

CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

Merrimack, New Hampshire

The following rules and regulations have been adopted by the Merrimack Town Manager. Changes are made when necessary to protect the dignified appearance of the cemetery, and at the same time ease the growing burden of proper maintenance. All lot owners and visitors are subject to these rules and to any future amendments as adopted by the Town Manager under RSA 289:7.

Interments

1. All interments must be made at the direction of the Town Manager.
2. Hours of interments are 10 am to 2 pm Monday through Saturday only. There are no burials allowed at Town cemeteries from December 1 through March 31.
3. Proof of ownership of a lot must be validated BEFORE a burial can take place.
4. All vault burials must be conducted under the supervision of a licensed undertaker and must follow all laws and regulations of the State. Cremations require a vault urn.
5. A single lot may only contain one full vault burial, or, up to four cremations.
6. The Town, through the Town Manager, has the right and authority to close a cemetery to future burials and interments when, in its best judgment, the cemetery has reached capacity. When a decision is made to close the cemetery, no further purchases of lots, no interments and no burials will be permitted at the closed cemetery without express written permission from the Town Manager.

Purchase or Transfer of Lots

1. The purchase of a cemetery lot only gives the owner the “privilege or right to inter human remains” within the lot boundaries (RSA 290:24). Title to the real estate remains with the Town.
2. Only residents or individuals who can prove current or past residence are permitted to purchase lots from the Town. Exceptions may be allowed for individuals who have family members already interred in a Town cemetery, or in rare circumstances, at the discretion of the Town Manager.
3. Any owner wishing to sell a lot must sell said lot back to the Town for the original purchase price. No lot may be transferred or sold to another individual by any lot owner.
4. If the original deed is lost and cannot be returned to the Town, the requester must provide an acceptable identification such as a photo ID, official driver’s license, official non-driver ID, or passport. Proof of inheritance or assignment must be by will, birth certificate proving relationship, or notarized assignment paper.

Cemetery Grounds

1. Any improvements or alterations of individual lots within the cemetery shall be subject to the consent and satisfaction of the Town Manager.
2. All in-ground planting of any kind, including shrubs, plants, trees or flowers (including artificial), is prohibited on individual lots and will be removed by the Town, as will all dead flowers that have not been picked up.

3. Temporary markers, monuments, and structures, including crosses, are not allowed, except as expressly provided below. If no permanent monument or flat granite marker is to be purchased, the Town may place a marker at the burial site.
4. Spring clean-up will begin by April 1st each year, at which time all decorations must be off the lots. Flowers of all types, urns, pots and all flags must be picked up by October 15th of each year for fall clean-up, or they will be removed and disposed of by the Town. Winter decorations may be placed on lots after November 15th.
5. Horses, dogs, bicycles, motor driven dirt bikes, and off road vehicles are prohibited in the Town cemeteries. No vehicles, except maintenance or other commercial vehicles involved in gravesite preparation, maintenance or restoration, shall be driven on any part of the cemeteries except upon roads.
6. 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 Merrimack Police will be summoned.
7. The discharge of firearms is prohibited in the Town cemeteries, except for salutes at military funerals with prior notice given to the Town Manager, or during Town-sponsored parades or events.
8. Children under the age of 15 are prohibited from the Town cemeteries unless accompanied by an adult.
9. Gravestone rubbing is prohibited, unless express written permission is obtained from the Town Manager and the lot owner.

Floral Tributes, Urns, Decorations & Flags

1. Two proportionate-sized urns or non-breakable flower containers are allowed on each family lot with an upright granite monument. These must be set either on top of the base or on the ground close to the base. Those lots without monuments and only flat markers will be allowed one small removable proportionate-sized urn/container. All containers must be suitable to withstand mowing and trimming. Any that become damaged will be disposed of by the Town. All pots and urns are to be removed at the end of the season in time for fall cleanups. No urns are to be used for non-floral personal or decorative items of any kind, and those left unused for long periods of time will be removed and disposed of by the Town.
2. Additional flowers are allowed only for the thirty day period immediately following a burial.
3. Shepherd hooks, wind chimes, stepping stones, statues, solar lights, decorations, and ceramic, plastic, or breakable containers, and other personal items of any kind are not allowed and may be removed by the Town and disposed of.
4. Metal flag holders and vigil lights must be against the monument base, or they may be removed by the Town and disposed of. All broken vigil lights will be removed.
5. Flags may be placed on Veterans' graves by appropriate organizations for Memorial Day. One small personal flag is allowed in the ground next to the base from Memorial Day through Flag Day on June 14th. Following June 14th, flags will be removed unless they are in metal flag holders or placed inside the flower containers or urn.
6. The Town is not responsible for the value of any items removed by the Town, or for any damages to tributes, urns, decorations or flags.

The Town requests that good judgment be used. The maintenance schedule is very demanding and removing articles that are not allowed under cemetery rules is time consuming and costly to the Town. The Town has the authority to remove or dispose of, at its discretion, unsuitable materials, loose Doral tributes or containers, torn or

broken and faded bags, Dowers that become withered or unsightly, or anything considered dangerous as per RSA 289:8.

Monuments and Markers

1. Only one central or family memorial shall be allowed on a lot and shall be set on a space designated by the Town. Individual markers must be set flush with the ground.
2. No lot owner shall erect or place (or cause to be erected/placed) on any lot in the Town cemeteries any memorial without prior approval of the Town Manager.
3. All memorials shall be set on a cement foundation 5 feet deep and equal to the full size of the memorial base.
4. Only memorials 36" wide x 26" high, or less, will be allowed in regular lots (2 grave lots required).
5. No curbing, fencing, hedges, or enclosures of any kind are allowed around any lot.

In accordance with RSA 289:7, the Town Manager has the responsibility to adopt new rules and regulations at any time, and to amend, alter, grant exceptions to, or repeal any rule or regulation as needed and is empowered to see that these rules are carried out for the mutual protection of the cemetery as a whole.

Price List

Lots:*

- Regular Lot..... \$900.00
- Cremain Lot (flat marker only) \$500.00
- Cremain Monument Lot (size 18" x 12" base size) \$650.00
- Baby Grave [under 6 years of age]..... \$250.00

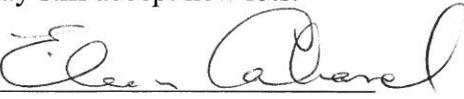
Openings:

- Spring/Summer Opening \$825.00
- Winter Opening \$925.00
- Winter Hand Dug \$1,125.00
- Cremains Opening \$425.00
- Baby Grave Opening \$425.00

Disinterment:

- Casket Disinterment \$1,100.00
- Cremains Disinterment \$500.00

*Note: Reed's Cemetery is the only cemetery in Merrimack owned and operated by the Town which may still accept new lots.


Eileen Cabanel, Town Manager

Adopted 4/2/2014