

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE TOWN OF TAMWORTH CEMETERIES

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

For the mutual protection and benefit of plot owners, and each cemetery as a unit, the following Rules and Regulations have been adopted, and all owners and visitors within the cemeteries, and all plots 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 Trustees from time to time.

1.2. Definitions

The term "memorial" is anything meant to help people remember some person and shall include a monument, marker, tablet, headstone, private mausoleum, tomb, gravestone, or tombstone.

The term "marker", other than corner marker, is any stone flush with the ground to mark a grave.

The terms "headstone", "gravestone" or "tombstone" mean any upright stone above ground level marking a specific grave or a family plot.

The word "Trustees" refers to the Town of Tamworth Cemetery Trustees.

2. Sale of Plots.

- 2.1. The Trustees have plots for sale in five cemeteries - Chocorua, Ordination Rock, Wonalancet, Pease Hill, and Fowlers Mill. No plots are for sale in Riverside.
- 2.2. A burial plot located in the cemeteries listed above costs \$600 for residents and owners of property in Tamworth and \$1200 for non-residents. This fee is for the plot and is to be used by the Trustees as they see fit for the benefit of cemeteries in the Town.
- 2.3. A standard cemetery plot is four feet wide by twelve feet long. Cremation plots in Chocorua Cemetery between the stone walls are four feet by four feet There are variations from these sizes as shown on each cemetery plan and section 2.3.4 below.
- 2.4. Pease Hill Cemetery Addition Plots, excluding plots 18 & 22, are larger and may have two full burials and headstones meeting size requirements as stated in section 3 below and elsewhere.
- 2.5. Transfer: Plot owners may transfer their interest in a plot or plots to the Town of Tamworth or others, but may not sell it. Such transfer shall be made in writing to the Trustees.
- 2.6. Plots are to be sold in sections in sequence to the extent possible, not randomly.

3. Use of Plots

3.1. Monuments

- 3.1.1. Corner markers: Corner markers are required on all plots. If several adjacent plots are purchased by the same individual, markers for only the outside of the adjacent plots are required. If initialed corner markers are desired, these will be purchased by the owner of the plot(s) and placed at his/her expense. If such initialed markers are not placed within 60 days, weather permitting, of plot purchase, the Trustees will provide and place plain granite corner markers.
- 3.1.2. There can be multiple cremation remains buried in one plot, but only one headstone is allowed. Additional markers, i.e., flat stones level with the surrounding ground, may be placed.
- 3.1.3. Size and location

Above ground headstones are limited to one per plot which shall not exceed a measurement of 40" wide x 40" tall x 14" deep. No headstones shall be placed closer to the plot line than four inches. If a headstone is to be placed covering two or more adjacent plots, the maximum width shall be 48". A bench which is no bigger than 40" long, 20" tall and 14" deep, may be placed instead of a headstone. All monuments and benches shall be made of natural stone. No concrete material is allowed.

Only flat markers are allowed in the designated green burial areas.

3.1.4. In the Wonalancet Cemetery, all headstones are further limited to 36" in height.

3.1.5. In the Ordination Cemetery, monuments are further limited as follows:

3.1.5.1. Plots A1 through G36 headstones are allowed.

3.1.5.2. Plots H1 through M36 surface markers only are allowed.

3.1.5.3. Plots A1 through M36 are available for sale. Other plots are not to be sold at this time.
[See section 4.4.4 for exception.]

3.1.6. The Trustees shall have the right to lower all markers and to lower or remove any corner posts or curbing that is a hindrance to the care and mowing of the plots.

3.1.7. No above ground monument shall be set without a proper foundation which shall include appropriate provisions to prevent frost damage which could lead to movement or toppling of the above ground monument. The foundation shall include a concrete base a minimum of twenty-four inches deep.

4. Burials

4.1. Only human bodies or ashes may be buried in a cemetery.

4.2. All body burials require a concrete/metallic vault or cement(?) liner except in designated "green burial" plots.

4.3. The Trustees or their designee shall be notified prior to any burial taking place in a cemetery. Please provide a copy of the death certificate and obituary.

4.4. Green burial plots:

4.4.1. In areas specifically so designated, the Trustees allow "green burials." "Green Burial" excludes embalming fluids, non-bio-degradable containers, herbicides, and pesticide use, and in no way inhibits natural decomposition. Headstones, above ground level monuments, are not allowed. In the designated areas, the following are allowed:

4.4.2. The mounding of dirt over burials to allow for settling.

4.4.3. There shall be at least three feet of earth between the body and the adjacent ground surface.

4.4.4. The following areas are designated as being reserved for Green Burials:

Chocorua Cemetery, East Coville Section: Rows 23 through 32 in sections O through Q.

Ordination Rock Cemetery: Rows 54 through 72 in sections C through M

5. Maintenance of plots

5.1. Decorations:

5.1.1. All decorations shall be only of natural material. No glass is allowed.

5.1.2. Decorations may be removed by the Trustees or their agents and shall be removed 60 days after interment or after the completion of the season.

- 5.2. The Trustees or their agents shall not be held responsible for damage to any plot, marker, monument, post, or curbing, nor any planting on any plot; nor shall they be responsible for any urns, containers, or other articles placed upon a plot in the cemetery.
- 5.3. Maintenance of plots under the supervision of the Trustees includes the mowing of grass, removing old flowers, fallen leaves, tree branches or other debris, and care of cemetery roads and fences. Such maintenance does not include care of monuments, watering, or fertilizing the grass, or the maintenance and planting of plants and shrubbery.
- 5.4. If any trees or shrubs, situated on any plot, shall, by means of their roots or branches, become detrimental to the adjacent plots or avenues, or unsightly or inconvenient for visitors, the Town shall have the right to enter the plot and remove said trees or shrubs or such parts thereof as they shall determine to be detrimental, unsightly, or inconvenient.
- 5.5. The Trustees reserve for themselves and to those lawfully entitled thereto a perpetual right of ingress and egress over plots for the purpose of passage to and from other plots.
- 5.6. Any questions or concerns about these guidelines should be referred to the Cemetery Trustees who can be contacted directly or through the Selectmen's office.
6. Tamworth Veterans Memorial
 - 6.1. The Tamworth Veterans Memorial at the four corners in Tamworth Village is maintained by the Cemetery Trustees and is a place of honor for Tamworth residents who have served our nation. It was planned and prepared by a veterans committee with the aid of many persons and companies.
 - 6.2. The Trustees' approval must be obtained before any changes are made to, or non-veteran appreciation activities are held at, the memorial. The Trustees will consult with the Veterans Memorial Committee, or its successors, prior to granting approval.

Adopted by the Tamworth Cemetery Trustees following a duly noticed public hearing on September 17, 2014. Revised most recently 10/26/2022 and 12/20/2023 by vote of the Trustees.