-055 Elbridge Rural Cemetery (Onondaga), \$22,377.28

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 30 dangerous monuments. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the application by this cemetery for funds to repair these dangerous monuments for a total cost of \$22,377.28, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 23:41-28:23.

43-006 Silver Mount Cemetery (Richmond), \$109,899.78

This cemetery seeks funds to repair a retaining wall that effectively serves as a foundation for 8 dangerous monuments; the deterioration and partial collapse of that wall renders those monuments dangerous. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the application by

this cemetery for funds to repair these dangerous monuments for a total cost of \$109,899.78, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 28:24-35:24.

48-008 Esperance Cemetery (Schoharie), \$96,480.82

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 54 dangerous monuments. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the application by this cemetery for funds to repair these dangerous monuments for a total cost of \$96,480.82, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 35:25-39:17.

Public Comment

David Fleming from NYSAC thanked ~~The~~the Division for their effective intervention in the case of Chapman Cemetery.

The ~~Board scheduled a special meeting next Cemetery Board meeting is scheduled~~ for March 26, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., concerning a communication from the Town of Babylon about a proposed development on land owned by Pinelawn Memorial Park.

The next regular monthly Cemetery Board meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2024, ~~at~~

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.