

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.

H. Depositing of Debris Prohibited: Depositing of rubbish and debris on the grounds of any cemetery is prohibited.

I. Unauthorized Items Prohibited: The placing of boxes, shells, toys, ornaments, or similar unauthorized items upon lots that interfere with trimming and mowing will not be permitted, and the Town reserves the right to remove any such unauthorized items.

J. Firearms, Weapons, etc., Prohibited: The discharging of firearms in the cemetery, except for a military service, is prohibited. The discharging of, or carrying, any offensive weapons, such as bow and arrows, air rifles, slingshots, or the hurling of rocks or pellets, is strictly prohibited.

K. Proprieties to be Observed: It is of the utmost importance that there should be a strict observance of the proprieties in the cemetery, and all persons within the cemetery should avoid conduct unbecoming a sacred place.

Section 3. Lot Ownership

A. Prospective Purchasers to Visit Cemetery: Persons desiring to purchase lots should visit the cemetery where the Town will aid them in making a selection. Special rules relating to such lots will be explained and a copy of these rules and regulations will be given to each purchaser.

B. Details of Purchase: The purchase price must be paid in full at the time of purchase and receipt for such purchase price will be given to the purchaser at that time. Purchase price shall include perpetual care. Description of lots shall be in accordance with cemetery plots, which are kept on file in the Town Office. It shall be the duty of the lot owner to notify the Town Office of any change in address after purchase.

C. Purchasers Rights in Roads, Drives or Paths: No easement or right of interment is granted to any lot owner in any road, drive, or path within the cemetery, but such road, drive, or path may be used as a means of access to the cemetery or buildings so long as it shall be devoted to such purpose.

D. Rights Reserved to Town: The right to enlarge, reduce, replot, or change the boundaries or grading of the cemetery, or a section or sections thereof, from time to time, including the right to modify or change the location of, or remove or regrade roads, drives or walks, or any part thereof, is hereby reserved. The right to use cemetery property, not sold to lot owners, for cemetery purposes, including interment of the dead, or for anything necessary, incidental, or convenient thereto is expressly reserved. The Town reserves to itself and to those lawfully entitled thereto, a perpetual right to ingress and egress over lots for the purposes of passing to and from the other lots. The Town also reserves the right to remove any items deemed unsightly that no longer contribute to the beauty and dignity of the cemetery.

E. Town Not Responsible for Loss or Damage: All reasonable precautions will be taken to protect lot owners and the property rights of lot owners within the cemetery from loss or damage, but the Town will not be responsible for any loss or damage. This includes ornaments and decorations.

F. Terms of Agreement with Lot Owners: These rules and regulations, including amendments thereto, constitute the sole agreement between the Town of Easton and lot owners. The statement of any employee or agent, unless confirmed in writing by an authorized representative of the Town shall in no way bind the Town of Easton.

G. Repurchase or Exchange of Lots: The Town reserves the right when it deems it to be in the best interest of the Town to purchase outright, or by exchange for other lots, any unoccupied lot or lots, at the original price. The Town retains Fee Simple title to the land on which all burial lots are situated, and has the incontestable right to determine by regulation what is permissible on said lots.

H. Transfer of Lots: Transfer of lots will not be recognized without the consent of the Town. A certificate of transfer may be obtained at the Town Office. Should the owner of an un-utilized lot or portion of a lot no longer desire to own same, the Town will re-purchase it from the owner. The lots or portion thereof will be purchased by the Town for the original purchase price. Lots may not be re-sold or transferred by the original owner to another person.

Section 4. Care of Lots

A. Perpetual Care by Town Without Cost: Perpetual Care includes keeping the turf even and in good condition, the grass properly cut, and Town owned trees and shrubs trimmed.

B. Nature of Care Provided by Town Without Cost: The general care of the cemetery is the responsibility of the Town and includes reasonable and practical care of the unsold areas of the cemetery, such park and lawn areas, roads, shrubs, and trees which have been established by the Town. In no case shall it mean the maintenance, repair, or replacement of any memorial, tomb, or mausoleum erected or placed upon a lot, nor the performing of any special or unusual work in the cemetery.

C. Investment of Trust and Care Funds: All funds held by the Town will be invested by the Town as provided by law.

D. Who May Provide Care for Lots: No person except a lot owner, his authorized representative, or an employee of the Town acting under the direction of the Town, is permitted to enter the cemetery for the purpose of caring for lots without special permission of the Town secured in advance.

E. Lot Boundaries Not to be Enclosed: On and after the effective date of these rules and regulations no lot or grave shall be either partially or fully enclosed by a fence, rail, curb, hedge, trees, or shrubs.

Section 5. Interments

A. In Charge of Funerals in Cemetery: All funerals and burials entering the cemetery shall be under the direction of the funeral director and/or the Superintendent of the Cemeteries who shall abide by the rules and regulations of the cemetery.

B. Grave Openings and Burials: All grave openings and burials shall be under the responsibility and direction of the funeral director and/or the Superintendent of the Cemeteries.

C. Caskets Opened Only When: Once a casket containing a body is within the confines of the cemetery, it shall not be opened except by a funeral director or his assistants or on an order signed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

D. Number of Interments in a Single Lot/Grave: Only one full vault interment shall be allowed per lot, except in the case of a parent and child or two infants buried in one casket simultaneously. Up to four

(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 15th: All plants and flowers, both real and artificial, as well as all other decorations of any type must be removed by October 15th each year. Any items left after October 15th 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. Assignment of plots. Only the owner of the plot or their heirs will be the be able to approve the interment of people in the plot.

Section 11. Limit on Number of Cemetery Plots Purchased by a Single Individual

No individual may purchase more than four (4) contiguous cemetery plots within the Town of Easton's cemeteries, unless otherwise authorized by either the Town Manager or the Cemetery Committee upon a finding of good cause. This limit applies to both traditional burial plots and cremation plots unless a separate cremation-specific cap is stated elsewhere in this policy.

Section 12. 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
\$2,000.00 Non-Resident

Sale of Cremation Lots

\$100.00 Resident
\$1,000.00 Non-Resident

This policy signed and accepted by the Board of Selectmen of Easton on July 14, 2025 and effective as of July 15, 2025. **Updated: September 14, 2026**

Bruce V. 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