

# 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  
HTTPS://DOS.NY.GOV

KATHY HOCHUL  
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 January 13, 2025

Department of State  
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue  
Fifth Floor, Room 505  
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  
Stephanie Gilman, Department of Health

Jill Faber, Office of the New York Attorney General

#### OTHER ATTENDEES:

Cavon Butler, Division of Cemeteries  
Rachel Eisenberg, Department of State  
Nathan McCarthy, Division of Cemeteries  
Lewis Polishook, Division of Cemeteries  
Natesha Salmon, Division of Cemeteries  
Steven Troutman, Division of Cemeteries  
Alicia Young, Division of Cemeteries

Jillian Diaz Cringle, Department of State  
Sarah Levin, Division of Cemeteries  
Michael Morris, Department of State  
Jessica Rosario, Division of Cemeteries  
Michael Seelman, Division of Cemeteries  
Robert Vanderbles, Department of State

#### GUESTS:

Eric Barna, Green-Wood Cmty.  
Brendan Boyle, FCM, NYSAC  
John Cooney  
Love Foy  
Brian Groblewski, Pinelawn Mem. Pk.  
Robert Knoer, Esq.  
Katie Kramer, Mount Calvary Cmty.  
Justin Locke, Pinelawn Cmty.  
Nate Romagnola, White Haven Mem. Park  
Julie Snyder, Forest Lawn Group  
Phyllis Y. Stewart  
Dr. Ronald Wells

Anthony Biolsi, Montefiore Cmty.  
Brendan Boyle, FCM, NYSAC  
David F. Fleming, FCM, NYSAC  
Adam Ginsberg, Mount Ararat Cmty.  
Meera Joshi, Green-Wood Cmty.  
Jennifer Kovach, Forest Lawn Group  
Damon Legare  
Elanna Osdoby  
Arthur Rodriguez, Green-Wood Cmty.  
Gloria Speight  
Theresa Wallace

#### Opening Remarks

Chairman Mark Pattison called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. Mr. Pattison introduced himself and the other Board members.



Department  
of State

## **26-01-A-01 – Minutes of Previous Meetings**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the minutes of the December 11, 2025, meeting as submitted to the Board.

## **26-01-B-02 – Legislation and Regulation**

### 1. Pending Legislation

Mr. Vanderbles relayed there was no Legislative Report this month.

### 2. Regulations

Mr. Vanderbles reported on draft rule revisions currently in the works. We are drafting a notice of proposed rulemaking and supporting materials for the Board's consideration.

## **26-01-C-03 – Division Report**

Division Director Lewis Polishook reviewed the published abandonment report.

Director Polishook updated the Board on recruitment within the Division. We are in the process of reorganizing teams of auditors and investigators to more proactively address issues across the state.

Director Polishook highlighted community outreach programs. We are holding Annual Financial Report assistance sessions and Cemetery 101 courses across the state. There are many scheduled dates and locations across the next three months. We are finalizing details on the annual Caring for Your Cemetery Day. We will be sending our Annual Mailing Bulletin out in the next 1-2 weeks. All dates will be on our website.

Assistant Director Alicia Young reported on the number of annual reports received to date and the percentage submitted electronically.

## **26-01-D-04 – Vandalism, Abandonment and Monument Repair or Removal Fund Report**

Assistant Director Alicia Young referred the Board to the circulated Vandalism Report.

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

### Port Gibson Cemetery, No. 35-027 (Ontario), \$53,062.41

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 27 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 \$53,062.41, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 12:37-16:05.

### Maple Grove Cemetery, No. 39-019 (Otsego), \$26,310.72

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 20 dangerous monuments. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the application by this cemetery for funds to repair this dangerous monument for a total cost of \$26,310.72, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 16:06-20:40.

Clearview Cemetery, No. 51-011 (Steuben), \$50,253.54

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 55 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 \$50,253.54, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 20:41-24:29.

Johnstown Cemetery, No. 18-007 (Fulton), \$10,668.48

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 98 vandalized monuments. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the application by this cemetery for funds to repair these vandalized monuments for a total cost of \$10,668.48, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 24:30-28:38.

**26-01-E-05 – North Ridge Burial Association, No. 32-015: Amendment to Major Alteration**

North Ridge Burial Association seeks amended approval of a major alteration project (nunc pro tunc approval of the demolition of a condemned chapel and approval of construction of a new building) that the Board previously approved in October 2024 and amended in February 2025. The cemetery requests an increase to the dollar limit approved for the building construction because of additional costs.

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted amending the approval of the cemetery's application for a major alteration to \$204,954.00.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 28:47-34:21.

**26-01-F-06 – Sheridan Park Crematory, No. 15-078: Compliance**

The Division has been in communication with Sheridan Park regarding their non-compliance with the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law.

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the draft order as presented to the Board and posted on the Division's website regarding this compliance issue.

The discussion of this can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 34:22-36:15.

**Public Comment**

Love Foy, representing the Historical Conservation Society of Wheatley Heights and Wyandanch, expressed concerns regarding a planned construction project by Pinelawn Memorial Park (52-044). Mr. Pattison stated that because the Board has yet to receive a completed application regarding this project from Pinelawn, it is unable to comment on this issue at this time.

Christopher Black, representing the Concerned Taxpayers of Wheatley Heights/Dix Hills Incorporated Civic Association also expressed his concerns regarding this proposed project by Pinelawn Memorial Park. Mr. Pattison answered his question similarly.

Ronald Wells, representing the same historical conservation society as Love Foy, also spoke up to share his concerns regarding this proposed project by Pinelawn Memorial Park. Mr. Pattison answered his

question similarly.

Elanna Oscoby also spoke up sharing her concerns regarding this proposed project by Pinelawn Memorial Park. Mr. Pattison answered her question similarly.

The next regular Board meeting was to be scheduled for February 10, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., but the Chairman is unavailable. The Board will set a February meeting date well in advance of that meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.