

These Rules and Regulations are currently under revision.

TOWN of FRANCESTOWN

CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Rules and Regulations are for the mutual protection of the Town, Cemetery Trustees, Cemetery Deed-Holders and the general public. They may be amended or repealed from time to time as circumstances demand. These provisions supersede and previous rules, regulations, ordinances or policy statements concerning cemetery management.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The cemeteries are open from sunrise to sunset. They are closed for burials and vehicles from the first snowfall to a time in the spring when the Trustees and the Sexton determine the roads are firm enough for vehicular traffic.
2. Littering of any kind on the cemetery grounds is prohibited.
3. Animals are permitted on leash and under control. Owners are responsible for waste matter removal
4. Grading, sodding, seeding, mowing, fertilizing and filling in lots by anyone other than cemetery employees is permitted only by the approval of the Trustees. Any concerns by the deed-holder(s) regarding the appearance of their lot may be brought to the attention of the Cemetery Trustees.
5. In all matters not covered by the Rules and Regulations, the Cemetery Trustees reserve the right to act in their own best interest.

DEED HOLDER

1. The purchase of a burial lot grants the deed holder the right of burial for him or herself, family and heirs, and for no other purpose. The deed holder(s) will specify in writing who may or may not be buried in his/her lot.
2. A deed holder wishing to allow the burial of bodies other than those already specified to the Trustees at the time of purchase, shall present a signed statement for approval and record purposes.
3. If the deed holder dies intestate, or if no provision is made in the final will for disposition of lot upon death, the interest in such lot shall descend in accordance with the provisions of the laws of the State of New Hampshire.
4. A deed holder cannot sell a lot privately. The Town of Francestown can be the only buyer and the amount paid will be the price for which the lot was originally purchased.

DEFINITIONS

1. PLOT: The space required to accommodate an adult interment approximately 3 ½ x 10, and for cremains 3 ½ x 5.
2. LOT: Shall apply to two or more plots.
3. MONUMENT: A headstone of approved material that extends above the surface of the ground.
4. MARKER: A memorial that lies flush with the ground.
5. LOT MARKER: A device used by the Sexton to locate corners of the lot.
6. CORNER POSTS: If the owner so chooses, 6"x6"x6" granite corner posts placed flush with the ground by the Sexton to mark the dimensions of the deed-holder's plot or lot.
7. DEED-HOLDER(S): A person or persons who hold deeded interment rights, by purchase or inheritance.
8. INTERMENT: The permanent disposition by burial of the cremains or body of a deceased person.

MONUMENTS & MARKERS

1. One monument only, may be placed on a plot. Its foundation, or permanent base will be at least equal to the width and length of that monument and with 18" in depth.
2. There shall be one monument or marker at the head of a cremains plot. It may bear as many names as those buried.
3. Monuments, memorials and markers are to be durable natural stone or bronze. No wood, limestone, sandstone, cement or metals, other than bronze, are allowed.
4. If there is no monument, a single lot marker must be placed at the head or foot of the grave in alignment with the monuments or markers in that row.
5. All markers and cornerstones shall be level with the surface of the ground.
6. Monuments, markers and cornerstones must be erected within a year after burial.
7. The placement of monuments, memorials and markers will be under the supervision of the Cemetery Sexton.
8. A military marker shall be placed at the head of the grave if there is to be no monument.

BURIALS

1. Prior to any burial, the Funeral Director will supply the permit along with the proper fees to the Sexton.
2. Prior to any burial, the Town Clerk or Sexton will contact a member of the Cemetery Trustees.
3. The Town Clerk and/or the Cemetery Trustee shall not be responsible for any interment orders given orally or by telephone.
4. Caskets shall be interred in a sealed cement vault or non-perishable material. Infants may be buried in a fiberglass container or vault.
5. Interment shall be conducted by a Funeral Director or Sexton.
6. Only the remains of a human being shall be interred in the cemetery.
7. Double-deep burials are not permitted, nor shall the burial of more than one person be in one grave except in the case of a mother and infant or two infants.
8. Burials on a holiday are prohibited, except in cases of emergency.
9. Once a casket containing a body is within the confines of the cemetery and prior to the ground being filled in, no one shall be permitted to touch the body without the consent of a legal representative or family member present.
10. In the case of an indigent resident of the town, a single grave and placement marker shall be provided and the Town shall cover the cost of the interment.
11. Disinterment or removal of the remains of any body will be permitted only under the following conditions:
 - a. In the presence of the Sexton and with approval of the Cemetery Trustees.
 - b. With a permit required by the laws of the State of New Hampshire.
 - c. A written consent of the deed-holder, his/her heirs or designated member of the family.
 - d. Payment for any work by the Sexton or other necessary charges will be made in advance.

CREMATIONS

1. No cremains shall be independently or privately buried. All burials shall be under the supervision of a Cemetery Trustee or the Sexton.
2. One plot, 3 ½'x5', can hold three vaulted cremains. The ashes of more than one person may be co-mingled in one individual container.
3. Cremains may be buried either in a container or placed directly into the ground.
4. Location of cremains, whether in a vault or the ashes placed directly into the ground, will be recorded with the Sexton and Cemetery Trustees.
5. Sod shall be replaced immediately over the opening to maintain the quality of the area.

6. If the family so wishes, the number of cremains that may be co-mingled directly into the earth of a grave plot is virtually unlimited. Each burial will be recorded with the Sexton and Cemetery Trustees.

PLANTINGS & DECORATIONS

1. In-ground planting of flowers is permitted around the immediate base of the monument or marker and will not extend 15" beyond the face. Plantings will be the responsibility of the family or deed holder. Where unattractive growth occurs, the Cemetery Trustees reserve the right to trim or remove the plants.
2. Deed holder or family will consult with the Cemetery Trustees if they wish to plant a slow, low-growing shrub. Any trees or shrubs planted before January 2004 may remain until they encroach upon other lots. The Cemetery Trustees reserve the right to prune, trim or remove such plantings, as it deems necessary.
3. Curbing, hedge, fence or similar enclosures shall not be permitted on or around any plot or lot.
4. All summer plantings must be removed or cut back by November 1st of each year.
5. Christmas decorations must be removed by April 1st of each year.
6. Funeral flowers will be removed within ten days following a burial by the Family or if they so wish, by the Cemetery Trustees.
7. Containers are available by the Cemetery shed for disposal of refuse. Please use.
8. The Town is not responsible or liable for the loss of flowers or decorations.

THE FOLLOWING ARE SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED:

1. Artificial flowers or plants; wires used in them become deadly projectiles if hit by a mower and could lead to injuries.
2. Any gravel on a plot or lot.
3. Ornaments, toys, boxes, whirly-gigs, balloons, statues, mugs and similar memorabilia.
4. Glass or china as flower containers.

The Cemetery Trustees have the right and responsibility to remove, without notice, these and any other articles that seem inappropriate, improper, unsafe or detrimental to the maintenance and/or general appearance of the cemeteries. Items will be held for one month in the shed at #3 Cemetery where they can be collected upon notification to the Trustees.

Revised by the Cemetery Trustees
Betsy Wiederhold
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March 2004