

CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

Goffstown, New Hampshire

To ensure the mutual protection and benefit of all lot owners, the Cemetery Trustees have adopted the following rules and regulations. These rules will be updated as necessary to maintain the cemetery's dignified appearance and to ease the growing responsibilities of upkeep. All lot owners and visitors are expected to comply with these rules, as well as any future amendments made by the Cemetery Trustees under **RSA 289:7(a)**.

Why Rules?

While some may view the cemetery's rules as limitations on their rights, it is essential to understand that purchasing a cemetery lot grants the owner only the 'privilege or right to inter human remains' within the lot boundaries (**RSA 290:24**). The title to the real estate remains with the town, and no other rights or ceremonies beyond those for memorializing the deceased are permitted.

To ensure the cemetery remains a dignified and respectful space for all, the Trustees have established clear rules. These guidelines are designed to protect all owners from actions influenced by misdirected sentiment or poor taste. They exist not to restrict, but to protect the mutual interests of the cemetery as a whole, preserving its beauty and integrity for current and future generations.

Interments

1. All interments must be made at the direction of the Board and Foreman. There are no burials allowed at any of the three Goffstown cemeteries from December 1st through March 31st.
2. **Proof of ownership must be validated BEFORE a burial can take place.** State of NH permit forms will be the responsibility of the Foreman.
3. All vault burials must be conducted under the supervision of a licensed undertaker and must follow all laws and regulations of the state. Cremations require a vault urn and the presence of the Cemetery Foreman.
4. A single lot may contain one full vault burial and two cremations; OR four cremations only.
5. The Westlawn crypt is available at no charge for temporary storage of remains from December 1st through May 15th.
7. Currently, we do not offer Green Burials.

Purchase or Transfer of Lots

1. Cemetery lots may be purchased only by current residents of the Town of Goffstown or by individuals who can provide proof of previous residency. Exceptions may be considered for those with family members already interred in a town cemetery, or in exceptional cases, at the discretion of the Trustees.
2. Any owner wishing to sell a lot is required to sell it back to the Town of Goffstown for the original purchase price. Lots may not be sold, transferred, or otherwise conveyed to any third party.
3. In the event the original deed is lost and cannot be returned to the town, the requestor must provide valid proof of ownership. Acceptable forms of identification include a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, non-driver ID, or passport. If the request is based on inheritance or transfer of ownership, additional documentation is required—such as a will, a birth certificate establishing familial relationship, or a notarized assignment document.

Cemetery Grounds

1. The cemeteries are open from sunrise to sunset.
2. No improvements or alterations of any individual lot is allowed.
3. In-ground plantings of any kind, including shrubs, trees, flowers, or artificial items are strictly prohibited on individual lots and will be removed. Dead flowers or uncollected arrangements will also be cleared up as part of routine maintenance.
4. Crosses are not allowed.
5. If a permanent monument or flat granite marker is not purchased, the Cemetery Foreman will place a temporary marker at the burial site. Please note that a flat fee will apply to cover materials and labor. Spring clean-up will begin by April 1st at which time all decorations must be off the lots. Fall clean-ups will begin on October 1st and flowers of all types, urns, pots and all flags must be picked up or the items will be removed. Winter decorations may be placed on lots after November 15th.
6. Dogs shall not be allowed on the Cemetery grounds. Service animals to assist the disabled are permitted by law.
7. Food and beverages of any kind are not permitted on individual cemetery lots.
8. To maintain the dignity and cleanliness of the cemetery grounds, we observe a strict carry-in/carry-out policy. Visitors are kindly asked to remove all personal items, decorations, containers, and trash that they bring with them. This includes flowers, packaging, and any other materials brought for graveside visits or memorial purposes.

Floral Tributes, Urns, Decorations & Flags

1. Two proportionate sized urns or non-breakable flower containers will be allowed on each family plot with an upright granite monument and set either on top of the base or on the ground close to the base. Those without monuments and only flat markers will be allowed one small removable proportionate sized urn/container. All containers need to be suitable to withstand mowing and trimming. Any containers that become damaged will be discarded. The town will not be responsible for such damage. All pots and urns are to be removed at the end of the season in time for fall cleanups. No urns are to be used for non-floral personal or decorative items of any kind, and those left unused for long periods will be removed and stored for a brief amount of time only.
2. Extra flowers are only allowed for a thirty-day period immediately following a burial.
3. Shepherd hooks, wind chimes, steppingstones, statues, solar lights, decorations, and ceramic, plastic or breakable containers or personal items of any kind are not allowed and will be removed.
4. Metal flag holders and vigil lights are to be against the monument base. All broken vigil lights will be removed.
5. Flags will be placed on Veteran's graves by appropriate organizations for Memorial Day. One small personal flag is allowed to be placed in the ground next to the base from Memorial Day through Flag Day on June 14th only. Following June 14th, the flags will be removed unless they are in metal flag holders or placed inside a flower container or urn. No urn or container may be used for placement of a flag only. The Veterans Memorial at Westlawn Cemetery was erected to honor all veterans throughout the year. All three cemeteries have flags.
6. To preserve the dignity and uniformity of the columbarium, any unauthorized items will be removed without notice. No decorations may be affixed to the niche front plate or any surrounding surfaces. The use of glue, tape, adhesives, hooks, or any type of fastener is strictly prohibited. Only official military-issued markers or emblems are permitted.

In accordance with RSA 289:8, the Trustees respectfully request that all individuals use good judgment when placing items at the cemeteries. Due to the demanding maintenance schedule, removing items that do not comply with cemetery rules can be time-consuming. The Trustees, along with their designee, are authorized to remove or dispose of, at their discretion, any unsuitable materials, loose floral tributes or containers, torn, broken, or faded flags, withered or unsightly flowers, or any items considered hazardous.

Monuments and Markers

1. Single lots shall be allowed one upright monument up to 28” wide, centered on the respectful lot. Double lots shall be permitted one upright monument up to 60” wide, centered on the space. Individual markers, if installed, shall be flush with the ground.
2. No lot owner shall erect or place (or cause to be erected/placed) on any lot in the cemetery, any monument without prior approval of the Board.
3. All monuments shall be set on a cement foundation 5 feet deep and equal to the full size of the memorial base.
4. Only monuments 36” wide x 26” high or less will be allowed in a cremation area.
5. No curbing, fencing, hedges, or enclosures of any kind will be allowed around any lot.
6. Benches of the proper width shall be authorized in place of a monument, or in addition to a monument if additional lot(s) are purchased.

Under RSA 289:7, the Trustees are entrusted with the responsibility to adopt, amend, or repeal rules and regulations as needed. They also have the authority to grant exceptions when appropriate. The Trustees are committed to ensuring that these rules are followed, with the Cemetery Foreman assisting in their implementation for the overall well-being of the cemetery. If the Trustees are unable to fully enforce these provisions, it will be considered a violation.

Mission Statement

It is our sincere intention that the Goffstown cemeteries continue to serve as places of peace, solace and remembrance for all who visit. We are committed to honoring the historic significance of these sacred grounds and their enduring role in the heritage of our community, while steadfastly always maintaining an atmosphere of dignity and respect.

Goffstown Cemetery Trustees

Tim McKinnon

Linda Reynolds-Naughton

Valerie Neal

Adopted 10/2002

Amended 04/2014

Amended 07/2025