

North Carolina Cemetery Commission

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2026

The North Carolina Cemetery Commission held a quarterly meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, hosted via teleconference due to inclement weather.

President William “Bill” Gaffney and the following Commissioners were present: Mr. Brian Hill, Mr. David Buchanan, Mr. Bobby Townsend, Ms. Bonita Caldwell, Mr. David Simmons, Ms. LaRay Holloman, Ms. Sharon Weaver. Ms. Tiffany Rabil, Ms. Cheryl Holmes and Mr. Gantt Stephens were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am. President Gaffney called for a moment of silence.

The first item of the meeting was the agenda approval. Ms. Holloman moved to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. Caldwell. All voted in favor of accepting the agenda as written.

The second item of the meeting was approval of the meeting minutes of October, 2025. Ms. Caldwell moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill All voted in favor of approval of the minutes.

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 matters involved.

No Commissioners reported a conflict of interest on any agenda items.

II. Operations Report – Mr. Stephens directed the Commissioners to the current financial reports of the Commission and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. The Operations report was then discussed and the floor opened to questions. There were none.

III. Requests from the Public to Address the Commission - President Gaffney invited any member of the public wishing to address the Commission to come forward.

No members of the public wished to speak.

IV. New Business-

- a. **Change of Control for Rutherford County Memorial Park** – Mr. Gaffney directed the Commissioners to the packages of information sent by the current and proposed new owners of Rutherford County Memorial Park. The Commissioners confirmed that all items needed for the change were present. Representatives from both the buyer and seller were present and available for any questions. Mr. Hill made a motion to accept the change of control of Rutherford County Memorial Park from current owners, Bruce Dobbins and Jerry Pannell to Mr. Brad Ellis and Mr. Derek Deaton of Ellis and Deaton LLC. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simmons and passed unanimously.

- b. **Change of Control for Sea Lawn Memorial Park** – Mr. Gaffney directed the Commissioners to the packages of information sent by the current and proposed new owners of Sea Lawn Memorial Park. The Commissioners confirmed that all items needed for the change were present. Representatives from both the buyer and seller were present and available for any questions. Mr. Hill made a motion to accept the change of control of Sea Lawn Memorial Park from current owners, the Andrews family of Andrews Properties, Inc, to SCI NC Funeral Services, LLC owned by Stewart Enterprises, Inc. The motion was seconded by Ms. Holloman and passed unanimously.
- c. **Lafayette Memorial Park Inspection Findings-** Mr. Stephens directed the Commissioners to the inspection findings of the most recent routine inspection of Lafayette Memorial Park. There were significant deficits found in both perpetual care and preneed trust accounts. Ms. Boshier, representing Lafayette Memorial Park, explained that there was an employee who failed to make these deposits and this was discovered at a later date. Ms. Boshier requested a payment plan to resolve these deficits. Discussion resulted in a motion from Mr. Hill instructing the Commission office to perform a special inspection at the cemetery to bring all outstanding issues current. After this inspection, where final amounts due will be determined, the cemetery will return to the meeting in April to discuss the resolution. The motion was seconded by Ms. Caldwell and passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

- a. **Harnett Devotional Gardens** – A representative from the Commission visited the property to confirm the property’s compliance with its proposed improvements as shown in the formal response from their counsel. It did not appear items that had been addressed. The cemetery was unprepared for a recent routine inspection. The grounds at this time were unchanged from the October meeting. Discussion of the Commissioners regarding next steps resulted in a motion from Mr. Hill to suspend the sales licenses at Harnett Devotional Gardens until such a time all outstanding matters have been addressed to satisfaction. The motion was seconded by Mr. Simmons. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. NC House Bill 210 was again discussed along with potential language for an Administrative Rule.
- c. **LandQuest Legacy Receivership** – Mr. Stephens provided an update on the situation at the five cemeteries owned by Kyle Corkum of LandQuest Legacy. The receiver continues to decrease the liabilities of the LandQuest owned properties.
- d. **Shepherd Memorial Park Receivership** – Mr. Stevens provided a brief update regarding the receivership at Shepherd Memorial Park. He reminded the Commissioners about the appeal that was filed and notified the Commissioners that we are currently awaiting the courts in order to move forward with a final resolution.

VI. REMINDER OF NEXT MEETING DATE: Mr. Gaffney reminded all in attendance that the next scheduled quarterly meeting will take place on April 15, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the new location in the RRC Room of the Office of Administrative Hearings Building on old Wake Forest Road.

- I. **Adjournment:** Ms. Holloman moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.