



**CEMETARY RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, February 2, 2026

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mary Fee at 3:32 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Guest present: Keri O'Donnell

Staff present: Clerk of Council Jennifer Mason

Approval of the December 8, 2025 meeting minutes:

Member Murch moved to approve the December 8, 2025 special meeting minutes as submitted. Chair Fee seconded and all members voted to approve the December 8, 2025 minutes.

Approval of the Agenda:

Chair Fee moved to adopt the agenda. Member Gastineau seconded. All members voted to adopt the agenda.

Hearing of visitors:

NONE

Other Business:

Clerk Mason thanked everyone for being flexible with this last minute reschedule due to the severe winter weather. Board members agreed to a shorter meeting so some members could make it their other commitments that day.

New Albany Cemetery Historical Marker

Board members discussed the examples provided by Laura Russell at the Ohio Historical Society which were different from the board's prior application. One example was significantly shorter. Some examples dealt with history on 1 side and persons or families buried in the cemetery on the other side. The examples only had 1-2 sentences about recent events. Board members discussed ways to bring in more narrative and stories which was difficult given the word count restriction. Ms. O'Donnell was in the middle of researching Anna Benedict, the infant who was the first person buried in New Albany Cemetery. One of her siblings was buried in the New Albany Cemetery and 2 others were buried at Wagnor Cemetery. The Benedicts married into the Swickard family. Board members discussed different ways to restructure New Albany Cemetery's marker text.

Members Murch and Gastineau talked about ways to include the New Albany street names which were named after founding families. Member Gastineau volunteered to look up the names listed in the Statement of Significance to match them up with streets or landmarks. Chair Fee and Clerk Mason talked about emphasizing founders since the

cemetery would be located in "Founder's Field" as part of the Rose Run 2 project. Board members were interested in opportunities in Rose Run 2 signage to tell more stories of the persons interred in New Albany Cemetery.

Board members reworked the historical marker text by bringing over verbiage from the Statement of Significance. For the next draft, they indicated Side A would contain important persons and narrative and Side B would contain recognizable founding family/street names and cemetery history (see attached working document). Clerk Mason agreed to draft new marker text incorporating these items to work on at the next meeting.

Clerk Mason reminded everyone that Deputy City Manager Adrienne Joly would be presenting on Rose Run 2 at the February 24 regular CRAB meeting. Clerk Mason also share an update on the headstones to be restored.

Schedule next meeting: The board agreed to meet on the regular meeting date of February 24, 2026 at 3:30 pm.

Poll members for comment:
NONE

Adjournment:

Chair Fee moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Gastineau seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 pm.

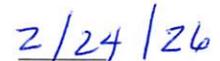
Signed:



Chair Mary Fee



Secretary Tom Shockey



Date

Historical Marker Text

SIDE A – headliners and stories

This is the burial place of many of New Albany's founders and earliest settlers. ^{1,2} New Albany Cemetery was created in 1854 from land owned by William Yantis, Jesse Kohn, and Elizabeth Arnold.³

Noble Landon was not only the founder of New Albany and its first postmaster. He established the first business in New Albany, "Landon's Corners," a local inn and restaurant. Joshua Montgomery, a co-founder of Otterbein University, was buried here and his footstone was recovered.⁴

Hannah Benedict - first

Between 1855 and 1881, up to 126 people were buried in the New Albany Cemetery including Noble Landon and his wife, Lovisa Landon.⁵

Buried here are William Yantis and Silas Ogden, veterans of the War of 1812

Continued on other side

(Word count: 131)

SIDE B – street names – cemetery history

Continued from other side

The headstones in the New Albany Cemetery contain the names of many of New Albany's earliest settlers whom are recognizable in today's New Albany street names: Beecher, Ulry, Phelps, Ogden, Ginn, Phelps, Mead, Landon, Yantis, Miller, Staffer, Robbins, Conkle, Benedict, Baughman, Boston, Campbell, and Kohn. Silas Ogden, who was elected New Albany's first mayor after the village was incorporated in 1856, was also buried in the New Albany Cemetery.^{6,7}

By 1970, many monuments were broken, displaced, or missing and few records existed for the individuals buried in the cemetery. ^{8,9,10} While many headstones were cleaned and reset, the remaining headstones were repaired and placed carefully where no existing gravesites were located.

Approximately 19 people were reinterred from the New Albany Cemetery to the Maplewood Cemetery.¹¹ Around 1882-1884, the New Albany Cemetery was closed to new burials.¹²

(Word count: 123)

¹ Saveson, John E., and Yantis, Richard P. *Founders of New Albany, Ohio: Noble Landon and William Yantis*. New Albany Plain Township Historical Society, New Albany, Ohio, 2003, pages 32-35.

Historical Marker Text

² Burks, Dr. Jarrod and Pecora, Dr. Albert. "Rediscovering the New Albany Cemetery: Results of Recent Archaeological Investigations in a 19th Century Cemetery in New Albany, Ohio." Ohio Valley Archaeology, Inc. Contract Report 2016-6, (2016), pages 101-106.

³ Franklin County (Ohio) Recorder Deed Book 56, Pages 396-399

⁴ Garst, Rev. Henry, *Otterbein University, 1847-1907*, University Publications- Historical. 1907. Pages 16-18. Accessed April 6, 2025. https://digitalcommons.otterbein.edu/archives_garsthis/1.

⁵ Burks, Dr. Jarrod and Pecora, pages 105-106.

⁶ Martin, page 223.

⁷ Burks, Dr. Jarrod and Pecora, pages 26, 102-104.

⁸ Burks and Pecora, page 19.

⁹ New Albany News, "Village Cemetery remains buried." Volume 6, No. 7. (October 5, 1978).

¹⁰ Village of New Albany, Record of Proceedings, Council Meeting, Book 1970-1979. Excerpts regarding "old cemetery," pages 185-186 (July 24, 1974), page 244 (June 16, 1975), and page 245 (June 22, 1975).

¹¹ Doran, Alexander, "List of Re-Interments in Maple Wood Cemetery From Other Grave Yards, 1882-1883." Provided by Dennis Keese, President of New Albany Plain Township Historical Society.

¹² Burks and Pecora, page 18.