

**Burial Sites Preservation Board
Open Session Minutes
November 17, 2025**

OPEN SESSION

The Dorchester County Burial Sites Preservation Board convened into Open Session on November 17, 2025 at 4:00 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; Joe Era; Karen Tolley; and, Donna Abbott. Also present in the room was Irene Barnes, Executive Operations Specialist. David Beverley, II joined the meeting late and Rod Benjamin was absent.

APPROVAL OF BURIAL SITES PRESERVATION BOARD OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Upon motion by Mr. Era seconded by Mr. Windsor the Board unanimously approved the Open Session minutes of October 27, 2025.

EX-OFFICIO BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Research Documentation – Updates

Upon motion by Mr. Windsor seconded by Ms. Abbott the Board appointed Michael Henry as an ex-officio member to the Board.

COMMUNITY EVENT PLANNING – UPDATE

The Board recounted the November Cemetery Field Trip held on November 8, 2025 at the Church Creek Volunteer Fire Department in Church Creek, Maryland.

Mr. Windsor recommended advertising events sooner, and said he will send the pictures of the November 8, 2025 event to the Board.

David Beverley, II, joined the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Maryland Historical Trust – State of Maryland Workgroup Report – Updates & Materials

Ms. Samonisky said she received an offer from Elizabeth Hughes to attend an upcoming board meeting to provide information on the Maryland Historical Trust and the new state group.

Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites – Invite

Mr. Era said the Coalition would like to attend a Board meeting to discuss holding its 2026 event in December.

Meeting Agendas – December, January & February

December 29, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.
County Council Meeting Presentation

January 26, 2026 at 3:30 p.m.
Annual Election of Officers – Board Chair & Vice Chair
Maryland Historical Trust (tentative)
Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites (tentative)

OTHER COMMENTS

Ms. Barnes said Planning & Zoning can store burial sites information electronically if provided by USB drive, or physically if physical documents are provided, however, due to limited staff and budget constraints, the information will not be added to the GIS records. She said the burial sites information will only be provided upon request for the information based on a specific property address.

Ms. Samonisky provided recommendations on changes to the Board webpage under the Dorchester County website. Upon agreeance of the Board, she said she will email the Council's Office a list of changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

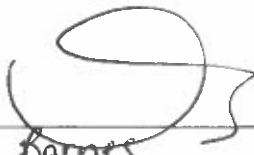
Mr. Henry provided an overview of his interest in the Board, and his documentation of cemeteries.

Ms. Samonisky asked Mr. Henry to document the cemetery at the Elijah's Store in Toddville, Maryland.

ADJOURNMENT

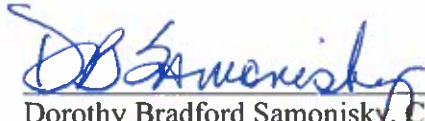
Upon motion by Mr. Windsor, seconded by Mr. Beverley the BSPB unanimously adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

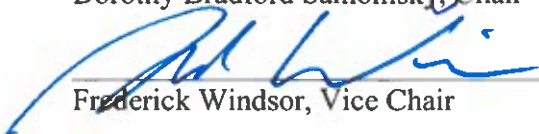


Irene Barnes
Executive Operations Specialist

BURIAL SITES PRESERVATION
BOARD



Dorothy Bradford Samonisky, Chair



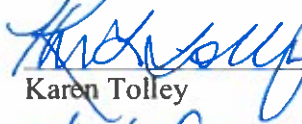
Frederick Windsor, Vice Chair



David Beverley, II



Joe Era



Karen Tolley



Donna Abbott

Rod Benjamin

Approved the 29 day of December, 2025.