

State of North Carolina
Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2021

The North Carolina Cemetery Commission held a special called meeting on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 via teleconference. The meeting was called specifically to discuss one item: Complaints from numerous members of the public regarding the grounds and perpetual care maintenance at Shepherd Memorial, License #138.

The members in attendance were President William "Bill" Gaffney and the following Commissioners: David Simmons, Linda Cotten, Dyanne Miller, Ebbie Hendren, and Sharon Weaver. Gantt Stephens, as Director of Operations was also in attendance. There were no representatives for Shepherd Memorial Park in attendance.

I. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

President Gaffney declared that, in accordance with the State Government Ethics Act 138A 15E, it is the duty of every Commission member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts regarding the matters being brought before them and to refrain from any undue participation in the particular matters involved.

No conflicts were reported.

II. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Shepherd Memorial Park- Mr. Gaffney explained to the Commissioners that this meeting was called specifically to address the concerns of the public regarding Shepherd Memorial Park. Mr. Gaffney explained that the Commission office staff have received 27 written formal complaints in total for Shepherd Memorial Park in the calendar year for 2021. Of these complaints, 26 were sent between May 17, 2021 and June 8th, 2021. He explained the nature of these complainants were regarding the grounds upkeep, maintenance, the availability of staff, and the grounds accessibility. Henderson Co Board of Commissioners also addressed the Commission Office via written letter on behalf of their constituents. After learning of this information, Mr. Gaffney explained, 4 members of the Commission requested a Special Meeting be called to address these concerns. Ms. Dyanne Miller moved to place Shepherd Memorial Park in receivership due to the lack of perpetual care grounds maintenance, numerous complaints from consumers, and the lack of response to the concerns from the ownership. The motion was seconded by Ms. Ebbie Hendren and the floor was opened for discussion. During discussion, Mr. Gaffney and Mr. Stephens informed the Commissioners that multiple attempts were made via FedEx, Certified USPS mail, and email to contact Shepherd regarding these matters and notifying them of this meeting today. These attempts were met with no response. Ms. Dyanne Miller moved to amend her prior motion by keeping the same language and also adding the allowance of the Commission's attorney to work with the Henderson County attorney if necessary. Ms. Hendren seconded the amended motion made by Ms. Miller. All voted in favor.

III. REMINDER OF NEXT MEETING DATE:

July 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. This meeting will take place in person at the Hilton in North Hills, Raleigh.

IV. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned.