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**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW
HAMPSHIRE
CEMETERY TRUSTEES**

**P.O. BOX 360 – 1 Main Street
BROOKLINE, NH 03033-0360**

Cemetery Rules and Procedures

I. Authority

- A.** The following Rules and Procedures have been established by the Brookline Cemetery Trustees in accordance with the Cemetery By-Laws and with RSAs 289 and 290 as may be amended from time to time.
- B.** The Sexton, or his/her designee, is empowered and authorized by the Cemetery Trustees to enforce these Rules and Procedures.

II. General

- A. Hours:** The cemeteries shall be open from dawn until dusk. Unauthorized visitation outside these hours shall be considered trespassing.
- B. Vehicles:** Any vehicle not involved in cemetery operations shall drive only on established cemetery roadways.
- C. Regular Maintenance:** All gravesites and non-gravesite areas within the cemeteries are maintained by the Town. Perpetual and General Cemetery Maintenance is limited to seasonal cleanups, raking, mowing, and seeding, including reasonable and practical care of unsold areas of the cemetery. In no case shall the Town be responsible to maintain, repair, or replace any memorial, tomb, or mausoleum erected or placed upon a gravesite.
- D. Personal Conduct:** All persons within the cemeteries shall conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with a hallowed space. Inappropriate behavior is prohibited; persons violating reasonable standards of behavior will be subject to removal.

III. Definitions

- A. Gravesite:** The space provided for one full burial and/or one or more cremation burials, typically 3' x 10'
- B. Plot:** A group of contiguous gravesites under the same place number. Plots may vary in dimension up to 20' x 20', with capacities of up to 12 gravesites.

IV. Cemetery Gravesites

- A. Right to Inter:** Effective July 15, 2014, the purchase of a Right to Inter grants the holder the privilege or right to inter human remains within a gravesite's boundaries. In order to qualify for a Right to Inter, an individual must either have lived in Brookline or be a relative of an individual who lived in Brookline, subject to the discretion of the Sexton or Trustees. Title of the underlying real estate remains with the Town. Upon completion of the Right to Inter form and receipt of payment, a copy of the Right to Inter will be provided directly to the purchaser.
- B. Gravesite Size:** As of July 15, 2014, a standard gravesite measures three (3) feet by ten (10) feet. The cost of a Right to Inter is \$300 per gravesite.
- C. Corner Markers:** Corner markers shall be provided and placed at the four corners of each plot by the Sexton. An RTI holder may provide at personal expense sexton-approved personalized corners for installation.
- D. Transfers:** Any holder of a Right to Inter wishing to sell it must sell it back to the Town of Brookline for the original purchase price. No Right to Inter may be transferred or sold to any other entity. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved by the Cemetery Trustees.
- E. Reclamation of unused Right to Inter:** As outlined in RSA 289:18, as may be amended, when a Right to Inter has remained unused for 50 years and no stone has been placed upon the site, the Cemetery Trustees may institute proceedings for the termination of the rights and interests of the holder.

V. Interments

- A. Timing:** Interments shall occur at the discretion of the Sexton.
- B. Cost:** A fee shall be paid to the Town of Brookline for opening a grave. The fee as of the date last amended (below) is \$700 for a full grave and \$200 for a cremation. Fees are subject to adjustment by the Sexton in the case of seasonal or other special needs.
- C. Proof of Ownership/Right:** The Sexton will verify interment rights and necessary permits prior to burial.
- D. Capacity:** A single gravesite may contain one full vault burial or as many as four cremations. At the discretion of the sexton, cremation remains may be buried with a full burial.
- E. Vault:** A sealed cement vault is required for all burials, except for cremations. Optionally, the vault may be placed upside down and not sealed.
- F. Funeral Director Responsibilities:** The Funeral Director must present all burial documents prior to or upon arrival at the cemetery, and may provide artificial grass, lowering devices, a tent, and any other materials or equipment associated with the burial ceremony.

- G. Pet Ashes:** Pet ashes may be included along with human remains at the discretion of the Sexton and/or the Cemetery Trustees. There will be no separate burials for pets.

VI. Monumentation

- A. Monuments:** No more than one upright monument shall be placed on a single gravesite. Monuments may cover more than one gravesite, if the gravesites are held by the same family. The width of the monument must allow 6" clearance on each outer side to the gravesite boundary. Monuments shall be made of granite. Benches shall be constructed of maintenance-free materials. (Marble is subject to erosion and the accumulation of mosses/molds/lichens.)
- B. Individual Markers:** Any individual flat markers shall be set in the ground so that they rest at approximately (and not more than) one inch (1") above soil level. The dimensions of these markers shall be 12" x 24" minimum, with a 4" minimum depth. Flat markers shall be made of granite or bronze.

VII. Landscaping/Decoration

- A.** Landscaping and decoration of gravesites shall be limited to living or artificial flowers and plants, small American, U.S. military service, or public safety flags, and other small objects. The Sexton and/or Trustees have the right to remove any and all objects not deemed appropriate, without prior notification.
- B.** A tree or bush may be planted only with the advance written consent of the Sexton.
- C.** If branches or roots of any tree or bush should become detrimental to any gravesite or to the cemetery, or pose an inconvenience to the maintenance and/or visitation of the cemetery, the Sexton shall have both the duty and the right to remove any and all parts thereof without notification.
- D.** Effective July 8, 2014, no curbing or fencing may be installed around or within a plot or gravesite.

Adopted July 8, 2014; Amended October 6, 2014; September 23, 2020; October 8, 2020; January 21, 2021; November 12, 2021; January 21, 2022; June 23, 2023; March 29, 2024