

CEMETERIES TOWN OF HOPKINTON NEW HAMPSHIRE

RULES AND REGULATIONS



CONTACT INFORMATION

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CEMETERIES, TOWN OF HOPKINTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Town is very fortunate to have ten attractive country cemeteries.

ACTIVE CEMETERIES

Active cemeteries are open for public visitation and open for interment from May 1st through October 31st. Interments after this date may be made only with special written permission of the Trustees.

BLACKWATER, Dustin Road, about 900 feet west from Penacook Road, Contoocook

CONTOOCCOOK VILLAGE, Hopkinton Road, about 1/4 mile south of the village, Contoocook

OLD HOPKINTON, Routes 202, 9, 103 and Main Street, adjacent to Town Hall, Hopkinton

NEW HOPKINTON, Routes 202, 9, 103 and Main Street, near Exit 4, I- 89, Hopkinton

STUMPFIELD, fenced in area in rear of Contoocook Village Cemetery, Contoocook

INACTIVE CEMETERIES

Inactive cemeteries are open for public visitation, but interment is limited to members of the named families.

CLEMENT HILL, Clement Hill Road, about 1,000 feet south from Pine Street, Contoocook

HARDY/LITTLE, Bound Tree Road, Contoocook

HUES/WILSON/KOCH, College Hill Road, Contoocook

PUTNAM, Granite Valley, off Kearsarge Avenue, Contoocook

PUTNEY HILL, Putney Hill Road, about 4,000 feet south from Hopkinton Road, Contoocook

RULES AND REGULATIONS

All Hopkinton cemeteries are subject to the following rules and regulations. The Trustees reserve the right, at any time, to alter, amend, repeal, modify or make exception to these rules and regulations.

CEMETERY PLOT PLAN

Cemeteries are divided into sections, lots and plots. Sections are identified by letters, lots by numbers and, within each lot, plots are numbered one through four. A lot is 10' x 20' and contains four burial plots 5' x 10'. A plot may contain one casket burial with subsequent cremation interments or four cremations interments. Once a casket is placed in a plot, up to three cremation interments may be made in the same plot. Once a cremation interment has been placed in a plot, a full casket burial is not permitted. Lots/plots are available to Town residents or former residents.

MEMORIAL GARDENS

There are Memorial Gardens located in the Contoocook Village and Old Hopkinton Cemeteries that are designed for the interments of cremains. Plots are 2' x 2' and provide space for two sets of cremains. A single, flush memorial stone is provided and placed by the Sexton and will conform to a standard format to create uniformity. Flush markers may be engraved with the deceased's name, date of birth, and date of death. Any engraving needed after the initial placement of the flush marker is to be done at the expense of the family/owner. Two names may be on one marker if there are two cremations in the plot. If the person is a Veteran, that information may be added to the marker. The cremains must be in a container or urn if there is the possibility of future removal. We do not require a vault at this time.

No flowers, plantings or decorations are allowed at individual gravesites in the Memorial Gardens.

PURCHASE OF LOTS/PLOTS

An individual may purchase plots by contacting the cemetery Sexton. The Sexton will identify available plots and provide a *Temporary Right to Bury*

document to the purchaser upon receipt of payment. The owner will subsequently receive a formal *Right to Bury Deed* executed by the Select Board. The plot will be reserved in Cemetery Trustee records identifying the owner and any others who are authorized by the owner to use the plot.

A *Right to Bury Deed* does not convey ownership of the real estate; it does give the right to burial in the plot and the right to erect a memorial.

COSTS AND EXPENSES

Single Lot	\$2,600
Single Plot	650
Memorial Garden Plot	525
Initialed Corner Stones	owner expense through monument company
Grave Preparation	by contract with the gravedigger
Funeral Home	

INTERMENTS

Prior to interment, a family must contact the Cemetery Sexton to verify ownership and location of the plot. The Sexton will mark the plot so that the Funeral Director, Grave Digger and memorial stone company can properly assist in the burial. All interments must be made using a concrete vault. The Sexton will coordinate with families if multiple services are scheduled on the same date.

It is recommended that remains be in a concrete or metal urn or durable container that will not disintegrate. Infants may be interred in durable plastic casket/vault combinations.

Once a casket containing a body is within the confines of the cemetery, no funeral director, or his embalmer, assistant, employee or agent, shall be permitted to open the casket or to touch the body without the consent of the legal representative of the deceased.

The Town shall in no way be liable for any delay in the interment of a body where a protest to the interment has been made, or when the Rules and Regulations have not been complied with; and, further, said Town reserves the right, under such circumstances, to place the body in a receiving vault until the full rights of the parties have been determined. The Town shall be under no duty

to recognize any protest of interment unless it be in writing and filed with the Select Board.

No interment of any body, or the cremated remains of any body, other than that of a human being, shall be permitted in the cemeteries.

SALE, TRANSFER, ASSIGNMENT OR ABANDONMENT OF CEMETERY LOTS/PLOTS

No private sale, transfer or assignment of any plot is valid. The Trustees may, at their option, repurchase plots at the original sale price. At the request of the owner, the Trustees may exchange contiguous plots for the same number of plots in the same cemetery or another Hopkinton Town-owned cemetery with no charge to the owners of the plots. The Trustees may, after due diligence, declare an unused lot/plot abandoned. If a lot/plot is deemed abandoned, the Trustees shall be liable to the possessor of the original Right to Bury Deed for the original purchase price.

DISINTERMENTS AND REMOVALS

A burial, or cremated remains, may be removed from its original plot to a larger or better plot in the Cemetery, where there has been an exchange or purchase for that purpose. The family is responsible financially for the move and any added costs. Removal by the heirs, contrary to express or implied wish of the original plot owner, is forbidden.

The utmost care will be exercised in making a removal but the Town shall assume no liability for damage to any casket, burial case or urn incurred in making the removal.

All interments or disinterments are subject to the law of the appropriate governing authorities.

MEMORIALS

All graves must be identified with at least a flush stone. All memorial stones are subject to Trustee approval and, if unsatisfactory, may be removed. The Trustees may disapprove any memorial they find unsuitable due to size, shape, color, quality, inscription or harmony with surrounding memorial stones. The

maximum size of a memorial is governed by the size of the lot on which it is to be placed and is subject to Trustee approval in advance. No mausoleum, tomb or other such structures are permitted except with written permission of the Trustees.

No coping, curbing, fencing, hedging, grave mound borders, or enclosures of any kind shall be allowed around any lot; and no walks of brick cinders, tile, stone, marble, terracotta, sand cement, gravel or wood shall be allowed on any lot. The Trustees reserve the right to remove the same if so erected, planted or placed. If any historic enclosure now in place shall become dilapidated, the Cemetery Trustees are authorized to remove same.

No memorial shall be placed in or on any lot which is not paid in full.

Memorial benches are not allowed at present.

MATERIALS PERMITTED

All materials, memorials, mausoleums or tombs shall be constructed of natural stone. No artificial stone of any description is permitted.

FOUNDATIONS AND SETTINGS

No above-ground memorial can be set without a proper foundation, which shall include a four-inch cement apron around the base. Foundations shall be built to a depth of at least three feet and shall be the same dimensions as the above-ground memorial. The Trustees reserve the right to require a larger foundation when in their opinion, the weight of the structure requires it.

CONTROL OF WORK WITHIN CEMETERY

All improvements or alterations of lots/plots shall be subject to the approval of the Trustees. If alterations are made without written consent, Trustees shall have the right to remove, alter or change such improvements or alterations at the expense of the lot owner.

If any trees or shrubs, situated on any lot, shall, by means of their roots or branches, become detrimental to the adjacent lots or avenues, or unsightly or inconvenient for visitors, the Town shall have the right to enter the lot and

remove or trim said trees or shrubs.

DECORATION OF LOTS

The Trustees are mindful of the decorum required in cemeteries and the need for efficient care and maintenance and therefore reserve the unqualified right to remove any and all decorations and plantings of any kind. The Trustees will attempt to inform owners or family members if significant clean-up action needs to be taken. All decorative items will be cleared from the cemeteries after closing for the season.

Live plantings within ten inches of the memorial stone are permitted. Entire lots or plots may not be covered with plantings. No plastic flowers are permitted in the ground. All other decorative items should be placed on the memorial stone or the foundation item. Mulching, ground cover plantings or fencing are not permitted. Shrubs or small trees may not be planted except with written permission from the Trustees.

As a special mark of respect to those who have served our country, the American flag shall be displayed only on the graves of those persons who have honorably served in the armed forces of the United States of America.

PERPETUAL CARE OF LOTS

The Trustees agree to keep the grass on the lots properly cut, provide lime and fertilizer when, and as, needed, and, in general, to keep the lots in suitable and good repair and preservation. Trustees will attempt to repair damaged historic memorials when possible.

The income from the Cemetery Maintenance Care Trust Funds shall be expended by the Town for the care, reconstruction, repair and maintenance of all or any portion of the cemetery grounds or for any purpose necessary in the execution of its duties.

CEMETERY VISITORS

Visitors are encouraged to enjoy the beauty and serenity of Hopkinton's cemeteries, while respecting the privacy of family members who may be visiting gravesites.

All visitors are prohibited from gathering flowers, either wild or cultivated, cutting trees or shrubs, or defacing or otherwise damaging memorials or structures. Please use the rubbish receptacles to dispose of trash. Compost piles are available for plant material only. Dogs must be leashed at all times. Please clean up after your dog. No motorcycles, snowmobiles, off highway recreational vehicles or horses shall be admitted to the cemetery.

Rubbing of memorial stones is not permitted without the permission of the Cemetery Trustees.

The cemeteries are open to the public, but unsupervised, and therefore, visitors assume any risk to accidents and damages, whether direct or collateral, that may occur. The Cemetery Trustees attempt to avoid loss or damage within the cemeteries but disclaim any and all responsibility for accidents or the actions of persons not within the Trustees' control.