

Approved 8/7/15

Cemetery Board Minutes

**July 21, 2015
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Daniel Shapiro, Department of State, Chair
Christopher Wiles, Office of Attorney General

Paul Ambrose, Department of Health

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Antonio Milillo, Department of State, Counsel
Chester Butkiewicz, Division of Cemeteries
Monee McAdoo, Division of Cemeteries
Joe Ambrose, Division of Cemeteries
Robert Yuskevich, Division of Cemeteries

Lewis A. Polishook, Division of Cemeteries
Brendon Stanton, Division of Cemeteries
Michael Seelman, Division of Cemeteries
Alicia Young, Division of Cemeteries

GUESTS:

David Fleming, Featherstonhaugh et al.-NYSAC
Daniel Hallenbeck, Featherstonhaugh et al.-NYSAC
Steve Sloane, Woodlawn Cemetery

Bruce Geiger, Pinelawn Cemetery
Harry Ermides, Graceland Cemetery
Ray Planell, Kensico Cemetery

15-07-A-50 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Board approved the minutes of the June 18, 2015 meeting with minor changes.
Motion made, seconded and approved to amend the minutes.

15-07-B-51 Legislation and Regulation

1. Pending Legislation

Mr. Milillo reported that there was a meeting with interested parties regarding net appreciation and NYPMIFA.

2. Rules and Regulations

No changes to report.

15-07-C-52 Division's Report

Mr. Polishook reported a theft of monies at the Liberty Cemetery in Sullivan County. A criminal investigation is pending with State Police. Mr. Stanton, Mr. Hickey, and Mr. Polishook will meet with the cemetery and local law enforcement in the upcoming week.

15-07-D-53 Vandalism Report

Mr. Butkiewicz gave the Vandalism Report.

The Board approved an application for restoration of dangerous monuments for the Albany Rural Cemetery (01-001) in Albany County in the amount of \$51,967.24 The Board approved a Vandalism Application for Beekman Cemetery (14-002) in Dutchess County in the amount of \$832.25.

There were two new recent vandalisms at Albany Rural Cemetery and Riverside Cemetery. The Albany Rural Cemetery has graffiti damage. The Riverside Cemetery in Plattsburgh, NY has 65 headstones knocked over.

15-07-E-54 Walton Cemetery (Delaware – 13-048) – Major Renovation New Crematory

The cemetery has submitted a packet of information regarding an application to operate a crematory. Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the Cemetery Board to (1) approve construction of a new crematory at the cemetery contingent upon Division review and approval of a complete set of plans certified by a registered architect or professional engineer and upon Supreme Court approval of the proposed loan from the PM Fund to help fund the construction; (2) recommend approval of a PM loan in the sum of \$134,706.50 with repayment at the rate of \$1,000 per month for approximately 11 and ¼ years, contingent upon Division counsel approval of the petition to Supreme Court and upon the Division retaining the right to demand, without the need to further court order, that the repayment accelerate to \$1,200 per month if and when the cemetery's finances allow.

15-07-F-55 Graceland Cemetery (Albany – 01-010) – PM Loan

The subject cemetery has filed a petition for to borrow \$200,000 from its Permanent Maintenance (PM) fund to pay off an outstanding commercial loan with a balance of \$136,957. The Board recommends approval to borrow the amount of the commercial loan. The repayment of the loan amount \$136,957.00 plus a PM deficit of \$18,691.17 to be made in equal monthly installments for six years, with a court provision to allow the Cemetery Board to extend the payback period to 10 years without further application to the court. Motion made, seconded and unanimously carried approving the PM loan.

15-07-G-56 Waterville Cemetery (Oneida – 33-068) – Major Renovation – Additional Retort

The subject cemetery has requested approval of a major renovation involving the construction of a 30x40 foot steel building and the purchase and installation of a cremation unit. The building is estimated to cost \$50,000 and the cremation unit to cost \$100,925. The funds for this project will come from the general fund which totals \$196,957. The cemetery indicated it would work with the Division to enhance their substantially low PM fund. The Division recommends approval. Motion made, seconded and unanimously carried approving the major renovation-additional retort.

Public Comments: None

Next meeting to be held on August 7, 2015 at 10:30 AM, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave, Albany, NY 12231

Motion to go into executive session made, seconded and unanimously carried.

Motion to exit executive session made, seconded and unanimously carried.

Motion to adjourn made, seconded and unanimously carried.