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COMMUNITY CONNECTS US

CEMETARY RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 8, 2025

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order by Chair Mary Fee at 3:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mary Fee, Chair	P
Ron Stoughton, Vice Chair	P
Thomas Shockey, Secretary	P
Victor Wilson	P
Diana Jacobs	P
Elizabeth Murch	P
Jeffrey Gastineau	P

Guest present: Keri O'Donnell
Staff present: Clerk of Council Jennifer Mason, Public Services Manager Angie Hobart

Approval of the April 8, 2025 meeting minutes:
Chair Fee moved to approve the April 8, 2025 minutes as submitted. Vice Chair Stoughton seconded and all members voted to approve the April 8, 2025 minutes.

Approval of the Agenda:
Chair Fee moved to adopt the agenda. Member Wilson seconded. All members voted to adopt the agenda.

Hearing of visitors:
NONE

Other Business:
New Albany Cemetery Historical Marker
Clerk Mason recalled the rejection letter and email received from the Ohio History Connection (OHC) and noted it was placed in board member's meeting packets, along with the historical marker text and statement of significance as they were submitted with the application in May of 2025.

Board members discussed whether application changes were necessary given there was no Special Call in 2026. Ms. O'Donnell offered to do a write up of historical events happening before and during the time the cemetery was active to give more context and boost that content. She could start decades earlier, if needed, and some of the interred died prior to the opening of the cemetery and were moved there. Others were buried there and moved to Maplewood Cemetery. Those individuals could be pulled into the narrative. Wagnor Cemetery had Revolutionary War veterans; New Albany cemetery had War of 1812 veterans. Chair Fee observed that the 1970s references in the proposed marker text were recent and could be reduced. The OHC might be looking for more of the "why" of the cemetery. Member Gastineau wondered if the 1970s were too late to include. Board members speculated on how the accepted marker applications were chosen.

Clerk Mason thought that the application didn't just have to be expanded, the board could edit out sections, reducing the material offered. Ms. O'Donnell agreed that the application could be tightened with more details for earlier

events. Member Wilson wanted to make sure the oldest events stayed at the top. Member Gastineau observed that the front side of the proposed marker text was older history and the back side was likely too recent.

Members Gastineau and Murch asked Clerk Mason to reach out to the OHC for more information about why the New Albany Cemetery application was rejected. All board members agreed they wanted more reasons, information about the process, and would like to see successful applications. They discussed submitting a public records request for reviewer notes or more. Member Jacobs expressed preferring a more casual approach to the OHC. She offered to travel back to the OHC to look at records. Clerk Mason agreed to reach out to Laura Russell at the OHC and share the response back to board members.

Chair Fee stated that historical markers cost around $3,120. This was the cost to replace one recently damaged.

Board members and staff discussed the work timeline to be ready to submit a new application by May 1, 2026 as follows: January – edit historical marker text, February – edit statement of significance and revisit historical marker text. Clerk Mason stated the board would be hearing a Rose Run 2/Veterans Memorial update at their January meeting. Those plans included the New Albany Cemetery as part of the Founder's Field design. The board discussed contracting a private party for a historical marker if the OHC did not approve the New Albany Cemetery application.

Wreaths Across America
Chair Fee told the board that the Wreath Across America ceremonies were taking place Saturday, December 13. Maplewood was at noon, New Albany Cemetery was at 2 pm, and Wagnor Cemetery was at 3 pm. The list of veterans in New Albany and Wagnor Cemeteries created by Ms. O'Donnell was in the meeting packets. The Franklinton Chapter of the DAR had donated live wreaths for the veterans in the 2 historic cemeteries. Some DAR members would be at the ceremonies along with some OSU History Club members.

The board discussed the 8 additional wreaths at each ceremony representing the US military divisions. Chair Fee would confirm that Scouting America representative and troop leader Larry Potter would provide the military division wreaths. Board members talked about sending Mr. Potter the list of veterans as he usually offered words about them at each ceremony. Member Murch would to take the flags with her. Vice Chair Stoughton would take the wreath stands with him.

Wagnor Cemetery Landscaping Update
Manager Hobart stated there were landscaping plans for Wagnor Cemetery that included electrical work for lighting, masonry, Fortin Works iron fencing, 2 benches, and Alum & Arbor tree planting. The estimate for the brick pillars that went between the iron fence pieces came in at $70,000, higher than anticipated. Member Wilson suggested checking with a masonry contractor who was doing residential brick work down the road. The board discussed, and some members voiced support for, iron fencing running along Central College Road and not surrounding the entire cemetery.

Headstone Recreation
Clerk Mason asked if members knew of companies that could assist with the recreation of 6 headstones in the New Albany Cemetery. Chair Fee recommended RAR Monuments in Sunbury and Adamson Monuments in Johnstown. They were good companies and reasonably priced.

Schedule next meeting: According to the proposed historical marker work schedule, the board agreed to meet on the regular meeting date of January 27, 2026 at 3:30 pm.
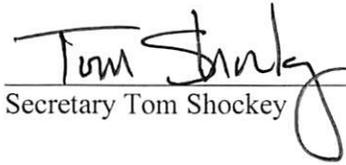
Poll members for comment:
NONE

Adjournment:
Chair Fee moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Murch seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 pm.

Signed:

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Chair Mary Fee

_____
Secretary Tom Shockey

2/2/2026
_____
Date