

**TOWN OF CARLISLE  
CEMETERY REGULATIONS**

**CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS  
REVISED FEBRUARY 2001**

"Cemetery" refers to the Green Cemetery. "Commissioners" mentioned herein refers to the Carlisle Board of Selectmen. "Department" refers to a designated representative of the Public Works Department of the Town of Carlisle, Massachusetts. "Town" refers to the Town of Carlisle, Massachusetts.

- I. GENERAL REGULATIONS
- II. OWNERSHIP RIGHTS
- III. INTERMENTS
- IV. MONUMENTS AND MARKERS
- V. PLANTINGS
- VI. DECORATIONS

# TOWN OF CARLISLE CEMETERY REGULATIONS

## I. General Regulations

### HOURS

The Cemetery is opened to the public daily from 7:00 a.m. until dusk.

### ETIQUETTE

Visitors are expected to stay on roads and paths and to refrain from trespassing upon grave lots.

### DOGS

Dogs must be firmly under control at all times. Their owners shall maintain the dignity of the grounds by cleaning up after them.

### FIREARMS

No firearms of any kind are allowed within the Cemetery, except for use in military salutes and ceremonial exercises sanctioned by the Town.

### TRASH

No person shall discard any refuse, rubbish, glass jars, vases, or bottles within the Cemetery, except in the proper receptacles.

### NOT LIABLE

The Department is not responsible for items lost or stolen from the grave lots, nor for damage to plantings caused by maintenance, plowing, mowing, or the opening of graves.

## II. OWNERSHIP

### ELIGIBILITY

Cemetery lots may be purchased for Carlisle Residents, or former Carlisle Residents only, or by current Carlisle Residents for family members.

### USE RESTRICTIONS

The right to be granted to the owner of any lot or gravesite is a sole and exclusive right of burial and of the erection of monuments or markers subject to the terms, conditions, and regulations, as they may exist from time-to-time. The premises in which such rights are granted shall be used only for the purpose of a place of burial for expired human remains.

### TRANSFER OF RIGHTS

The owners of rights of burial in the Cemetery or their heirs shall not grant, sell, alienate, or convey the said executive right of burial to a person or persons without having obtained the written approval and consent of the Commission, but it shall be discretionary with the Commission to grant or withhold such approval and consent.

### FIRST OPTION TO BUY

Any owner of a right of burial, who wishes to sell an unused lot or any unused portion(s) of a partially filled lot, first shall so advise the Commission, which may repurchase the unused lot for the same sum that was paid by the owner when the lot was purchased.

### DEEDS

No duplicate Deeds will be issued.

### III. INTERMENTS

#### HOLIDAYS

Interments on holidays will be scheduled only in cases of emergency, at the option of the Department, contingent upon voluntary availability of qualified regular employees.

#### PERMIT

No interments shall be made until the Department is furnished with a permit, as required by the laws of the Commonwealth.

#### INTERMENT/DISINTERMENT ORDERS

For all interments, a fully completed and signed interment order is required from the owner of the right of burial in the lot in which the interment is to be made, or from a legal representative, Interment/ disinterment orders must be typed or clearly written, with the lot number stated, and be delivered to the Department at the time of interment. At least 36 hours' notice must be given in advance of a grave opening. The Board of Health has control over disinterment.

#### PAYMENT IN ADVANCE

No grave will be opened on a lot until purchase price and perpetual care fees for the entire lot have been paid in full.

#### PERSONNEL

Employees of the Department must execute all grave openings.

#### EXACT LOCATION

The exact location of a grave shall be determined by the Department, considering the position of existing burials and monuments in close proximity and of trees and tree roots at or near the site.

### III. INTERMENTS (continued)

#### CAPACITY

Each single-grave lot may contain no more than one full-earth burial and three cremation burials, or six (6) cremations\*.

#### GRAVE BOX

A concrete box of one-piece construction with a one- or two-piece cover is required for all full-earth burials. The construction of the box must meet acceptable standards for the industry.

#### CORRECTION OF ERRORS

The Department reserves the right to correct any errors that may be made by its employees in making interments or disinterment.

#### NOT LIABLE

The Department is not responsible for any mistake occurring due to the lack of adequate information regarding the particular space, size, and location in a lot where an interment or disinterment is ordered.

The Department is not liable for equipment failures or other conditions beyond its control.

\*First Religious Society grand fathered-in eight (8) cremations

#### IV. MONUMENTS AND MARKERS

##### MONUMENT PERMITS

A monument permit is required for the installation of any monument or marker and for the addition of inscriptions to existing memorials, with the exception of the addition of the date of death and the proper name to complete an existing inscription.

##### FOUNDATIONS

Permanent foundations will be required for the installation of all monuments or markers. The size of the foundation will be determined by the size of the monument.

##### BOUNDARY MARKERS

Flat markers are allowed.

##### POSITION ON LOT

The position of the monument will be designated in the lot plan.

##### TYPE OF MEMORIAL

The Department at the time of purchase will specify the type of memorial permitted on a particular gravesite. The Commission will consider reasonable exceptions to the published dimensional requirements upon review of a written proposal consisting of a description and sketch from the petitioner.

##### BENCHES

Benches are permitted in place of upright headstones. Benches shall not exceed the maximum dimensional requirements. Requests for the placement of other benches in the Cemetery need approval by the Commission.

## V. PLANTINGS

### PERMISSION

Permission for any planting within the Cemetery must be obtained from the Department.

### ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS

Plantings shall be limited to annuals, herbaceous perennials, or ground cover; however, small shrubs may be planted within the permitted dimensions adjacent to upright and slab monuments.

### DIMENSIONS

Plantings may not extend beyond a 1-foot wide strip along the sides and front of the stone.

### OPTION TO REMOVE PLANTINGS

Plantings in need of maintenance and those, which impede normal cemetery maintenance, may be trimmed or removed by Department personnel.

### NO TREES ON BURIAL LOTS

No trees are allowed on burial lots.

### MEMORIAL TREES

Persons who would like to donate memorial trees shall consult with the Department to determine the site and type of tree.

## VI. DECORATIONS

### TEMPORARY DECORATIONS PERMITTED

Except as prohibited herein, temporary decorations on graves are permitted, provided that decorations and containers are disposable and subject to removal by the Department.

### DECORATIONS REQUIRING PERMISSION

Urns, boxes, markers, boxed wreaths, ornaments, or memorials of a permanent nature shall be placed upon the graves or lots only with the approval of the Department.

### DECORATIONS AND CONTAINERS PROHIBITED

For the health and safety of personnel and the public, the use of glass, clay or china jars and of metal cans is prohibited.

### REMOVAL

All aboveground arrangements, along with pots or baskets, will be removed after ten days, with the exception of winter holiday decoration, which will be removed in March.



CEMETERY

- 11/2/77 - Voted to set the fee for grave openings at \$100 on weekdays and \$150 for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.
- Also voted to increase the price of cremations from \$10 to \$15.
- 1/25/78 - Voted that the new price for all of the remaining single grave lots in the cemetery which the Town owns be sold for the price of \$100 for each grave site, including perpetual care, and that the only way that a person who buys one of these lots can sell it is to sell it back to the Town. Also, the price of "buy-back" will be the same price that the person paid.
- 4/16/78 - Voted that the rates for all unused, individual grave sites in Green Cemetery be raised to \$100.00, effective Tuesday, April 18, 1978. (This vote was in accordance with the authority granted to the Board at the last annual Town Meeting.)
- A.T.M.  
3/31/80 - On motion of Mr. Peckham, it was voted that the Town amend Article XIII of the General Bylaws by inserting the following new Section 3.b:
- "Sect. 3 Cemetery
- "b. The rights in a burial lot may be conveyed back to the town and the original charge shall be refunded to the owner, but such rights shall not be otherwise transferable except by operation of law."
- 7/16/80 - Voted to make perpetual care mandatory on cemetery lots. (It was also the consensus of the Board that an attempt would be made to make similar provisions on all lots.)
- 1/16/80 - Voted that the Board adopt the requirement that only a solid liner may be used in the Green Cemetery.