

Sunset Advisory Commission
Board and Commission Review of Veterans Cemetery Advisory Board

The Commission reviews every State board and commission and takes testimony regarding whether each board or commission should continue to operate or be eliminated and whether the powers and duties of any board or commission should be revised. Each board and commission has the burden of justifying its continued operation.

The Commission also reviews whether members of a board or commission should be entitled to a per diem and, if so, the amount of that per diem.

In testifying before the Commission, you should be able to provide the following information:

1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found. The Board meets quarterly. Agendas and minutes can be provided on request.
2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.

- Jennifer Fitch – Acting BGS Commissioner – Chair, per the statute
- Larry Cupoli – House representative appointed by the House Speaker
- Mark McDonald – Senate Representative appointed by Senate Committee on Committees

The following are appointed by the Governor:

- Judee Chatot-Travis – Granite Industry Representative, expires 5/31/2022
- Chris Palermo – Member, expired 5/31/2017
- Richard Reed – Member, expires 5/31/2022
- Thomas Drew – Member, expired 5/31/2016
- One vacant position
- Six-year staggered terms
- All are eligible for per diem per the statute

3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose. "... to advise the Adjutant General on all matters relating to the establishment and operation of a Vermont Veteran's Memorial Cemetery ..." 20 V.S.A. § 1581
4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose? The purpose is still needed to give insights outside of the Office and/or Department. The board provides insight and a balance for hearing and addressing various interaction with veteran communities regarding the cemetery. The board reviews cemetery guidelines, large and small cemetery projects, operations, and funding.

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance? In the initial planning and execution of construction, the Board was instrumental in bringing forward the view of Vermont's veteran community and the broader community overall. Additionally, it served the same purpose in the recent expansion.
6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner? I believe the Board operates effectively and efficiently. It allows a number of perspectives to be heard in the operation of, and decisions made at the cemetery.
7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? No. If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?
8. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission? Yes
9. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded? Funding for per diem is through the State Military Department, there is no staffing.
10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? No If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?
No
11. How would you measure the performance of the board or commission? One measure of its performance would be value that the Adjutant General places on their advisement role. Over the years the Board has provided important advice and counsel.