

# **Town of Cambridge Cemeteries Rules and Regulations**

The following rules and regulations have been established by the Town of Cambridge Cemetery Commissioners for the respectful interment of members of the community. The Commissioners have been charged by the Town to set rules that reflect the concerns of those who own cemetery lots as well as to ensure that all regulations comply with the Vermont cemetery and burial laws as distributed by the Secretary of State.

The Cemetery Commission is composed of three members (two of which were initially appointed by the Selectboard) for terms of one to three years and subsequently elected by the voters at town meeting as the terms expire. They are responsible for the overall operation of the cemeteries that are part of the Town of Cambridge which are not currently overseen by independent cemetery associations. The cemeteries overseen by the Town of Cambridge are East Cambridge, South Cambridge, North Cambridge, Gates, Giddings, Hopkins, and Smilie. Only North Cambridge Cemetery has burial lots for sale.

The Cemetery Commission will meet on the first Wednesday of February, March, July and October, and in the event of an emergency, it will meet as soon as possible and will warn the meeting according to Town of Cambridge guidelines and Vermont Open Meeting guidelines.

## **Section I: General Rules**

1. Cemetery hours are from dawn to dusk.
2. There are no winter burials. The length of the closed period is dependent on the weather.
3. Cars, hearses, and maintenance vehicles are the only motorized vehicles permitted in the cemetery.
4. Persons are welcome to walk through the cemetery. Dogs must be leashed at all times and owners are required to clean up after their dog. Littering is prohibited.
5. Cemetery grounds are to be treated with dignity, Visitors are urged to respect persons who may be visiting burial sites of loved ones. Boisterous behavior, picnics, parties, climbing on monuments, defacing monuments, removing grave items, cutting flowers, and other disrespectful acts are all prohibited.
6. Firearms are prohibited except for military funerals.
7. Lots may not be enclosed by fences, curbing, or hedges.

8. Floral items and other memorial items should be secured on a stand and not attached to the monuments. Glass containers are prohibited.
9. The cemetery lot is to be used only for an interment.
10. Objects should not be placed on the grass or in areas where personnel will be mowing.
11. Structures above ground are permitted only with special permission of the Commission.
12. Burial records are open to the public and can be viewed at the Town Clerk's Office.

## **Section II: Monuments and Markers**

Definitions: A monument is a memorial constructed so as to sit on a concrete foundation in an upright position. A marker is a stone or bronze memorial flush with the ground indicating the name of the deceased; the marker may also include the dates of birth and death.

1. A "Monument Lot" is one on which one above ground monument may be erected but all grave markers thereon shall be set at ground level. A monument is placed at the head of the lot on the center of the lot line.
2. Monuments will be made of marble, granite, or other durable materials and have a proper foundation, 5 feet deep, if possible. The setting of all monuments will be scheduled and inspected by the Commission.
3. Lot owners may have granite or other durable material corner markers set at their own expense with prior approval from the Commission.
4. Flag holders are not provided by the town for veteran's graves; the commission oversees placement of flags on each veteran grave before Memorial Day and removal of flags after Veterans' Day.

## **Section III: Plantings**

1. Planting of trees, shrubs, or evergreens will be allowed on gravesites with permission from the Commission.
2. A 15 inch wide bed for in-ground plantings may be made at the base on the front side of a monument. A protective edging is recommended. Maintenance of the flower bed is the responsibility of the lot owner or his/her designee or heir. No additional landscaping is permitted.
3. Artificial flowers may be used from May 15<sup>th</sup> through Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>.
4. In winter, although the cemetery is not officially open, family members may place holiday wreaths in front of monuments; wreaths must be removed by April 15<sup>th</sup> or as soon as weather permits.
5. The Commission has the right and obligation to remove any planting or objects that are detrimental to the cemetery.

## **Section IV: Arrangements, Deeds, and Lot Purchase**

The Commission is responsible for arrangements with persons interested in purchasing a cemetery lot. Contact information for members of the Commission will be available from the Town Clerk's Office.


1. When the buyer of a lot receives the lot deed, the buyer agrees to abide by the Town of Cambridge Cemetery Rules and Regulations. No burial in nor improvement to the lot can be made prior to the lot's being paid for.
2. The husband or wife shall have a vested right of interment in any lot conveyed to the other.
3. The lot owner may not sell the lot to another party; however, the owner may sell the lot back to the Cemetery Commission.

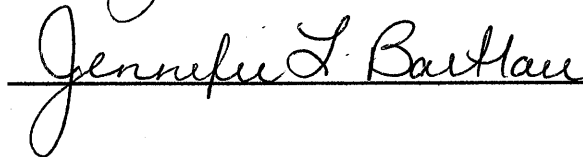
## Section V: Funeral Procedures

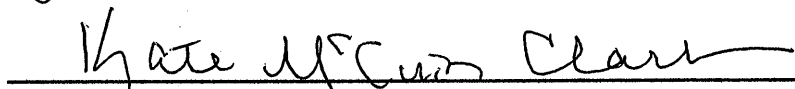
The funeral home ( or the lot owner) makes all the arrangements for a burial. The funeral home will notify the Commission of the scheduled burial, location in the cemetery, and time of service. If necessary, a member of the Commission will meet with the funeral home or a member of the family to confirm the exact location of the lot for burial. If necessary, a member of the Commission will mark out the grave site. A burial transfer permit or cremation certificate is required at burial.

These rules and regulations were approved by the Town of Cambridge Cemetery Commission on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

### Town of Cambridge Cemetery Commission

  
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(Sandra E. Albright)

  
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(Jennifer Bartlau)

  
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(Kate McCuin Clark)