

DIVISION OF CEMETERIES

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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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

DRAFT

Cemetery Board Minutes April 14, 2026

Department of State
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue, 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
Jill F. Faber, Office of the New York State Attorney General
Stephanie Gilman, Department of Health

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Zakir Ahmed, Division of Cemeteries
Brendan Dunn, Division of Cemeteries
Jeff Hardwick, Division of Cemeteries
Kerry McGovern, Division of Cemeteries
Sarah Levin, Division of Cemeteries
Jessica Rosario, Division of Cemeteries
Michael Seelman, Division of Cemeteries
Robert Vanderbles, Department of State
Lisa Dooley, Division of Cemeteries
Rachel Eisenberg, Department of State
Nathan McCarthy, Division of Cemeteries
Michael Morris, Department of State
Lewis Polishook, Division of Cemeteries
Natesha Salmon, Division of Cemeteries
Steven Troutman, Division of Cemeteries
Alicia Young, Division of Cemeteries

GUESTS:

Eric Barna, Green-Wood Cmty.
Chris Black, Wheatley Heights/Dix Hills Assn.
Greg Chianis, Riverhurst Cmty.
Adam Ginsberg, Mount Ararat Cmty.
Justin Locke, Pinelawn Cmty.
Lisa Klein, Riverhurst Cmty.
Nate Romagnola, White Haven Memorial Park
David F. Fleming, Featherstonhaugh & McCardle, NYSAC
Anthony Biolsi, Montefiore Cmty.
Gary Collison, Riverhurst Cemetery
John Cooney
Robert Knoer, Riverhurst Cmty.
Kerry Lynch, Lakewood Cmty.
Richard Moylan
Robert Welch, Riverhurst Cmty.
Thomas Devorsetz

Opening Remarks

Chairman Mark Pattison called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.



Department
of State

26-04-A-20 – Minutes of Previous Meetings

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the minutes of the March 10, 2026, meeting as submitted to the Board.

26-04-B-21 – 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 process.

26-04-C-22 – Division Report

Division Director Lewis Polishook updated the Board on recruitment within the Division. We currently have an auditor and one investigator position that we are canvassing for and another auditor and investigator that awaits a canvass.

Director Polishook highlighted community outreach programs. We are holding Cemetery 101 courses across the State. There are many scheduled dates and locations across the next several months, which can be found at dos.ny.gov/cemeteries. We will be attending the New York State Association of Town Clerks Conference. We are distributing materials for and organizing this year's Caring for Your Cemetery Day, which will be on Saturday, April 25, and Sunday, April 26.

Assistant Director Alicia Young reported on annual report statistics.

26-04-D-23 – Vandalism, Abandonment and Monument Repair or Removal Fund Report

Assistant Director Young reviewed the circulated Vandalism Report.

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

Peterboro Cemetery, No. 27-025 (Madison), \$54,777.70

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 51 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 \$54,777.70, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 7:36-10:45.

Woodlawn Cemetery, No. 27-036 (Madison), \$60,128.95

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 33 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 \$60,128.95, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 10:46-13:13.

Frumah Packard Cemetery, No. 34-014 (Onondaga), \$12,325.42

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 22 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 \$12,325.42, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 13:14-15:55.

Grove Cemetery, No. 51-023 (Steuben), \$22,378.90

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 22 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 \$22,378.90, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 15:56-19:27.

26-04-E-24 – Huntington Rural Cemetery, No. 52-027: Restated Cert. of Incorporation

The cemetery seeks to update its certificate of incorporation by filing a restated certificate of incorporation.

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the restated certificate of incorporation and authorizing Board Chair Mark Pattison to sign the approval on behalf of the Board.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 19:35-21:58.

26-05-F-25 – Pinelawn Memorial Park, No. 52-044: Major Alteration (New Roadway)

The cemetery seeks to build a new section of roadway. This project is meant to improve traffic flow in one of its mausoleum areas.

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

1. Finding that this major alteration is an unlisted action under SEQRA;
2. Finding that this major alteration will have minimal or no environmental impact;
3. Issuing a negative declaration, and;
4. Authorizing Board Chair Mark Pattison to sign the draft Short EAF Part 3 accompanying this memorandum.

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving this application at a cost not to exceed \$650,000.00.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 21:59-28:39.

26-06-G-26 – Pinelawn Memorial Park, No. 52-044: Major Alteration (Pond)

The cemetery seeks to replace a pond feature within the cemetery. This project will attempt to make the pond appear more natural and incorporate new sustainability features.

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

1. Finding that this major alteration is an unlisted action under SEQRA;
2. Finding that this major alteration will have minimal or no environmental impact;
3. Issuing a negative declaration, and;
4. Authorizing Board Chair Mark Pattison to sign the draft Short EAF Part 3 accompanying this memorandum.

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving this application at a cost not to exceed \$685,115.00.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 28:40-32:31.

Public Comment

Board Chair Mark Pattison announced his retirement at the end of this month from state service and expressed his appreciation for the Division's work.

Chris Black expressed his organization's concerns regarding a potential project at Pinelawn Cemetery. Director Polishook informed Mr. Black that the application in question has not been provided to the Division at this time.

David Fleming, representing the NYS Association of Cemeteries, thanked Board Chair Pattison for his service with the Division.

Jill Faber and Stephanie Gilman thanked Board Chair Pattison for his service with the Division.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2026, at 10:15 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Albany.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.