

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN EMBALMING AND FUNERAL DIRECTING

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 19, 2025, OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

In accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 30A § 20, the Board convened a regular monthly meeting on August 19, 2025, in a hybrid format

INFORMATIONAL NOTE: All votes were taken by roll call.

Board members present: Rebecca Ridley (Virtual), Richard Gormley, Paul Phaneuf, Patrick Driscoll, Janet Leombruno (10:41am Virtual)

Board Members absent:

DOL Staff present: Colleen Maloney, Mike Ryan, John Hill, Peter Kelley

Public Attendees Applicants for licensure swearing in

At 10:05 AM the Chair called the meeting to order, and the Acting Executive Director noted the meeting was being recorded.

1. Welcome and note regarding safety measures
2. Read and Approve Minutes

The members discussed the draft July Board meeting minutes. MOTION by Richard Gormley to approve. Patrick Driscoll seconded. The Chair called for a Roll Call Vote:

- a. Members in favor: Rebecca Ridley, Richard Gormley, Paul Phaneuf, Patrick Driscoll
 - b. Members opposed: None
3. Funeral Assistants
 - a. Applicants were welcomed in:
 - i. Thomas J. Murphy, James A. Murphy & Son Funeral Home, Inc., Dorchester,
 - ii. Michael J. Hagen, Spadafora Funeral Home, Malden,
 - iii. Heather Tatro, Dwyer Funeral Home, Pittsfield
 - iv. Matthew Mackeil, Faggas Funeral Services, Watertown
 - v. Isaac Blackman, Stanetsky Memorial Chapel, Canton
 - vi. Stephen Rosenthal, Stanetsky Memorial Chapel, Canton
 - vii. Victor Hernandez, Driscoll Funeral Home, Haverhill

viii. Kevin Neylon, Dolan Funeral Home, N. Chelmsford

4. Apprentice Applicants

- a. Applicants were welcomed in
 - i. Jacob Scace, Dery Funeral Home, Pittsfield
 - ii. Stefani Palmisano, Conte Funeral Home, North Andover

5. Funeral Director Type 6

- a. Applicants were sworn in
 - i. Leah Cournoyer, Solimine Funeral Home, Lynn
 - ii. Mary Gough, Campbell Funeral Home, Beverly
 - iii. Kevin Cotter, Riendeau-Mulvey LLC, Taunton
 - iv. Melanie Faucher, Badger Funeral Services, Littleton

6. Acting Executive Director report

- a. The Acting Executive Director provided an update on pre-need complaints moving to prosecution. Board had discussions of Pre-Need Dockets and funeral homes involved.

7. Board Counsel Report:

- a. Counsel provided an update regarding changes to the regulations and when a copy will be presented to the board for a discussion.

8. Discussion:

- a. Jacob Peters- Request for an apprentice extension from October 20th, 2025-October 20th, 2026

MOTION by Richard Gormley to approve. Patrick Driscoll seconded. The Chair called for a Roll Call Vote:

- o Members in favor: Rebecca Ridley, Richard Gormley, Paul Phaneuf, Patrick Driscoll
- o Members opposed: None

9. Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair:

- a. Sandy Ward- Following up on website edits and comments from May board meeting. Acting Executive Director noted she was working with the IT team and will have the page updated by next meeting.

At 10:46 am, Patrick Driscoll moved to exit the Public Session and enter Executive Session to discuss individuals' character or reputation, rather than professional competence, pursuant to G. L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) and then to enter Closed Session for the purpose of conducting settlement and investigatory conferences pursuant to G. L. C. 112, § 65C. The Chair called for a Roll Call Vote.

MOTION made by Patrick Driscoll. Seconded by Richard Gormley.

- Members in favor: Rebecca Ridley, Richard Gormley, Paul Phaneuf, Patrick Driscoll
- Members opposed: None. Janet Leombruno present but not voting.

During Closed Session, the Board took the following actions:

- 2025-000815-IT-ENF: Refer to prosecutions
- Open additional related complaints

At 12:04pm, the Board moved to exit closed session, to enter open session, and thereupon to adjourn the meeting:

MOTION by Richard Gormley, seconded by Patrick Driscoll. The Chair called for a Roll Call Vote:

- Members in favor: Rebecca Ridley, Richard Gormley, Paul Phaneuf, Patrick Driscoll
Janet Leombruno
- Members opposed: None.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Documents used in public session:

- Agenda for the August 19, 2025, Open Meeting
- Public Session Minutes for the July Board Meeting
- List of administratively approved CE Course Providers
- List of Funeral Home Assistant Applicants and Embalming Apprentice Applicants, scheduled to appear before the Board at today's meeting

