

# TOWN OF READSBORO

## RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE MUNICIPAL CEMETERIES

As amended and re-adopted on July 17, 2015

### PURCHASE OF LOTS AND GRAVES

1. Persons desiring to purchase a lot or single grave in any one of our cemeteries are referred to the Cemetery Sexton. The Sexton will have available suitable plots showing location, size and price of lots and single graves and such other information as may be required and will be pleased to render assistance to those desiring to make a lot or single grave purchase. Upon making a selection, the purchaser will be issued a Lot Order after making the necessary financial payments prescribed within these rules and regulations.

### OWNERSHIP AND TITLE OF LOTS AND GRAVES

2. The terms "lot owner," "grave owner" or "ownership" shall be interpreted to mean the right to use a lot, part of a lot, or single grave as purchased from the regulations as prescribed by the Town for such use.
3. Upon FULL payment of the purchase price of a lot or grave, the Town will issue a Cemetery Deed, under its seal, and the deed will be recorded in the records of the Town Clerk as evidence of ownership of the lot.
4. Lots of fractional lots, for which lot deeds have been issued by the Town will not, thereafter, be divided or transferred except by consent of the Cemetery Sexton and the Cemetery Commission.
5. The Town reserves the right to resell unused portions of lots that are not paid for as specified in these rules and regulations.
6. All burial rights in cemetery lots purchased from the Town occupy the same position as real estate at the death of the owner or owners. Only such persons names appearing on the cemetery records of the Town will be recognized as owners or part owners of the lots. In case of the death of a lot owner, when the cemetery lot is disposed of by will, a certified copy of the will must be delivered to the Town Clerk's office before the Town will recognize the change in ownership.
7. The title to a cemetery lot invests in the owner the right to use such lot for burial purposes only for themselves, their heirs or for any such person as they may choose to admit, provided such admission is free of charge and in accordance with the Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

### CARE OF TOWN CEMETERIES

8. Revenue received from lot sales shall be placed in a Trust Fund. Interest from said Trust Fund shall be used toward maintenance of the cemeteries of the Town of Readsboro.

9. Each lot in the cemetery will, prior to its sale, be suitably marked by the Town with iron pins placed on each lot corner and set level with the ground at the expense of the purchaser.
10. All landscaping, care of lots and other work in the Cemeteries will be done by the Town, but it is desired that each lot owner feel free to consult with those in charge of the Cemeteries at all times. Their advice and assistance will be cheerfully given (without charge) and may be of great value to those contemplating lot improvements.
11. The Cemeteries reserve the right for its workmen and those necessary persons to the performance of normal cemetery operations to enter upon or cross over any lot in the Cemeteries in performance of such duties.
12. The Town, in the performance of its normal operation, assumes no liability for damages from any cause whatsoever, or loss by vandalism or other acts.

### RULES FOR VISITORS

13. The Cemeteries will be open to visitors at all times between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and sunset. Permission to enter the Cemeteries at any other time must be obtained from the Cemetery Sexton.
14. Children under fourteen years of age will be admitted only when accompanied by parents or guardians.
15. Persons or picnic parties with refreshments shall not be admitted. Dogs will not be allowed in the Cemeteries.
16. Firearms will be allowed in the Cemeteries only at Military funerals. Hunting on cemetery property is strictly prohibited.
17. The teaching of student automobile drivers within the Cemeteries is prohibited.
18. Visitors are forbidden to pick any flowers (either wild or cultivated) or injure any shrub, tree or plant, or mar or deface any monument, stone or structure in the Cemeteries.

### INTERMENTS

19. All interments in lots shall be restricted to the owner and his heirs and his assignees. Permission in writing from a lot owner or his heirs must accompany all requests for the burial of any other person in the family lot.
20. Only current residents of the Town may purchase lots in the South Readsboro Cemetery.
21. All interments or removals, and all work incidental thereto, except the installation of vaults or crypts, will be done only by employees of the Town under the direction of the Cemetery Sexton.

22. No interment shall be made in, or removals made from, the Cemeteries until the Cemetery Sexton has been furnished with such permits as required by State and local law, and also with an interment or removal order properly signed by the lot owner, or his legal representative.
23. The lot owner or funeral director shall designate the location of the grave on the lot to the Sexton and any change of location made after the opening of the grave has begun shall be at the expense of the lot owner.
24. All orders for an interment must be given to the Cemetery Department forty-eight (48) hours in advance. No interment will be permitted on Sunday or holidays. Interments on Saturday will be permitted only at the time of funerals. Extra costs for rock excavations and overtime shall be borne by the lot owner.
25. The interment of two bodies in one grave will not be allowed except in case of mother and infant, twin children or cremation ashes.
26. Four (4) cremation urns or containers will be allowed in one (1) grave providing they are no larger than 2'x2' each.
27. The Cemetery Sexton or representative will attend each funeral and will be in complete charge of the funeral. They will be expected to see that rules, regulations and strict proprieties of the Cemeteries are enforced and will cooperate fully with the Funeral Director.
28. A permanent type of outside container shall be required. The following are approved permanent outside containers: reinforced concrete, copper bearing or galvanized steel, sectional reinforced concrete, slate, marble, brick or any other type of permanent material.
29. A second burial will not be permitted in a lot that is not paid for.
30. As soon as flowers, wreaths, emblems, etc. used at funerals or placed on graves at other times become unsightly and faded, they will be removed, and no responsibility for their protection or maintenance is assumed.
31. For sanitary reasons, except for official investigation, graves will not be reopened for inspection.
32. Removals of bodies from one grave to another in the same cemetery will be subject to the charges as prescribed in these Rules and Regulations.

### STONE AND MONUMENTAL WORK

All stone and monumental work shall be subject to the following regulations and requirements:

33. Any monuments, headstones, markers or other type of memorial to be erected on any lot or single grave must be set on a suitable foundation of a depth of no less than 4' (feet) and must conform to all regulations governing the section in which the memorial is to be located.
34. No memorial of any type may be placed on a single grave or lot on which there are charges outstanding or upon any single grave.

35. Stone monumental work or foundations, therefore, shall not be relocated without the permission of the lot or grave owner and the Cemetery Sexton. The Town reserves the right to refuse permission to erect any monumental work not in keeping with the good appearance of the Cemeteries.
36. No curbing, fencing, steps or any other type of structure, except conventional memorials, may be placed on any lot without the permission of the Cemetery Sexton.
37. All Contractors and outside workmen doing work of any type in the cemetery will be under the direct charge of the Cemetery Sexton. All work must be done during regular working hours of the cemetery unless proper permission has been received from the Cemetery Sexton.
38. The following restrictions of memorial stones, size and type apply to all of the Town Cemeteries:
  - a. On single graves of lots, monuments must not exceed three (3) feet in overall height and the base of the monument must not exceed fourteen (14) inches in width and two (2) feet in length. On double graves or lots, monuments must not exceed three (3) feet in overall height and the base of the monument must not exceed fourteen (14) inches in width and forty-eight (48) inches in length.
  - b. No corner bounds, other than standard bounds, shall be placed on any lot and must be flush with the surrounding ground.
39. All landscaping in the Cemeteries will be done by the Town, but lot and grave owners may feel free at any time to consult with the Cemetery Sexton or representative regarding matters pertaining to permissible planting or the general care and upkeep of lots and graves.
40. The Town assumes no responsibility for any flowers or decorations placed on graves. Glass containers, wire frames and other decorations of a type dangerous to cemetery workmen are not permitted and may be removed at the Sexton's discretion. No more than four (4) objects shall be placed on or around an individual gravesite, and no object shall be more than three feet tall. No memorial objects shall be placed on any vacant lot or pathway. Cemetery workmen may remove any objects placed in violation of this provision. This provision shall not apply to flowers placed on and close to the headstones. A gravestone shall not be counted as an object for purposes of this provision. Objects, including but not limited to all urns, pots, flowers, wreaths and containers, must be removed prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> each year.
41. If any tree or shrub situated on any lot or single grave shall, by means of the roots or branches, become detrimental to or encroach upon adjacent lots, avenues or paths, or become unsightly, the Sexton of Cemeteries shall have the right to enter the said lot or single grave and remove the said tree or shrub or such parts thereof as they shall determine to be detrimental or unsightly, of which proper notice shall be given to the owner.

DATED: July 14, 2015

APPROVED BY THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

Forrest Hicks

Forrest Hicks, Chairperson

Deborah Calnan

Deborah Calnan, Secretary

Neal Houston

Neal Houston

Priscilla Margola

Robert Scott

Robert Scott