

TOWN OF YARMOUTH CEMETERY

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Visitors are welcome at the cemetery from sunrise to sunset. The main office is located at 424 Route 28, West Yarmouth, MA 02673 and staffed Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We can be reached by telephone at 508-398-2231 ext. 1525. The Town website, www.yarmouth.ma.us provides detailed information for cemetery operations.

Holiday Schedule

The office will be closed on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Martin Luther King Day, Patriots Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

General Information

The cemetery grounds are maintained by the Division. The cemetery grounds are not public property and not a public park or playground.

All visitors are requested to keep in mind that the cemeteries are consecrated to the memories of those who are buried within. Dignified behavior is expected and will be required.

In the many years of cemetery operation, it has been shown that it is necessary to adopt and enforce regulations to govern the conduct of visitors and ensure respect for the dead, protection of the grounds and safety of the visitors. The rules and regulation are fair, common sense guidelines.

Rules:

- The speed limit is 15 MPH.
- Parking is allowed on roads only.
- Walking is allowed on roads and paths; there is no trespassing on private lots and graves.
- Sunbathing, picnicking, drinking of alcoholic beverages and playing are not permitted.
- Loud, boisterous or undignified behavior will not be tolerated.
- Dogs and other pets are not permitted on the grounds.
- Picking of blossoms, flowers or foliage is prohibited.
- The employees of the Cemetery Division are charged with the duty of enforcing the rules and regulations and those who violate the rules will be required to leave the grounds. Yarmouth Police will be notified when needed.

Cemetery lots, controlled by the Town of Yarmouth, will be granted to Town of Yarmouth residents only. Yarmouth residents shall be determined as one who has legal residency status in the Town of Yarmouth. The Board of Selectmen shall review any written requests by non-residents for the purchase of a cemetery lot.

All vendors who wish to perform work in the Town of Yarmouth Cemeteries need to notify the Cemetery Office at 508-398-2231 ext.1525, to confirm timing of request does not interfere with a scheduled funeral, as well as to serve as notification so employees of said vendor are not accused of trespassing.

Monuments:

All monuments, stones or grave markers shall have a 4-inch concrete border around the base, level with the ground. A one grave lot stone is limited in size by the following dimensions: Height=28", Width=30", Depth=13". A two grave lot stone is limited in size by the following dimensions: Height=48", Width=48", Depth=15", minimum 12". Single stones that represent a "family" plot (4 or more grave lots) have no height restriction; however the base must allow for support of the stone as well as burial vault installation (24"). This must be approved before installation. Footstones are to be kept at ground level and are to be 4" thick.

Benches are allowed in lieu of a grave stone, however cannot be in addition to a stone. Benches must be of marble or granite dimensions not to exceed those of a monument. Must be at the head of the grave and approved by the Cemetery Department.

Plot Guidelines

The purchase of a lot or any other interment space gives the purchaser the right of interment of human remains and the right to provide a memorial as approved by the Board of Selectmen. There shall be no burial of animal remains.

Shrubs may be planted only on two-grave or larger lots within 12" to the side of the headstone, with a height restricted to the height of the stone. Plantings, mementos and ornamentation must be placed within 18" of the front of the headstone. It is preferred that the prepared planting area be rectangle in shape. No trees, shrubs, flowers, flower holders, mementos or ornamentation may be placed anywhere else on the lots. A list of recommended shrubs is available at the Cemetery Division office.

The proprietors of said lots have no right to enclose same with a wall, fence or curbing. The Cemetery Division shall have the right to remove any shrubs, flowers (including silk flowers), mementos or other ornamentation upon prior written notification to the deed holder. Before removal of any ornamentation or shrubbery from a grave, a reasonable attempt to contact the deed holder should be made. If the Town is unable to contact the deed holder or no response is received within 45 days, the Cemetery staff can remove these items at their discretion.

Please note: In the event of a burial, encroaching shrubbery may have to be temporarily removed to accommodate an impending interment. The Cemetery staff will make every effort to contact the deed holders.

Seasonal cleanup will begin the 1st week of April and the 1st week in November 1, weather permitting. Fall and winter holiday decorations will be removed February 1, weather permitting. Notice shall be posted with dates of removal, at the entrances of each cemetery and on the Town website. All plastic containers holding plantings that have died will be removed and disposed of on a weekly basis. All new vegetation from the time of adoption of the Rules and Regulations may be trimmed by the staff to stay within the height limit. All pre-existing vegetation shall remain in tack, except in the event of a burial, or encroachment or disease. Replace with appropriate shrubs from the existing list.

The Board of Selectmen retains the right to buy back any lot at the purchase price, provided there has been no interment in said lot.