

**Burial Sites Preservation Board
Meeting Minutes
December 29, 2025**

OPEN SESSION

The Dorchester County Burial Sites Preservation Board (BSPB) convened into Open Session on December 29, 2025 at 4:05 p.m. in Room 110 of the County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, Maryland 21613. A roll call of the board members present was conducted. Present in Room 110 were: Dorothy B. Samonisky, Chair; Frederick Windsor, Vice Chair; Karen Tolley; and Donna Abbott. Also present in the room was Irene Barnes, Executive Operations Manager; and, Grace Wittig, Executive Assistant. Rod Benjamin and Joe Era were absent. David Beverley II joined the meeting late.

APPROVAL OF BURIAL SITES PRESERVATION BOARD OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Upon motion by Ms. Samonisky, seconded by Mr. Windsor, the BSPB, by a 4 to 0 vote, Mr. Benjamin, Mr. Era and Mr. Beverley absent, approved the Open Session minutes of November 17, 2025.

Mr. Beverley II joined the meeting.

COUNTY COUNCIL BOARD PRESENTATION PLANNING

Ms. Tolley provided a draft PowerPoint to be presented to the Dorchester County Council at its February 17, 2026 meeting, including the BSPB's mission and near-term goals, as well as prior year accomplishments.

The board discussed additional information and updated data to be incorporated into the presentation before the next meeting.

JANUARY AGENDA DISCUSSION

The BSPB agreed to meet for a work session in mid-January to complete a final draft of the presentation regarding its goals and objectives.

Ms. Samonisky, stated that the next BSPB meeting will be held on January 26, 2026, at 3:30pm to include the following:

- Annual Election of Officers (Chair and Vice Chair)
- Meetings with the Maryland Historic Trust, and Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Windsor said a member of the Dorchester County Historical Society reached out regarding a burial site with no record, and advised that he is waiting for feedback regarding public interest in cemeteries.

PUBLIC COMMENT


Michael Henry, BSPB Ex Officio Member, recommended that the goals and objectives be clearly stated in the presentation. Mr. Henry said he photographed 43 unrecorded burial sites in the area; seven of which were taken since the last BSPB meeting on November 17, 2025. He said six of the seven undocumented burial sites were African American cemeteries and the last being an undocumented Native American site.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Ms. Samonisky, Chair, seconded by Frederick Windsor, Vice Chair, the BSPB, by a 5 to 0 vote adjourned the meeting at 4:37p.m.

ATTEST:

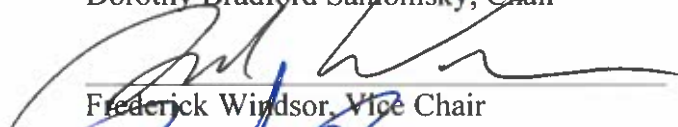
**BURIAL SITES PRESERVATION
BOARD**



Grace Wittig
Executive Assistant



Dorothy Bradford Samonisky, Chair



Frederick Windsor, Vice Chair




David Beverley II



Joe Era



Karen Tolley



Donna Abbott

Rod Benjamin

Approved the 12th day of February, 2026.