

GRAFTON CEMETERY POLICY

Adopted June 1, 2020, Amended November 21, 2022

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, Section 5361 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated, as amended, and such other special or general enactments as may be material thereto, the following Rules and Regulations pertain to all Cemeteries, currently 6 in number, within the Town of Grafton and under control of the Grafton Selectboard. Those Cemeteries are: Village, Burgess, Middletown, Houghtonville, Cobb and Stiles Brook.

ARTICLE I - IN GENERAL

BURIAL POLICIES FOR EACH CEMETERY [Note this would be for citing availability, limits of use, “cremation only” other things that are specific to each including “no more burials” or “no lots available” etc. for each Cemetery.]

- a. Burgess Cemetery:
- b. Village Cemetery: No full Burial at this time, until there is careful mapping completed. No Lots available.
- c. Middletown Cemetery: No full Burial on Lots sold after February 9, 2004, when SB mandated no full burial. Lots are for cremation only. Need to decide whose lots this exception applies to, and it is unknown if buyers were informed of the policy when they purchased. It may be that Town will have to purchase lots back.
- d. Houghtonville Cemetery; Lots available and full burial as well as cremated remains.
- e. Cobb Cemetery: No Burials until condition of soil (Is the land too wet?) is decided.
- f. Stiles Brook Cemetery: No Burials.

CEMETERY LOTS

DEEDS: Deeds to Lots in Cemeteries where lots are available may be purchased from the Town Clerk, after approval of the Cemetery Caretaker. A deed to a lot is simply a permit for each purchaser or his/her heirs for burial in each lot as provided in Article III f. A deed to a lot may not be resold to anyone except **back** to the Town of Grafton **at the original purchase price**.

LOT SIZE: In each Cemetery named in the preceding paragraph, each lot is 4' x 10' as shown on the official map of that cemetery.

PERSONS WHO MAY PURCHASE LOTS IN GRAFTON CEMETERIES

- RESIDENTS: All.
- NON-RESIDENTS: Non-residents may purchase and be buried in a Grafton cemetery if there are ties to the Town.

ARTICLE II – RATES AND SPECIFICATIONS

CEMETERY RATES TO PURCHASE A LOT.

- a. Resident of Grafton \$150.
- b. Non-Resident of Grafton \$300.
- c. Burials

- Full burials: In coordination with the Cemetery Caretaker, work will be performed by a person hired by the Funeral Home and the cost is as charge by the Funeral Home.
- Cremation: Burial preparation overseen by Cemetery Caretaker, whose services are paid by the Funeral Home or person arranging the burial.
- d. Town Clerk documentation fee for recording of the burial permit. Paid by Funeral Home collected by Cemetery Caretaker: \$5
- e. Areas not covered herein will follow Vermont State Statutes.

SPECIFICATION:

- a. Corner Markers: Each lot or group of lots will have markers ordered from the Town and paid for at the time of purchase of lot. Cemetery Caretaker will have them placed when received.
- b. Large Monument Foundations (24 inches or greater in width): Will have a concrete foundation with a minimum depth of 36 inches.
- c. Small to Medium Foundations: Each headstone, including flat stones, will have a foundation with a medium depth of 24 inches.
- d. Monuments and headstones and their installation, including foundation, may be purchased by lot owners from monument firms of their choice.

ARTICLE III - USE AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

USE AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

- a. No cemetery space shall be used for any purpose other than the burial of the human dead.
- b. No monument, marker or headstone may be placed on a cemetery lot until the lot has been paid for. It shall be the responsibility of the monument dealer to check with the Cemetery Caretaker and Town Clerk's Office to make sure the lot has been paid for and to report the date, time, and nature of work to be done, prior to excavation. The monument dealer shall also be responsible for the removal of all dirt resulting from the excavations.
- c. All memorial markers shall be flush with the ground.
- d. Corner markers shall be flush with the ground.
- e. There shall be no raised granite or fencing at all around any lot.
- f. All lots shall be limited to allow one full burial and two urn burials per single grave or three urn burials per single grave.
- g. Two flush markers and a monument or three flush memorial markers per grave.
- h. Any monument dealer found to be in violation of these regulations will be asked to rectify the problem in a timely manner.
- i. All caskets shall be placed in a vault (or alternative provided in VT law) at the time of burial.
- j. No graves will be opened in the winter between November 1st and April 1st, if snow and frost conditions appear to prevent opening, unless approved by the Cemetery Caretaker. An exception is made for military funerals at the discretion of the Cemetery Commission. Family or person arranging for burial will have to arrange storage until burial is able to occur.

- k. Permanent plantings are not allowed. Potted trees, shrubs, flowers, or bushes are permitted, along with planted annuals. Prior to November 1st the family should remove any cemetery decorations it does not wish to be disposed of; any that are put on during the winter months need to be removed by April 15th.
- l. Artificial flowers and trinkets are prohibited

ARTICLE IV – ACCESS

ACCESS


All cemeteries shall be accessed by foot or vehicle only by way of established vehicle or foot paths. Persons should keep control of their animals and pick up after them.

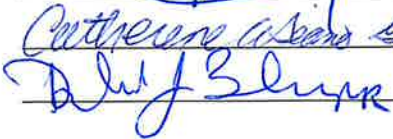
ARTICLE V – MAINTENANCE

GROUND AND MAINTENANCE

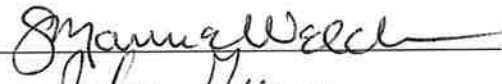
All cemetery grounds will be maintained in the best possible condition by the Town of Grafton or the agents. The labor and other costs of employment of the Cemetery Caretaker, as well as routine maintenance of the properties, such as mowing, weeding, shrub trimming and the like, equipment and supplies for such ordinary maintenance shall be budgeted and paid for out of the Town Government General Fund. The funds paid to Purchase a Lot (See Article II above) shall be deposited in the Cemetery Fund. The Cemetery Fund shall be used for the care and maintenance of the headstones and monuments, as well as, the cemetery grounds and improvements (fences and gates, for example), and extraordinary maintenance such as tree trimming or removal, which are not covered by the General Fund.

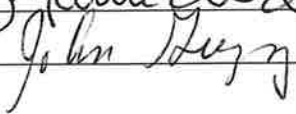
THIS GRAFTON CEMETERY POLICY adopted June 1, 2020, was amended by the Selectboard at its regular meeting dated November 21, 2022



Catherine Wilson Gardner


Alfred Blumenthal



Hannah Welch


John Hery

Acknowledgement of Lot Purchaser

I have read and understand my responsibilities and privileges set forth in this policy.

Owner 1 _____
Print Signature

Owner 2 _____
Print Signature

Copy of policy dated and signed: one filed with Town Clerk, and one retained by purchaser.