

## **TOWN OF EASTON CEMETERY POLICY**

**Section 1. Purpose and Intent:** For the mutual protection of lot owners and the cemeteries as a whole, the following rules and regulations are hereby established for Easton Cemeteries. All lot owners and persons visiting the cemeteries will be expected to abide by such rules and regulations as herein enacted and as hereafter amended, which are intended to assist in maintaining these cemeteries as peaceful and beautiful areas as well as reverent symbols of respect for the dead.

### **Section 2. General Rules**

**A. Office and Cemetery Hours:** All business pertaining to the cemetery shall be processed through the Town Office during regular business hours. The Town Manager shall hold the office of Superintendent of the Cemetery. The cemetery will be open from sunrise to sunset each day.

**B. Duties of Employees Defined by Superintendent:** Employees of the Town are not permitted to do any work for lot owners or other persons during their workday except upon order of the Superintendent of the Cemetery, but are required to be civil and courteous to all persons visiting the cemetery.

**C. Fees and How Payable:** All fees or charges for lots are payable to the Town of Easton.

**D. Manner of Travel by Pedestrians:** Persons within the cemetery shall use only the avenues, walks, and alley and no person shall walk upon or across lots or lawns unless it is necessary to gain access to a particular lot. The Town expressly disclaims responsibility for any property damage or any injury sustained by any person violating this rule.

**E. Acts of Vandalism Prohibited:** Persons visiting the cemetery or attending a funeral are strictly prohibited from picking flowers, wild or cultivated, breaking or injuring any tree, shrub, or plant, or from writing upon, defacing, or injuring any memorial, fence, or other structure within the grounds of the cemetery. Anyone proven to have caused damage within any Town owned cemetery will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

**F. Manner of Travel by Vehicles:** Motor cars and vehicles must be kept under complete control at all times. When meeting a funeral cortege, they must stop until the procession passes. They must not pass a funeral cortege, either stopped or in motion. Mufflers must not be opened, nor the horn sounded within the cemetery, and all such vehicles shall comply with the following rules:

1. Maximum speed limit-10 miles per hour.
2. No vehicle may be driven or parked across or upon any grave, lot or lawn.
3. Parking or leaving any vehicle on any road or drive in such a way as to prohibit any car or vehicle from passing is prohibited and a violation of this rule will be cause for the removal of such vehicle by the Town at the owners' expense.

**G. Unleashed Dogs Prohibited:** Unleashed dogs shall not be permitted to go at large in the cemetery.

(4) cremations shall be allowed within a family lot subject to placing of flat markers and upon prior approval of the Town. Cremations not allowed over full burial.

**E. Location Within Plot to be Designated by Owner:** When an interment is to be made in a plot, the location of such interment shall be designated by the plot owner, or his authorized representative. Should they fail or neglect to make such designation, the Town reserves the right to direct the interment in a location designated by the Town. The Town shall not be responsible for errors from telephone information lacking precise and proper instructions as to the particular space, size of grave, and location in a lot, where interment is desired.

**F. Graves Opened Only When:** Once an interment has been made, graves will only be allowed to be opened when, in the sole and exclusive judgment of the Town, such opening is proper, necessary, and duly authorized or when the Town is directed to allow a disinterment by an order of competent jurisdiction and a certified copy of such order has been filed with the Town. In all cases the Town shall have no responsibility for the opening of the grave and the actual disinterment must be made by the person authorized to do so.

**G. Outside Containers Required:** In order to maintain a high standard of care and to eliminate sunken graves, all full burials shall utilize a cement vault.

**H. Previous Notices Required for Interments, etc.:** The right is reserved by the Town to insist upon at least forty-eight hour notice of any interment, disinterment or removal. All diligence will be used to accommodate the schedules of the interments; however advance notice must be given in order to ensure the availability of personnel employed by the Town to locate the site for burial. The Town reserves the right to postpone interment time due to acts of nature, God, Civil and national emergencies. No burials shall be made or remains placed without prior notice to the Town.

## Section 6. Plants, Shrubs and Flowers

**A. Responsibility of Town:** The Town will undertake to maintain, as may be practicable, the planting of Town trees and shrubs to preserve its landscape features, but will not undertake to maintain individual plantings, or urns of plants.

**B. Plantings:** The planting of trees, shrubs or evergreens shall not be permitted on the grounds of the cemetery. Any such planting after January 1, 2025 is strictly prohibited. The Town retains the right to remove any existing plantings that are unsightly, dangerous, detrimental, or diseased or that extend beyond the owners lot, encroaching on abutting lots. Placement of any ornaments or decorations are at the lot owners own risk.

**C. Rights of Town Regarding Removal of Flowers and Plants:** The Town shall have the right to remove all floral designs, flowers, weeds, trees, shrubs, plants or herbage of any kind from the cemetery as soon as, in their judgment, they become unsightly, dangerous, detrimental, or diseased, or when they do not conform to the standard maintained in the cemetery.

**D. Removal by October 15<sup>th</sup>:** All plants and flowers, both real and artificial, as well as all other decorations of any type must be removed by October 15<sup>th</sup> each year. Any items left after October 15<sup>th</sup> will be disposed of by the Town. The only exceptions to this are: 1) concrete urns which may be left on lots but must be emptied and turned over to avoid breakage; and 2) American or other military flags which may remain on lots until 1 week after Veteran's Day.

**Section 7. Monuments and Other Structures**

**A. Materials, Size and Design of Structures:** Each grave shall be marked and no monument or other structure on a lot above ground shall be constructed of any other material than cut marble, granite, natural stone or real bronze.

**B. Foundations Required:** No stone, monument, or other super-structure (with the exception of flat stones that are flush to the ground) shall be erected until a suitable foundation is laid. All foundations for monuments shall be placed using either crushed stone or pre-cast cement slab or both to support the stone. Deeper foundations will be used when deemed advisable by the Town. As a guarantee of good work, for the general welfare of the cemetery, and for protection to lot owners, all foundations for such structures shall be constructed to the satisfaction of the Town.

**Section 8. Descent of Title:** The laws of the State of Maine govern the descent of title to cemetery lots, as well as other matters relating to their ownership. It is important that, on the decease of an owner of a lot, the heirs or devisees of such person should file in the Town Office full proof of ownership for the purpose of correcting the record. Notarized statements as to relationship and certified copies of wills are normally sufficient.

**Section 9. Correction of Error:** The Town reserves the right to correct any errors that may be made by them in making interments, disinterments, or removals, or in the description, transfer, or conveyance of any lot. Errors of lot owners in failing to specify proper interment position will be cause, once work is in progress by the Town, for a fair additional charge in the event a change is requested.

**Section 10. Enforcement:** The Superintendent of the Cemetery and designated Town employees are hereby empowered to enforce the foregoing rules and regulations and to exclude from the cemetery any person deliberately violating such rules and regulations. The said Superintendent and Designees shall have charge of the grounds and buildings within the cemetery and shall have supervision and control of all people visiting the cemetery whether lot owners or otherwise.

**Town of Easton Cemeteries  
Price Schedule**

Sales of Lots - Per Grave	\$200.00 Resident
	\$300.00 Non-Resident
Sale of Cremation Lots	\$100.00 Resident
	\$150.00 Non-Resident

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This policy signed and accepted by the Board of Selectmen of Easton on July 14, 2025 and effective as of July 15, 2025.

Bruce Flewelling

Bruce V. Flewelling

Douglas R. Blackstone

Douglas R. Blackstone

Norman G. Trask

Norman G. Trask

Scott F. Allen

Scott F. Allen

Tammy M. Beaulier-Fuller

Tammy M. Beaulier-Fuller

A true copy - Attest:

Heidi Burt

Heidi Burt, Town Clerk