

## **CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS ~ AMHERST, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

These rules are established in accordance with New Hampshire RSA 289 Cemeteries/Burials. The Sexton is responsible for the sale of all burial lots, the recording and the maintenance of records, the scheduling of manpower and equipment for burials, the care and maintenance of grounds, the surveying and the recording of new lots, avenues, and the enforcing of the regulations below. The Sexton shall keep and maintain all cemetery records in the Public Works Department Office at 22 Dodge Road, Amherst. Such records are limited to those that will enable the town to locate by name and date, every interment or removal and the exact location within each lot. The Sexton has the responsibility for care of the cemeteries and is empowered and authorized to enforce these rules below.

The Cemetery Board of Trustees has the sole authority to grant exceptions to any of the rules.

### **A. RULES FOR THE PUBLIC**

1. Horses, dogs, recreational bicycles, motor driven dirt bikes, and off road vehicles are prohibited in the cemeteries. No vehicles, except maintenance or other commercial vehicles involved in gravesite preparation or restoration shall be driven on any part of the cemeteries except upon avenues.
2. Any person intoxicated, disorderly or disturbing the quiet and good order shall be asked to leave the cemetery. If said person does not leave, the Amherst Police shall be summoned.
3. Hunting or recreational activities are prohibited. Firearms shall not be discharged in cemeteries, except for salutes at military funerals or during town sponsored parades.
4. Children under the age of 15 are not permitted in the Cemetery unless accompanied by an adult.
5. Gravestone rubbing is prohibited.

### **B. SALE OF LOTS**

1. A cemetery lot can be a 4 -grave site, a 3-grave site, a 2-grave site or a 1-grave site. Cremated Remains - e ach grave will support one full burial plus three vaulted cremated remains - Or six vaulted cremated remains.
2. Cemetery lots are sold only to Amherst residents, OR to former residents who have lived in Amherst for at least 10 years. Cemetery lots can also be sold to municipal employees with 10 years of service. Exceptions to this rule will need the approval of 2 out of 3 trustees.
3. Payment for a grave site is due within 30 days from the date of billing. If payment is not received, the lot will go back into available space.
4. The prices of cemetery lots are as follows: A single 1 grave lot - \$500; two 2 grave lots - \$1000; three 3 grave lots - \$1500 and four 4 grave lot \$2000. General cemetery maintenance is included in the price of the lot. (General cemetery maintenance includes raking, mowing, seeding, fertilizing when necessary, as well as maintenance and/or repairs to monuments.) The sale of lots does not include burial vaults, corner markers or opening fees. Payment for lots will be made to the Town of Amherst, when billing is received from the Amherst Department of Public Works. Upon receipt of payment, the Right to Inter will be sent directly to the owner. When purchasing a cemetery lot, the purchaser shall pay for a corner marker which will be engraved with the lot number and the initial of the owner's last name. The cost of the marker is \$50 and this is paid directly to Medlyn Monument of Milford, NH. All interments shall be enclosed in a sealed cement vault, including cremations.

### **C. TIMING INFORMATION FOR INTERMENTS**

1. The Sexton requires a minimum of twenty-four hour notice to schedule the manpower and town equipment necessary to open the grave in time for the burial. Burial documents must be supplied upon arrival in the cemetery. The funeral director shall provide artificial grass, lowering devices and any other materials or equipment associated with the burial ceremony.
2. Interments may be scheduled between 10 am to 2 pm, Monday through Friday. Interments will not take place on Sunday or holidays, and will not take place from December 1 through April 15, unless the Sexton rules otherwise, based on weather and ground conditions.

#### **D. PLANTINGS AND MARKERS**

1. Purchase, installation and cleaning of monuments and markers are the responsibility of the lot owner. No monuments or headstones may be placed in the cemetery without a suitable concrete foundation constructed by the monument company.

a. 1 grave lots - ground level markers may be 1' x 2' 6" maximum size; no above-ground monuments are permitted. At Forestview Cemetery ONLY, a 12" x 12" x12" pillow stone is permitted.

b. 2, 3, and 4 grave lots may have one above-ground headstone, It must not exceed 3 feet by one foot at the base and a 2 feet wide die.

One stone bench, 18" high x 36" long x 24" wide will be permitted in lieu of a headstone. The bench must meet the same placement requirements of a headstone i.e. centered on the lot.

3. The Cemetery Sexton will oversee all plantings. Except for Memorial Trees, planting of shrubs, trees, and flowers outside of an approved planter is prohibited. It is the duty of the lot owner, or the heirs or assignees, to maintain any permitted plantings. If the plantings hinder maintenance work, disrupt the aesthetic of the cemetery or by means of roots or branches, become detrimental to the lot, or the adjacent lots, avenues or paths, Cemetery Trustees or their agents, have the right, but not the duty, to enter the lot and remove said vegetation without notice to the owner, heirs or assignees. With the prior written permission of the Trustees, planters are permitted provided they do not extend past the width of the grave marker. On graves with a flat or flush granite marker, only removable pots are permitted. All flowerpots are permitted and may be removed when wilted. Except for sanctioned Memorial Trees, planting of any other tree is prohibited, unless there is written permission from the Cemetery Trustees. The application submitted to obtain permission must include the type of plantings and location. Approval is at the sole discretion of the Cemetery Trustees. Such permitted plantings shall abut the gravestones and not infringe on any other grave sites or disrupt normal maintenance. Plantings shall be removed at the sole discretion of the Cemetery Sexton without notice to any party if it appears no maintenance has occurred within two years.

4. Memorial Trees, which may be purchased from the Cemetery Trustees at a cost to be determined at the time of purchase by the Cemetery Trustees, in memory of the departed, will be planted only by the Sexton and his staff.

5. Outside of approved planters; fences, decorative landscaping, stones, or curbs are not permitted. Temporary decorative memorabilia may be removed by the sexton and his staff, without notice, within 30 days of internment. Permanent decorative objects cannot interfere with the maintenance or aesthetics of the cemetery. The Cemetery Trustees, or their agents, have the right to remove non-conforming items from any lot.

6. Memorial flags are allowed with specific Cemetery Trustee approval.

Amended by the Amherst Cemetery Trustees

Revised November, 2021

Revised October 2023