

# DIVISION OF CEMETERIES

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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

## Cemetery Board Minutes February 12, 2025

Department of State  
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue  
Eleventh Floor, Executive Conference Room  
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:

Michael Catena, Division of Cemeteries  
Rachel Eisenberg, Department of State  
Jeff Hardwick, Division of Cemeteries  
Kerry McGovern, Division of Cemeteries  
Sarah Levin, Division of Cemeteries  
Jessica Rosario, Division of Cemeteries  
Steven Troutman, Division of Cemeteries  
Alicia Young, Division of Cemeteries

Lisa Dooley, Division of Cemeteries  
Kerry Forezzi, Division of Cemeteries  
Nathan McCarthy, Division of Cemeteries  
Michael Morris, Department of State  
Lewis Polishook, Division of Cemeteries  
Natesha Salmon, Division of Cemeteries  
Robert Vanderbles, Department of State

### GUESTS:

Adam Ginsberg, Mount Ararat Cmty.  
Brendan Boyle, FCM, NYSAC  
Charles Hearon  
Frederick Zindell  
John Turner  
Julie Snyder, Forest Lawn Group  
Love Foy  
Michael Austin, Elmlawn Cmty.  
Nina Leonhardt  
Richard Moylan, Green-Wood Cmty.  
William Szybillo, Wellwood Beth Moses Cmty.

Anthony Biolsi, Montefiore Cmtys.  
Brian Groblewski, Pinelawn Mem. Pk.  
David F. Fleming, FCM, NYSAC  
John Cryan  
Justin Locke, Pinelawn Cmty.  
Kevin Persico, Wellwood Beth Moses Cmty.  
Mary Marshall  
Nate Romagnola, White Haven Mem. Park  
Phyllis Y. Stewart  
Tom Sprague, Addison Hill Cmty.

### Opening Remarks

Chairman Mark Pattison called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Pattison introduced himself and the other Board members.



Department  
of State

## **26-02-A-07 – Minutes of Previous Meetings**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the minutes of the January 13, 2026, meeting as submitted to the Board.

## **26-02-B-08 – Legislation and Regulation**

### 1. Pending Legislation

Division Counsel Robert Vanderbles referred the Board to the published Legislative Report.

### 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.

## **26-02-C-09 – Division Report**

Assistant Director Alicia Young updated the Board on recruitment within the Division. We welcomed Kerry Forezzi back as our new Auditor 3. We are currently recruiting to fill an Auditor position in Albany and have other vacancies.

Director Polishook highlighted community outreach programs. We are holding Annual Report Assistance Sessions and Cemetery 101 courses across the State. There are many scheduled dates and locations across the next two months. We have finalized and published details on the annual Caring for Your Cemetery Day. Caring for Your Cemetery Day 2026 will be on Saturday, April 25, and Sunday, April 26.

## **26-02-D-10 – Vandalism, Abandonment and Monument Repair or Removal Fund Report**

Assistant Director Young reviewed the circulated Vandalism Report.

Mr. Polishook reported on hazardous monument applications in 2025. The Board approved 40 such applications, for repair of 1,560 monuments, at an average cost of \$1,332 per monument. The Division is working on making available data on the average cost of hazardous monument repair by region over the last few years.

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

### Glenwood Maltby Cemetery, No. 15-074 (Erie), \$7,535.10

This cemetery seeks funds to repair eight 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 \$7,535.10, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 8:38-11:06.

### Harrisville Cemetery, No. 25-010 (Lewis), \$59,585.97

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 38 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 \$59,585.97, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 11:07-13:21.

Addison Hill Cemetery, No. 51-054 (Steuben), \$8,204.00

This cemetery seeks funds to repair eight 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 \$8,204.00, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 13:22-17:15.

**26-02-E-11 – Bird Cemetery, No. 06-001: Land Purchase**

The cemetery seeks to purchase an adjacent parcel of land to expand the availability of graves for sale at the cemetery, at a total cost of \$50,000, plus \$2,500 in closing costs.

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted

1. Finding that this land purchase is an unlisted action;
2. Finding that the purchase will have at most minimal environmental impact;
3. Issuing a negative declaration; and
4. Authorizing Cemetery Board Chairman Mark Pattison to sign the draft Short EAF Part 3.

After approving that motion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted

1. Finding that the proposed purchase price does not exceed the fair market value of the land the cemetery seeks to purchase; and
2. Approving the purchase of the land at a cost not to exceed \$50,000.00, plus \$2,500 in closing costs.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 24:10-31:12.

**26-02-F-12 – Beth Moses Cemetery, No. 52-005: Major Alteration**

The cemetery seeks to renovate its existing maintenance building and construct a storage and maintenance building to better serve their staff and customers.

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted

1. Finding that this project is an unlisted action;
2. Finding that the project will have minimal or no impact on the environment;
3. Issuing a negative declaration; and
4. Authorizing Cemetery Board Chairman Mark Pattison to sign the draft Short EAF Part 3.

After approving that motion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the project at a cost not to exceed \$2.5 million, subject to receipt of all other required approvals.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 17:16-24:09.

## **Public Comment**

Nina Leonhardt, representing the Long Island Pine Barrens Society, addressed the Board regarding a project proposed by Pinelawn Memorial Park. Chairman Patterson advised that the Board does not currently have an application from Pinelawn before it.

Charles Heron, a lot owner at Plainlawn Cemetery, addressed the board regarding the management structure at Rockville and Plainlawn Cemeteries. Director Polishook elaborated on the history and current structure of management at Rockville and Plainlawn Cemeteries.

John Turner addressed the Board regarding the lease proposed by Pinelawn Memorial Park. Chairman Patterson reiterated that the Board does not currently have an application from Pinelawn in front of them.

David Fleming, representing the New York State Association of Cemeteries, informed the Board that NYSAC is lobbying to have the Division's vandalism fund appropriation increased to \$2.5M per year. Mr. Fleming also highlighted a bill recently introduced to the New York State Legislature concerning funeral arrangers that might require the use of funeral professionals in interment or inurnment of cremated remains.

The next regular Board meeting was to be scheduled for March 10, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.