

## **Rules for Earl R. Howard Memorial Cemetery, Section 3 (Green Burial Cemetery)**

In addition to the Town of Richmond, NH Municipal Cemeteries, Rules and Regulations, the following additional rules apply specifically to burial within this Section. They are based on the following information received from Richmond residents during the Cemetery Trustees Public Meetings held in 2007 regarding "green" burials within public cemeteries in Richmond and as amended 09/27/2016.

The small "green" burial section contains 105 plots, each being 4.5 feet x 10 feet. The maximum number of plots that can be purchased is three (3). The purpose of the limitation is to reduce the plots purchased and never used as land is at a premium with costs rising every year.

In order to assist the Cemetery Trustees with the location of the rows and plots, cornerstones will be used as plot markers and are now mandatory. Corner markers that are purchased will be installed under the direction of the Sexton or Cemetery Trustees and shall not exceed six (6) inches in width by six (6) inches in length and be set at the extreme corners of the lot and square with the bounds of the lot. They shall be incised (cut-in), not raised letter beginning with lot #1 in each row. The grave rows are marked with a letter from B to H.

A flat fieldstone from New Hampshire may be placed at the foot of the plot as a marker. No chemicals may be used to enhance the etching. The fieldstone must be level with the ground and be of moderate size. Cemetery Trustees will determine if size is appropriate if any issues arise. A family member may install the marker at the foot of the grave after notifying the Cemetery Sexton or a Cemetery Trustee. If assistance is required to install the fieldstone, there will be a charge to cover labor cost.

No flowers or decoration of plots is authorized in this Cemetery section at any time. Any placement of flowers or decoration of any kind will be removed. The Town will not be held liable for any containers or decoration removed, but reserves the right to bill the plot owner for the labor associated with removal.

No Veteran headstone or American flag shall be placed on any of the veteran gravesites located in this section and will be removed if placed there.

For interment into this section, the following rules apply: no embalming, no vault, a casket of biodegradable material only, without nails, glue or any other fastener that will remain in the ground. A blanket or shroud may be used in place of a casket but must be of natural material. If additional information is required, contact a Cemetery Trustee.

All graves must be dug five (5) feet deep with at least three (3) feet of dirt over the casket. This is in accordance with the information received from the State of NH. The town allows family members to dig the grave after notifying the Cemetery Sexton or Cemetery Trustee of this decision. Once the grave is dug, it will also be necessary that the Sexton or a Cemetery Trustee be notified to verify that the depth is in compliance with the aforementioned State rule.

Town Cemetery rules apply in regards to the appearance of the grave site once the body is interred. The only difference being 3 – 4 inches of dirt mounded over the grave site to take care of any sinking.

Prior to burial, a transit permit is required along with all of the burial fees. If this is a home burial, it is up to the family to do any required paperwork and pay applicable fees.

A spouse that elects to be cremated and not have a green burial may be buried in a container without nails, glue or any other fastener that will remain in the ground. Ashes may also be placed directly into the ground. The same rules apply for what is allowed on the grave.

When all plots have been purchased and burials completed, this section will be allowed to return to its natural forested state.

Cemetery rules may be changed or amended as the Cemetery Trustees see fit, by a majority vote of the Trustees in whole, at any regular meeting.

Cemetery Trustees, Town of Richmond, NH