



## **Cemetery Regulations**

### **Town of Grafton, New Hampshire**

#### **1. Declaration of Policy:**

The Cemetery Trustees of the Town of Grafton, New Hampshire under the authority granted them in RSA 289, hereby establish the following rules and regulations for the operation and use of town cemeteries in the Town of Grafton. The Trustees recognize that the town cemeteries are sacred grounds reserved as a final resting place for the people of the Town, and desire to have the cemeteries maintained in the best possible manner. The Trustees believe that rules and regulations are necessary for the protection of lot and grave owners.

#### **2. Application of the Rules and Regulations:**

These rules and regulations shall apply to any person, firm, corporation, association, club, partnership, society or any other form of association or organization.

The Cemetery Trustees of the Town of Grafton, New Hampshire, upon their own motion or upon recommendation of the Cemetery Sexton, or both, for good cause shown, may modify, suspend, repeal or amend the provisions of these regulations in whole or in part. It is the intent of the Trustees that if any section or part of a section of these regulations is held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections or parts thereof.

#### **3. General Regulations:**

No person shall:

- A. Deposit rubbish or debris anywhere on cemetery grounds outside trash receptacles where provided in Grafton Center and Pine Grove Cemeteries.
- B. Pick or mutilate any flowers, either wild or domestic, or disturb any tree, shrub or other plant materials.
- C. Use the cemeteries as picnic ground, or consume alcoholic beverages in a cemetery, or bring the same upon the premises.
- D. In any way injure or deface any monument, stone, fence or other structure or property within any cemetery.
- E. Allow any dog or domestic animal to run at large or out of sight and control in any cemetery.
- F. Fail to properly dispose of any animal waste from pets under their control while visiting graves.
- G. No child shall be allowed in any cemetery without proper adult supervision.
- H. Enter a cemetery except through an established gate or entrance.
- I. Place memorial decorations at the foot or side of grave lots; all memorial decorations must be as close to the headstone as possible so as not to inhibit maintenance of the graves.
- J. Plant any tree or shrub without permission from the Cemetery Trustees.
- K. Place any benches on grave lots or rights of way without permission from the Cemetery Trustees.



#### **4. Traffic Regulations:**

- A. No person shall operate or cause to operate any vehicle within a cemetery except on roads designed for that purpose and no vehicle shall be driven at a speed in excess of 10 miles per hour upon any roads within town cemeteries.
- B. No person shall enter any cemetery with a loaded truck except a town truck, unless permission has been received from the Cemetery Trustees or Cemetery Sexton.
- C. Any person operating a vehicle within any cemetery shall be subject to all traffic laws of the Town of Grafton.

#### **5. Establishment of Cemeteries:**

- A. The Cemetery Trustees shall have the authority for the establishment of cemeteries within the town limits of Grafton and shall, as need arises, set aside new ground areas for this purpose.
- B. The following named existing cemeteries have been established as Town Cemeteries:
  - 1) Pine Grove
  - 2) Grafton Center
  - 3) Prescott Hill
  - 4) Hardy Hill
  - 5) Huntley
  - 6) Ford
  - 7) East Grafton
  - 8) Razor Hill
- C. Before any new land is opened for cemetery use and the sale of lots, the Cemetery Trustees shall have such land area laid out showing the system of driveways and numbered system of lots.

#### **6. Purchase of Lots:**

- A. Lots purchased shall be conveyed by special deed for burial purposes only and shall be subject at all times to the provisions of these regulations and applicable state laws.
- B. Lots in all laid out sections of Pine Grove Cemetery in the Town of Grafton, New Hampshire may be selected and purchased from the Cemetery Sexton. Payment for lots purchased shall be made to the Selectmen's Office with a check payable to the Town of Grafton. Such purchases shall be evidenced by a deed prepared by the Cemetery Trustees Bookkeeper and signed by the Sexton, Selectmen and Town Clerk. Such deed shall state the full legal name of the purchaser, purchase price, amount paid, name of lots and sections in which located.
- C. When paying for a lot, purchasers must also pay for a set of four 6"x6"x8" cornerstones that will be engraved with the last name initial of the lot(s) owner. The cost of the cornerstones, including installation is \$200. Payment must be made with a check made out to Laconia Monument and submitted with lot payment.
- D. The keeping of the records of the cemeteries of the Town of Grafton shall be the responsibility of the Cemetery Trustees Bookkeeper and the Cemetery Sexton. All maps showing laid out sections of each cemetery, records of lot ownership and burials shall be kept by the Cemetery Trustees Bookkeeper and the Cemetery Sexton. Copies of the deeds conveyed for lot purchases shall be recorded by the Cemetery Trustees Bookkeeper and the Town Clerk provided for this purpose.

**7. Transfer of Lots:**

No transfer of lots or assignment of lot shall be made by any owner without the express approval of the Cemetery Trustees and/or the Cemetery Sexton. All transfers shall be made upon approval of the Cemetery Trustees and recorded in the same manner as new lot purchases. No lot may be resold for more than the original purchase price.

**8. Fees:**

Lot prices are subject to review each year.

Cornerstones: \$200

Charge for Lots:

1	grave space	\$125
2	grave space	\$250
3	grave space	\$375
4	grave space	\$500

**9. Perpetual Care:**

- A. All cemetery lots sold shall require a perpetual care fund reserved in the name of the cemetery the lot exists in for the care and maintenance of such lots and general cemetery maintenance.
- B. The care and maintenance of lots shall include the mowing and trimming of grass at reasonable intervals, the raking of leaves, cleaning of lots and grading and seeding of lots.
- C. Perpetual care shall cover the maintenance or repairs of any monument, stones, markers or walls.

**10. Opening and Closing of Graves:**

This fee shall be agreed upon and paid directly to the Cemetery Sexton by the funeral home.

**11. Town Maintenance:**

- A. The general maintenance of the cemeteries shall be the responsibility of the Cemetery Trustees of the Town of Grafton. This includes upkeep of drives, fences, spring and fall clean-up, and grass mowing. Cemeteries will be cleared of all flowers, artificial or natural, on October 15th of each year.
- B. No trees or shrubs shall be planted in any lot in any town cemetery by any person without the consent of the Cemetery Trustees. Any tree or shrub determined detrimental to the cemetery, adjoining lots, or inconvenient to the care and maintenance of lots may be removed or trimmed as determined necessary by the Cemetery Trustees and/or Cemetery Sexton. Any natural flowers and plants must be potted in containers readily moveable for maintenance operations. Any plants or flowers permanently planted may be moved, or removed and disposed of if necessary.
- C. All grading of lots shall be done by Cemetery Trustees or Cemetery Sexton. Lot owners may do grading with the permission of the Cemetery Trustees under the supervision of the Cemetery Sexton.
- D. No curbs or fences shall be permitted around any individual lot or group of lots in Pine Grove Cemetery.



- E. All town cemeteries shall be permitted to have markers and monuments. Corner stones are mandated with the sale of each lot. All markers, monuments, corner stones and foundations will be installed under the supervision of the Cemetery Trustees or Cemetery Sexton.

#### **12. Burials:**

- A. Only human remains shall be buried in town cemeteries.
- B. No burial shall take place without a burial permit.
- C. In all full interments, the remains shall be enclosed in a permanent outside container and shall be installed under the supervision of the Cemetery Sexton. The owner of the lot or his/her agent shall provide the container. The following are considered permanent outside containers: concrete boxes or steel vaults designed to withstand the deteriorating factor of the elements of burial.
- D. The opening and closing of graves shall be the responsibility of the Cemetery Sexton.
- E. Entombment shall be required after December 1<sup>st</sup> or when weather conditions will not permit a burial, except when extenuating circumstances exist.
- F. No burials shall be permitted on Sundays or legal holidays except where extenuating circumstances exist.
- G. Neither the Town of Grafton nor the Cemetery Trustees nor the Cemetery Sexton shall be responsible for errors in locations of graves on lots arising from improper instructions from persons making arrangements. In all cases, orders for grave opening shall be communicated to the Cemetery Sexton in writing. Orders from funeral directors shall be construed as orders from owners.
- H. In matters pertaining to burials, unless the exact lot and grave location is ordered with sufficient identification satisfactory to the Cemetery Sexton the body will be entombed pending proper arrangements.
- I. In the case of a single grave lot for the burial of indigents, the town will provide space for such. However, no above ground monumentation will be allowed until such lot has been paid for and perpetual care secured.

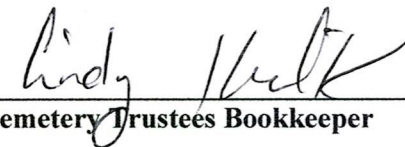
#### **13. Green Burial Section:**

- A. All burials will be 3 ½' to 4' deep only.
- B. The deceased can be naked or wrapped in biodegradable cloth.
- C. Only soft wooden boxes or biodegradable urns are allowed.
- D. Only flat stone grave markers are allowed. No headstone monuments may be installed.
- E. Standard lot prices and sizes apply.
- F. Cornerstones are required.
- G. No flowers or plantings are allowed.

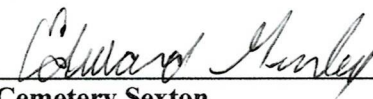
These regulations shall be in full force and effective as of October 8, 2020.

Town of Grafton, New Hampshire Cemetery Trustees and Cemetery Sexton

  
Cemetery Trustees Chair

  
Cemetery Trustees Bookkeeper

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Cemetery Trustee

  
Cemetery Sexton