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

Cemetery Board Minutes
August 11, 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:
Michael Morris, Department of State, Chair
Stephanie Gilman, Department of Health
Jill F. Faber, Office of the New York State Attorney General

OTHER ATTENDEES:
David Cohen, Division of Cemeteries
Rachel Eisenberg, Department of State
Kerry McGovern, Division of Cemeteries
Michael Seelman, Division of Cemeteries
Robert Vanderbles, Department of State
Jillian Cringle, Department of State
Nathan McCarthy, Division of Cemeteries
Natesha Salmon, Division of Cemeteries
Steven Troutman, Division of Cemeteries
Alicia Young, Division of Cemeteries

GUESTS:
David F. Fleming, Featherstonhaugh & McCardle, NYSAC
Anthony Biolsi, Montefiore Cmtys.
Julie Snyder, Forest Lawn Cmty. Group
Nate Romagnola, White Haven Mem. Pk.
Rachel McRoberts
John E. Donegan
Brendan Boyle, FM, NYSAC
Eric Barna, The Green-Wood Cmty.
Matthew Parisi, Kensico Cmty.
Philip Tassi, Ferncliff Cmty.
Richard Moylan
Julia Minerva

Opening Remarks

Chairman Michael Morris called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. Chairman Morris introduced himself and the other board members.

26-08-A-37 – Minutes of Previous Meetings

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the minutes of the Board's July 14 and Special July 20, 2026, meetings, as submitted to the Board.

26-08-B-48 – Legislation and Regulation

1. Pending Legislation

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

2. Regulations

Mr. Vanderbles reported that draft rule revisions continue to be in process.

26-08-C-49 – Division Report

Division Assistant Director Alicia Young updated the board on staffing within the Division. Assistant Director Young welcomed David Cohen, our new Investigator, to the Division of Cemeteries team. We have hired for an Auditor one position.

Assistant Director Young reviewed submission requirements for our annual report.

26-08-D-50 – Vandalism, Abandonment and Monument Repair or Removal Fund Report

Assistant Director Young referred the Board to the previously-circulated Vandalism Report.

There are two applications for funds from the vandalism fund before the Board at this meeting.

Maple Grove Cemetery, No. 09-013 (Chenango), $35,578.39

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 28 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 $35,578.39, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 4:18-6:50.

Green Lawn Cemetery, No. 33-023 (Oneida), $59,851.19

This cemetery seeks funds to repair 45 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 $59,851.19, subject to availability of funds.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 6:51-8:57.

26-08-E-42 – Green-Wood Cemetery, No. 24-003: Land Sale

The cemetery seeks approval to sell a portion of cemetery land. Assistant Director Young explained why the Division was recommending approval with only one appraisal for the value of the property the cemetery is selling.

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted approving the sale of the house described in the Cemetery's application at a sale price of $6,500,000, subject to the Cemetery's deposit of the proceeds into its permanent maintenance fund, net of $443,625 in transaction costs.

The discussion of this application can be found in the video recording of this meeting at 8:58-13:20.

Public Comment

Chairman Morris asked for comments from the public.

David Fleming, representing NYSAC, thanked the Division for its continued cooperation.

John Donegan thanked the Division for its assistance with an election issue at Commack Cemetery and asked for appointment of a receiver at that cemetery.

Julia Minerva seconded Mr. Donegan's statement.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the One Commerce Plaza, in Albany.

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.