



**CEMETARY RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 24, 2026**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mary Fee at 3:35 p.m.

Oath of Office:

Clerk Mason administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed board member Nichole Foreman.

Roll Call:

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

Guest present: Keri O'Donnell

Staff present: Clerk of Council Jennifer Mason

Annual Organizational Meeting:

Elect Chairperson: Tom Shockey moved to elect Mary Fee as Chair. Elizabeth Murch seconded and all members voted to elect Mary Fee as Chair.

Elect Vice Chair: Tom Shockey moved to elect Ron Stoughton as Vice Chair. Elizabeth Murch seconded and all members voted to elect Ron Stoughton as Vice Chair.

Elect Secretary: Mary Fee moved to elect Tom Shockey as Secretary. Diana Jacobs seconded and all members voted to elect Tom Shockey as Secretary.

Establish date, time, and location for 2026 meetings:

Chair Fee moved to maintain 4th Tuesdays at 3:30 pm in Village Hall for regular meetings in 2026. Secretary Shockey seconded and all members voted to maintain 4th Tuesdays at 3:30 pm for regular meetings.

Approval of the February 24, 2026 meeting minutes:

Chair Fee moved to amend the February 24, 2026 minutes to show that Member Murch seconded the motion to adjourn. Secretary Shockey seconded and all members voted in favor of amending the minutes as moved. Chair Fee moved to approve the minutes as amended. Member Jacobs seconded and all members voted in favor of approving the February 24, 2026 minutes as amended.

Approval of the Agenda:

Clerk Mason stated she had amended the agenda prior to the meeting to add the Oath of Office ceremony for new member Nichole Foreman. Chair Fee moved to approve the agenda. Vice Chair Stoughton seconded and all members voted in favor of approving the agenda.

Hearing of visitors:

NONE

Other Business:

New Albany Cemetery Historical Marker

Board members considered and discussed whether the reference to the existing streets named after families whose members were buried in the New Albany cemetery was possibly too modern a reference for the committee who approved the Ohio Historical Markers. Clerk Mason referenced an email from Nancy Ferguson where she described how Arloia Baughman Walton helped to research and provide names to The New Albany Company for their developments. The board made some minor wording changes to emphasize that the families were “historically memorialized in New Albany’s street names.”

The board discussed how to refer to Maplewood Cemetery and how to talk about number of reinterments there from the New Albany Cemetery. The board pulled out Dennis Keesee’s essay on the establishment of Maplewood. Mr. Keesee described the flooding of the New Albany Cemetery and the needs of the growing community. The Ohio Valley Archaeology report stated between 19 to 58 graves were reinterred from New Albany Cemetery. The board also looked at Plain Township’s original record of who was moved to Maplewood which appeared to show many more than 19 reinterments. Member Foreman believed the statement that at least 19 persons were moved from the New Albany Cemetery to Maplewood Cemetery begged the question open as to why everyone wasn’t moved. The board speculated as to why more graves weren’t relocated. Potential reasons included: families couldn’t afford the relocation, families wanted to keep their graves together, or family members had moved away from New Albany and had lost touch with what was happening there. Ultimately, the board didn’t know why more were not moved or have a reliable number for the reinterments. The board decided on a more general statements as follows. “Maplewood Cemetery was established nearby in 1881 to accommodate the growing community. Many were reinterred to Maplewood Cemetery and New Albany Cemetery became inactive.”

The board acknowledged that Noble Landon was the first local postmaster when the post office was called “Hope.” Due to wording limitations and not wanting to cause confusion, the board decided to say he was the first postmaster without referencing the Hope name.

Board members discussed Hannah Benedict and the Benedict family. Ms. O’Donnell stated Hannah was the first of 4 Benedict children who died early. The board speculated as to why she was buried at the New Albany Cemetery location before the actual cemetery was established, but no existing document, thus far, gave the reason. Hannah’s sister, Anna Benedict, was also buried at New Albany Cemetery. Additional Benedict children were buried at Wagner Cemetery. Ms. O’Donnell stated she would continue her research on the Benedict family.

The board re-read the historical marker text (attached) and decided it was likely the version to be submitted in the application. They would review it one more time and approve it by motion at the April CRAB meeting. They would also address the Statement of Significance at that time.

Member Foreman’s described how her daughter, a New Albany Plain Local Schools student, had a deep interest in cemeteries and was involved with a New Albany Sustainability Advisory Board Student Leaders in Sustainability project. The board encouraged Member Foreman to show the current Historical Marker Text to her daughter and get her feedback.

Clerk Mason polled the board members and they agreed to tour the Rose Run 2 construction site with Deputy City Manager Adrienne Joly on April 21, 2026 at 3 pm. The tour would start at Village Hall. Clerk Mason stated this would likely be an informal, information gathering session for the CRAB, but she would look into a publicly noticed meeting. Board members talked about how different the future park site looked after the trees and other plants were removed. They agreed that the New Albany Cemetery needed a border/demarcation of its boundaries.

Clerk Mason asked Member Foreman to request any documentation of Arloia Baughman Walton's work in support of the New Albany Cemetery at the next New Albany-Plain Township Historical Society Meeting. She gave Member Foreman a copy of Nancy Ferguson's February 11, 2026 email which contained Ms. Ferguson's narrative about Ms. Walton.

Schedule next meeting: The board agreed to meet on the regular meeting date of March 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 4:59 pm.

Signed:



Chair Mary Fee



Secretary Tom Shockey

4-28-26
Date

Historical Marker Text – rev 3-24-26

SIDE A – headliners and stories

New Albany Cemetery was created in 1854 from land owned by William Yantis, Jesse Kohn, and Elizabeth Arnold. Noble Landon and William Yantis founded New Albany in 1837. They, along with their wives, Lovisa Landon and Elizabeth Yantis, are interred here. Noble Landon served as the postmaster and established the first business, “Landon’s Corners,” a local inn and restaurant. Silas Ogden, elected New Albany’s first mayor after the village was incorporated in 1837, can be found here along with Joshua Montgomery, a co-founder of Otterbein University. An infant, Hannah Benedict, one of many Benedict children known to be buried in New Albany, was the first person buried at this site, prior to the cemetery being established. William Yantis and Silas Ogden were veterans of the War of 1812.

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SIDE B – street names – cemetery history

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This is the burial place of many of New Albany’s founders and earliest settlers, many of whom are historically memorialized in New Albany’s street names: Baughman, Beecher, Kohn, Landon, Mead, Ogden, Phelps, Miller, Robbins, Ulry, and Yantis. When New Albany Cemetery was active, up to 126 people were buried here. Maplewood Cemetery was established nearby in 1881 to accommodate the growing community. Many were reinterred to Maplewood Cemetery and New Albany Cemetery became inactive. By the 1970s, numerous monuments in the New Albany Cemetery were broken, displaced, or missing. In 2018, headstones with documented locations were cleaned and reset, and the remainder were restored and placed carefully where no existing gravesites were located.

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