

# CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

## Goffstown, New Hampshire

For the mutual protection and benefit of lot owners the following rules and regulations have been adopted by the Cemetery Trustees. To this end, changes are made when necessary to protect the dignified appearance of the cemeteries, and at the same time ease the growing burden of proper maintenance. All lot owners and visitors are subject to these rules and to any future amendments as adopted by the Cemetery Trustees under **RSA 289:7(a)**.

### Why Rules?

Too often people are inclined to resent what they term as a restriction on their rights and privileges. One must remember that the purchase of a cemetery lot only authorizes the owner the **“PRIVILEGE OR RIGHT TO INTER HUMAN REMAINS”** within the lot boundaries (**RSA 290:24**). Title to the real estate remains with the town. No other rights are granted except as explicitly stated in the rules set by the Trustees. Therefore, rules are necessary to protect all owners from misdirected sentiment and poor taste from those few who fail to realize they are adopted for the mutual protection of the cemetery as a whole in order that the dignity and beauty of the cemetery will be protected.

### Interments

1. All interments must be made at the direction of the Board and Foreman. There are no burials allowed at any of the three Goffstown cemeteries from December 1 through March 15.
2. **Proof of ownership must be validated BEFORE a burial can take place.** State of NH permit forms will be the responsibility of the Foreman.
3. All vault burials must be conducted under the supervision of a licensed undertaker and must follow all laws and regulations of the state. Cremations require a vault urn and the presence of the Cemetery Foreman.
4. A single lot may not contain more than one full vault burial and/or as many as four cremations.
5. The crypt at Westlawn is available at no charge for temporary storage of remains from December 1 through May 15 for Goffstown families.

### Purchase or Transfer of Lots

1. Only residents or individuals who can prove past residence are permitted to purchase lots from the town of Goffstown. Exceptions would be allowed to individuals who have family members already interred in a town cemetery, or in rare circumstances at the discretion of the Trustees.
2. Any owner wishing to sell a lot must sell said lot back to the town of Goffstown for the original purchase price. No lot may be transferred or sold to another individual by any lot owner.
3. If the original deed is lost and cannot be returned to the town, the requestor must provide an acceptable proof of ownership such as a photo ID, official driver's license, official non-driver ID, or passport. Proof of inheritance or assignment must be by will, birth certificate proving relationship, or notarized assignment paper.

### Cemetery Grounds

1. Any improvements or alterations of individual lots within the cemeteries shall be subject to the consent and satisfaction of the Cemetery Trustees.
2. All in-ground planting of any kind including shrubs, plants, trees or flowers (including artificial) is prohibited on individual lots and will be removed as will all dead flowers that have not been picked up.
3. Wooden or metal crosses are not allowed. If no permanent monument or flat granite marker is to be purchased, the Cemetery Foreman will place a pin in the ground to mark the burial site.
4. Spring clean-up will begin on April 1st at which time all decorations must be off the lots. Fall clean-ups will begin October 15<sup>th</sup> and flowers of all types, urns, pots and all flags must be picked up or will be removed. Winter decorations may be placed on lots after November 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Floral Tributes, Urns, Decorations & Flags

1. Two proportionate sized urns or non-breakable flower containers will be allowed on each family plot with an upright granite monument and set either on top of the base or on the ground close to the base. Those without monuments and only flat markers will be allowed one small removable proportionate sized urn/container. All containers need to be suitable to withstand mowing and trimming. Any that become damaged will be disposed of and the town will not be responsible for such damage. All pots and urns are to be removed at the end of the season in time for fall cleanups. No urns are to be used for non-floral personal or decorative items and those left unused for long periods of time will be removed and stored for a brief amount of time only.
2. Extra flowers are allowed for a thirty day period immediately following a burial.
3. Shepherd hooks, wind chimes, stepping stones, statues, decorations, and ceramic, plastic, or breakable containers, or **personal items of any kind** are not allowed and will be removed.
4. Metal flag holders and vigil lights are to be against the monument base. Broken vigil lights will be removed.
5. Flags will be placed on Veteran's graves by appropriate organizations for Memorial Day. One personal flag is allowed to be placed in the ground next to the base from Memorial Day through Flag Day on June 14<sup>th</sup> only. Following that they will be removed unless they are in metal flag holders or placed inside the flower containers or urn. No urn or container may be used for placement of flags only. The Veterans Memorial at Westlawn Cemetery was erected to honor all veterans throughout the year, and all three cemeteries have flags.

*The Trustees request that good judgment be used at all cemeteries. The maintenance schedule is very demanding and removing articles that are not allowed under cemetery rules is time consuming. The Trustees and their designee have the authority to remove or dispose of, at their discretion, unsuitable materials, loose floral tributes or containers, torn or broken and faded flags, flowers that become withered or unsightly, or anything considered dangerous as per RSA 289:8.*

## Monuments and Markers

1. Only one central or family memorial shall be allowed on a plot and shall be set on a space designated by the Board. Individual markers will be set flush with the ground.
2. No lot owner shall erect or place (or cause to be erected/placed) on any lot in the cemetery, any memorial without prior approval of the Board.
3. All memorials shall be set on a cement foundation 5 feet deep and equal to the full size of the memorial base.
4. Only memorials 36" wide X 26" high or less will be allowed in a cremation area.
5. No curbing, fencing, hedging, or enclosures of any kind will be allowed around any lot.

*In accordance with RSA 289:7 the Trustees have the responsibility to adopt new rules and regulations at any time, and to amend, alter, grant exceptions, or repeal any rule or regulation as needed, and are empowered to have the Cemetery Foreman see that these rules are carried out for the mutual protection of the cemetery as a whole. Trustees failing to comply or enforce the provisions set forth shall be guilty of a violation.*

Goffstown Cemetery Trustees

Joan Konieczny  
Linda Reynolds-Naughton  
Jean Walker

Adopted 10/02  
Amended 06/10

### MISSION STATEMENT

It is our hope that the Goffstown Cemeteries will continue to provide a sanctuary of peace, comfort and remembrance for those whose loved ones are buried within, while at the same time, preserving and maintaining an atmosphere of dignity at all times.

Goffstown Cemetery Trustees  
August 15, 2002