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GOVERNOR

CEMETERY BOARD
WALTER T. MOSLEY
SECRETARY OF STATE
CHAIR
LETITIA JAMES
ATTORNEY GENERAL
JAMES V. MCDONALD, M.D., M.P.H.
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

DRAFT

Cemetery Board Minutes
June 10, 2025

Department of State
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, 11th Floor, Room 1112
Albany, New York 12231

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Leonard Breen, Division of Cemeteries
Brendan Dunn, Division of Cemeteries
Sarah Levin, Division of Cemeteries
Kerry McGovern, Division of Cemeteries
Michael Morris, Department of State
Michael Seelman, Division of Cemeteries
Robert Vanderbles, Department of State
Lisa Dooley, Division of Cemeteries
Jeff Hardwick, Division of Cemeteries
Nathan McCarthy, Division of Cemeteries
Corey Moore, Division of Cemeteries
Lewis Polishook, Division of Cemeteries
Steven Troutman, Division of Cemeteries

GUESTS:

Adam Ginsberg, Mount Ararat Cemetery
Eric Barna, Green-Wood Cemetery
Patti Martin, Cedar Hill Cemetery
Anthony Biolsi, Montefiore Cemetery
Kerry Lynch, Lakewood Cemetery
David Fleming, Jr., Featherstonhaugh, Clyne & McCardle, LLP, for NYSAC

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

Opening Remarks

Chairman Mark Pattison called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Mr. Pattison introduced himself and had the other Board members introduce themselves.

25-06-A-44 – Minutes of Previous Meetings

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the minutes of the May 20, 2025, meeting as submitted to the Board.

25-06-B-45 – Legislation and Regulation

1. Pending Legislation

General Counsel Robert Vanderbles referred the board to the circulated Legislative Report.

2. Regulations

Mr. Vanderbles had no updates on regulations.

25-05-C-46 – Division Report

Division Director Lewis Polishook updated the Board on recruitment within the Division. We have hired an accountant in Albany, starting July 3. We are currently hiring for two Senior Accountant positions in New York City.

Director Polishook highlighted community outreach programs planned for 2025. We have two Cemetery 101 courses scheduled so far.

25-05-D-47 – Vandalism, Abandonment and Monument Repair or Removal Fund Report

Director Polishook reviewed the published Vandalism Report.

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

15-027 Forest Lawn Group (Forest Hill) (Erie), $36,925.84

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 23 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 $36,925.84, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 6:07-11:05.

39-016 Lakewood Cemetery (Otsego), $83,043.90

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 $83,043.90, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 11:06-13:50.

Public Comment

Kerry Lynch thanked the board for their assistance with monument repair. She also thanked Jessica Rosario and Michael Seelman for their assistance.

David Fleming, representing FC&M extended a thank-you message to Richard Moylan, who will soon retire as President of Green-Wood Cemetery.

The next Cemetery Board meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2025, at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.