

Town of Whitefield, NH, Rules and Regulations for Its Cemeteries

Cemeteries are intended to be quiet, undisturbed areas for the burial of our loved ones. This atmosphere is created and maintained when all visitors conduct themselves respectfully.

The cemetery trustees have enacted the following regulations to govern town cemeteries. Only Park Street Cemetery contains lots for sale.

Whitefield, NH, cemeteries:

Bray Hill/Colby Cemetery	Old Town Cemetery
Burns Cemetery	Park Street Cemetery
Kimball Hill Cemetery	Pine Street Cemetery

Cemeteries are generally open daily during daylight hours. No unauthorized persons or machinery shall be in the cemeteries one-half hour before sunrise and one-half hour after sunset. Cemeteries are not maintained for winter use by the public.

Lot Cost, Payment, and Initial Requirement:

Lot purchasers acquire the burial right of the deceased subject to NH's conditions, rules, and regulations.

A single lot measuring four (4) by ten (10) feet costs \$150.00 although the price is subject to change without notice. Once the trustees confirm the purchase, **payment** is made at the town office. Lots must be paid in full before a **lot deed** is issued by the town office. Following issuance, the owner must arrange with the sexton or a trustee and the monument company for the installation of initialed, granite **corner markers** at the lot within ninety (90) days, weather permitting.

Conditions of Sale, Eligibility, and Resale:

Lots shall be **sold** in the order they become available **only to** residents, former residents of Whitefield, and relatives of those buried in Park Street Cemetery. Exceptions are at the discretion of the cemetery trustees.

The town will not purchase previously sold lots from lot owners but will assist in the **resale** of said lots. After authority to resell has been received from the original owner (or his/her legal representative) and the original deed has been submitted, the lot can be resold and a new deed issued.

Interments:

Prior to burial, a **burial card** must be completed by funeral home, grave digger, sexton, or trustee. This card will contain the following information: name of the person being buried, burial date, cemetery location, burial type, and cemetery plot number.

All interments of human remains require a permanent outer container(**vault**).

A lot is required for a **cremation** interment. Up to four (4) cremations are allowed per lot.

All **openings and closings** of grave sites must be done by a person or company approved by the trustees and/ or the sexton. Hired by a funeral services company, the grave digger is paid by that company not by the town.

In the event that the remains of a citizen of the town of Whitefield go unclaimed*, those remains shall be interred in a designated section of the Park Street Cemetery. In addition, those remains will be identified by name of the deceased, as well as birth and death years.

*"unclaimed" is hereby defined as the remains of a nonveteran without person(s) living and/or willing to provide such interment. The designation will be applied after consultation with funeral home and town officials.

Placements: Monuments, Headstones, Footstones, Corner Markers, Mementos:

The cemetery trustees or sexton reserve the right to specify what may/may not be placed on a lot.

All placements must be within the boundaries of the lot. Repair of placements is the sole responsibility of the lot owner.

Monuments may not be placed until the burial lots for which they are intended are paid in full.

Monument **foundations** must be set by the monument company with the fee for this service included with the arrangements for installing the monument.

Only one **monument**, which is to be lined up with the back of the lot, is allowed per lot. This monument is not to exceed a height of three (3) feet and a width of four (4) feet.

Headstones and/or footstones must be installed at ground level with no part of the stone above ground. Because a lot may contain multiple cremations, a **footstone** is required to be placed above the location of each cremation within a single lot.

Corner markers, required to be installed within ninety (90) days of issuance of the lot deed, identify the lot boundaries. Engraved with a family surname initial, these markers are to be purchased by the lot owner, usually from a monument dealer, who will install these markers at ground level in the lot location identified by the sexton or a trustee.

No fence of wire, wood, metal, hedge, etc. may be erected on or around any lot; neither shall **walkways** of gravel, brick, stone, paver, etc. be allowed on any lot. These items are not only potentially hazardous, but also hinder maintenance. These obstructions shall be removed by the lot owner upon request of the trustees.

The trustees realize that the placement of personal **mementos** at grave sites is important to visitors to these sites; however, increasingly these items are being placed outside the boundary of a lot and in locations that make maintenance more difficult. Mementos may not be placed on footstones and corner markers; they may be placed only within a foot (12 inches) of the lot's monument and completely within the lot's boundary. Owners placing mementos assume the risk of damage to these items from weather, maintenance, animals, and human behaviors; in addition, groundskeepers may not trim this area out of concern for damage to or destruction of mementos.

Plantings and Decorations:

No **trees** may be planted in a burial lot.

Because of a concern for safety, **single-stem, artificial flowers/plants** may not be placed directly into the ground. These items may be used as decoration only when placed in a non-glass container.

Shrubs no higher than four (4) feet at maturity may be permitted upon permission of the trustees.

All **plantings**, as well as **decorations**, should be placed within a two (2)-foot perimeter of the monument and wholly within the burial lot. Cemetery trustees reserve the right to trim overgrown plantings and/or to request removal of plantings that impinge upon a bordering lot or plantings that have died.

Solar lights, like other decorations, must be placed within a two(2)-foot perimeter of a monument and are limited in number to no more than four(4) individual lights in a lot. Solar string lights must be wholly off the ground and used only to illuminate plantings and wreaths. Any other use must be preapproved by the trustees and/or the sexton.

The placing of artificial arrangements and/or live plantings is **at the risk of the owner**, who is solely responsible for their care. Trustees assume no responsibility for the care of plantings and arrangements of any kind and will remove unsightly and/or uncared for plantings and decorations.

All summer flowers, displays, and decorations should be **removed from lots by November 1st** and winter placements by **May 1st** of each year.

Care and Upkeep:

Lots shall receive **general upkeep and care** as provided by annual budget: mowing, trimming, reseeding when necessary, and repairing sunken graves. Services related to the condition of the stone(s) are at the owner's expense.

Liability:

The cemetery trustees will take **reasonable precautions** to protect the town's cemeteries from loss and damage; however, they disclaim responsibility for loss and damage caused beyond their control, including vandalism and theft. A lot owner's homeowner's insurance policy will usually cover damage that might occur to or on a lot.

These rules and regulations are not all inclusive. At their discretion, the cemetery trustees may amend all or parts contained in this document. The cemetery trustees reserve their discretionary authority in all matters.

The rules and regulations herein contained become **effective on January 1st, 2022** and replace all known previous revisions of 1999, 2003, and 2014.

Signed by cemetery trustees on November 2, 2021*:

Art Hammon
Maynard L'Heureux
Barbara Pinkham

*signed copy on file in Whitefield town office