

## TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

### CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

For the mutual protection of lot owners and the town's cemeteries as a whole, the following rules and regulations have been adopted by the Town of Bridgewater Cemetery Commissioners as the rules and regulations of the Town of Bridgewater and all lot owners and visitors within the cemetery, and all lots sold shall be subject to said rules and regulations. And, subject further to such other rules and regulations, amendments or alterations as shall be adopted by the Cemetery Commissioners from time to time and the reference to these rules and regulations in the deed or certificate of ownership to a lot shall have the same force and effect as if set forth in full therein. The Bridgewater Cemetery Commissioners reserve the right to alter, repeal and/or adopt additional rules.

#### 1. DEFINITIONS

- **CEMETERY:** THE TERM CEMETERY IS HEREBY DEFINED AS CERTAIN LANDS WITHIN THE TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER, VT AND TO INCLUDE A BURIAL GROUND FOR EARTH INTERMENTS.
- **PLOT/LOT:** THE TERM PLOT SHALL APPLY TO A SPACE OF FIVE FEET BY TEN FEET SUFFICIENT TO ACCOMMODATE ONE CASKET OR 5 URNS. ONE-HALF PLOTS (FOUR FEET BY 5 FEET) ARE AVAILABLE IN SOME CEMETERIES AND CAN ACCOMMODATE UP TO 4 URNS
- **INTERMENT:** THE TERM SHALL MEAN THE PERMANENT DISPOSITION OF THE REMAINS OF A DECEASED PERSON BY CREMATION AND INURNMENT, ENTOMBMENT OR BURIAL. NO ABOVE GROUND BURIAL VAULTS WILL BE PERMITTED.

#### 2. PURCHASE OF CEMETERY LOTS

- **Plots & Prices:** One (1) Plot \$500.00 One half (1/2) Plot \$300.00 Corners Stones \$40.00 each
- The purchase of a cemetery lot authorizes the owner the RIGHT TO INTER human remains within the boundaries. No other rights are granted except as explicitly stated in these regulations. Title to the real estate remains with the Town.
- Lots shall be sold in cemeteries or sections of cemeteries that have not been officially closed.
- Lots shall be sold in the following size:
  - a. Vault plots (5' x 10') shall accommodate one (1) full burial.
  - b. Cremation plots (4' x 5') shall accommodate four (4) cremation burials.
- Four corner stones will be purchased at the same time a lot is purchased. The Cemetery Commission will coordinate the procurement and placement of the corner stones.
- All lot sales include perpetual, regular maintenance. The perpetual care assumed by the Town of Bridgewater Cemetery Commission shall in no case require the maintenance, repair, replacement of any memorials, foundations, or monuments placed or erected upon any lot to be borne by the lot owner or their heirs. Regular maintenance includes the cutting of grass, raking and cleaning of the grounds, pruning of shrubs and trees that may be placed by the commissioners, the removal of endangering trees and shrubs, and the general maintenance of the fences and stone walls.
- No lot shall be assigned nor right to inter issued unless payment has been made in full.
- No memorials may be set on a plot until said plot is fully paid for and a deed recorded and delivered to the plot owner. The family memorial shall tastefully be located on the plot and shall not interfere with other stones. Headstones shall be placed at the top of the lot.
- Ledge, large boulders, or mature trees may reduce the capacity of a lot. The owner may ask the Cemetery Commission to have these items removed. If the Commissioners agree, the owner must pay for the work in advance. The owner may instead choose to accept the reduction in size and/or capacity or choose another lot within the cemetery with no additional charge.

- No lots or parts of lots located within the burying grounds of the Town of Bridgewater shall be transferred, exchanged, or disposed of in any manner without the knowledge and approval of the Cemetery Commission and written authorization of original purchaser or representative.
- Lots that will not be used may be donated back to the Town of Bridgewater. Town will not re-purchase lots but will offer an alternate location if possible.
- All questions or concerns of plot owners concerning the operation of the cemetery should be discussed with the Cemetery Commissioners.

### **3. INTERMENTS**

- No burials shall take place without the prior notification of a cemetery commissioner and a signed Internment Order.
- All burials shall be vault or cremation burials unless otherwise approved by the Cemetery Commissioners and subject to pertaining Vermont state laws.
- All interments, including cremations, shall be done under the supervision of the Cemetery Commission or their designee.
- Full burials must be placed in a cemetery vault.
- All grave openings will be under the direction of the Bridgewater Cemetery Commissioners.
- Burial of cremated remains must utilize an urn vault; the urn vault may be used with or without an urn.
- Required minimum depth of vault burials is a distance of 5 feet from the natural surface of the ground to the bottom of the outside vault or liner.
- Required minimum depth of cremation burials is a distance of 30" to the bottom of the outside urn vault.
- No burials shall take place between November 1st and April 1st. Any deviation will be at the discretion of the Cemetery Commissioners only.

### **4. MARKERS AND MONUMENTS**

- All new burials shall minimally be marked by a headstone and cornerstones.
- No monuments, markers or other objects shall be placed in the burial grounds until the Cemetery Commissioners have approved location of same.
- Monument installation shall be by the owner's contractor under the supervision of the Cemetery Commission and be completed no more than 6 months after the first burial occurs on the lot.
- Only one above ground monument shall be installed on a cemetery lot. Additional flush markers may be installed to mark full burials (e.g. foot stone). Flush markers are required above each cremation.
- Above ground monuments shall be mounted on a suitable foundation.
- All monuments shall fit within the footprint of the lot.

## 5. LANDSCAPING AND DECORATIONS

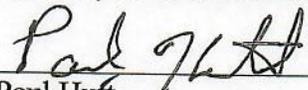
- The planting of shrubs, trees and flowers must have approval of the Cemetery Commissioners. Existing plantings will be trimmed to the height of surrounding stones or removed if they become a nuisance. Fast spreading or invasive plants will not be allowed. All flowers, whether cur or artificial, must be in containers (other than tin cans). When placing flowers and ornaments on your plot, please keep in mind the grass must be mowed and trimmed. Such plants and ornaments may be removed by the maintenance workers when they have gone past usefulness. Plastic plants and other ornaments will be removed as part of the fall cleanup.
- The Cemetery Commissioners or their designees are authorized to remove any item which may have deteriorated, or is deemed a safety hazard for maintenance workers (e.g. mowing).

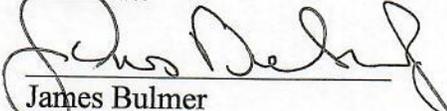
## 6. GENERAL RULES

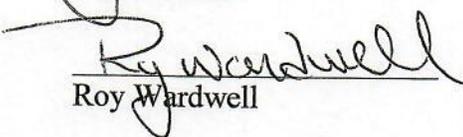
- Vehicles not involved with cemetery operations are restricted to the town roadways.
- The Cemetery Commissioners will take all reasonable precautions to protect lot owners, and the property rights of plot owners, with the Cemetery from loss or damage; but the Cemetery disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond its reasonable control, and, especially, from damage caused by the elements, as act of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, strikers and malicious mischief makers.
- It is the duty of the commissioners to see that the rules and regulations are complied with and it is their duty to see that order is maintained and to protect and promote the best interests of the cemetery. To that end, they are authorized to make temporary additional rules which may be needed, from time to time, to meet emergencies which are not covered by the Rules and Regulations.

Adopted: September 19 2018

Town of Bridgewater  
Cemetery Commissioners:

  
Paul Huff

  
James Bulmer

  
Roy Wardwell

Effective January 1, 2019