

TOWN OF READSBORO

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE MUNICIPAL CEMETERIES

As amended and re-adopted on October 26, 2023

This is a draft

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. The purchase price for each grave is \$200.00 for residents of Readsboro and \$400.00 for non-residents.
4. Lots or fractions of 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 person's names appearing on the cemetery records of the Town will be recognized as owners or part owners of the lots. In case of death of the a lot or grave owner all documented graves and any part of a lot will revert to the owner's families unless specified in a will and said will presented to the town clerk with a change of ownership request.
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 or Trust Fund interest account. The Trust Fund Interest shall be used toward maintenance and improvements of the cemeteries of the Town of Readsboro.
9. Each lot grave in the cemetery will prior to its sale be suitably marked with iron pins on each corner set level with the ground. This is at the expense of the purchaser. The owner may purchase at his expense small square corner markers and have them installed flush with the ground by the sexton.
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. With the following exception: owners with leashed dog and people with certified service dogs.
16. Firearms will be allowed in the Cemeteries only at Military funerals and on duty police personnel. Hunting or shooting of weapons 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 or an approved contractor 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. The lot owner and funeral director will work with the sexton to designate the location of the grave on the lot. Any change of location made after the opening of the grave has begun shall be at the expense of the lot owner.
23. All orders for an interment must be given to the Cemetery Department forty-eight (48) hours in advance. Extra costs for rock excavations and overtime shall be borne by the lot owner. These issues are extremely rare and the cemetery Commission and town will work through them with the family when and if they ever occur,
24. 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. In our Cemeteries we allow 4 un-vaulted cremations in one grave with no more than two markers at the head of the grave and no more than two at the base of the grave. 3 vaulted cremations are allowed with no more than two markers at the top of the grave. All markers above ground must be in-line with the headstone row. Markers in any other location must be approved by the sexton and be installed flush with the ground.
27. The Cemetery Sexton or representative will attend each funeral interment and will be in complete charge of all interments in our Cemeteries. 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. Burials will not be permitted in a lot or grave that is not paid for, except as provided by the State of Vermont pauper laws.
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. These must be performed in accordance with all state permits and regulations in 18VSA-5579.
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 and must be performed in accordance with all state permits and regulations in 18VSA-5579.

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. Markers in-line with the headstone row may be elevated above ground. Monuments not in the headstone row must be approved by the sexton and installed flush with the ground. Headstone markers in single graves cannot exceed 36 inches in length.

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. Except when required by Vermont State law.
34. 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.
35. No curbing, fencing, steps or any other type of structure, except conventional memorials, may be placed on any lot or grave without the permission of the Cemetery Sexton and the Cemetery Commission.
36. 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.
37. The following restrictions of memorial stories, size and type apply to all of the Town Cemeteries:

On single graves of lots, monuments must not exceed four (4) feet in overall height and the base of the monument must not exceed fourteen (14) inches in width and (36) inches length. On double or multiple graves or lots, monuments must not exceed five (5) feet in overall height and the base of the monument must not exceed fourteen (14) inches in width and seventy-two (72) inches in length. All other configurations must be approved by the sexton and the Cemetery commission prior to installation. An example is a large monument to document many graves. No corner bounds, other than standard bounds, shall be placed on any lot and must be flush with the surrounding ground.

38. 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.
39. 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 or other objects shall be placed on any vacant lot, pathway, or mowing lane. 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 1st each year.
40. If any tree or shrub situated on any lot or single grave shall, by means of the roots, branches, or other objects that 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: October 26-2013

APPROVED BY THE CEMETERY COMMISSION

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