

**CEMETERY
RULES AND REGULATIONS
Bethel, VT**

The following rules and regulations for the Town operated cemeteries are based on authority granted the Selectman acting as Commissioners of said Cemeteries under V.S.A. Title 18 Chapter 121.

SECTION I- DEFINITIONS: shall include all those located within the Town of Bethel which are not privately owned.

COMMISSIONERS: the duly elected Selectmen of the Town of Bethel.

SEXTON: The appointed representative of the commissioners commonly known as the Cemetery Foreman.

RESIDENT: An individual:

- A. Presently living within the Town as primary place of residence; or
- B. Presently owning real property within the Town; or
- C. Having a verifiable association with the Town over a significant period of time.

NON-RESIDENT: Any individual not meeting one of the requirements for "Resident,"

LOTS: Those plots of land located in the Cemeteries owned and operated by the Town of Bethel.

SECTION II- SALE AND CARE OF LOTS:

All lots shall be sold only with provisions for both perpetual care and immediate placement of corner markers. Prices for lots, inclusive of these provisions, shall be:

Residential Rate:

| # of Lots | Cemetery Account | Perpetual Care | Reserve Fund | Marker Cost | Total Cost |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 8 Grave Lot | 776.00 | 984.00 | 160.00 | 160.00 | 2,080.00 |
| 4 Grave Lot | 388.00 | 492.00 | 80.00 | 160.00 | 1,120.00 |
| 2 Grave Lot | 194.00 | 246.00 | 40.00 | 160.00 | 640.00 |
| 1 Grave Lot | 97.00 | 123.00 | 20.00 | 160.00 | 400.00 |

Non-Residential Rate:

| # of Lots | Cemetery Account | Perpetual Care | Reserve Fund | Marker Cost | Total Cost |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 8 Grave Lot | 1,352.00 | 1,848.00 | 320.00 | 160.00 | 3,680.00 |
| 4 Grave Lot | 776.00 | 924.00 | 160.00 | 160.00 | 2,020.00 |
| 2 Grave Lot | 388.00 | 462.00 | 80.00 | 160.00 | 1,090.00 |
| 1 Grave Lot | 169.00 | 231.00 | 40.00 | 160.00 | 600.00 |

SECTION III-GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- A. 1. Vaults or cement grave liners shall be required with all burials within the Town of Bethel.
2. An urn vault with the maximum size of 12" by 15" by 11" shall be used for the burial of cremated remains; the urn vault may be used with or without an urn.
- B. One casket, or up to four cremated remains, may be buried in one designated lot.
- C. No foundations or gravestones shall hereafter be placed by private concerns unless said work is approved by the Cemetery Foreman and will be subject to his/her directions as regards to location on lots, etc. A flat headstone shall be set flush with the ground and without a foundation.
- D. Corner Markers:
 - 1. Cornerstones on all lots shall be placed flush with the ground in such a manner that cemetery equipment will not be interfered with.
 - 2. Corner markers are required within all sales for the value of \$160.00. If lot purchasers install markers by their own means, they may request reimbursement from the Town for the \$160.00 corner marker charge.
- E. Trees and shrubs shall not be planted in the Town Cemeteries without the consent and/or direction of the Cemetery Foreman.
- F. Artificial flowers are permitted from Memorial Day to Labor Day, but must be removed by the first Saturday after Labor Day. Flowers not permanently planted, must be secured to the monument or hung from a Shepard's hook that is securely installed tight to the monument. Wreaths may also be placed from a Shepard's hook, from November to April. Christmas Trees are not allowed. Any flower, decoration or wreath not properly installed will be discarded.
- G. No grave openings will be permitted between the dates of December 31, and April 15, The Selectmen also may at their discretion refuse requests for grave openings during the periods between December 15 and December 31 and April 15 and April 30 if conditions merit so.
- H. Ten percent (10%) of all sales will be dedicated to development of an improved record-keeping system and acquisition of future new cemetery area(s).
- I. In the event a "Resident" designation is sought under item C in the definition under Section I, a written letter of application setting forth the nature of the association must be submitted to the Board of Cemetery Commissioners who shall be solely responsible for determining the application for "Resident" status is approvable. The determination by the Board of Cemetery Commissioners shall be deemed final and without appeal.

- J. All cemeteries under the control of the Town of Bethel shall be closed to the public from 9:30 PM until 6:00 AM daily. Persons found on the premises during these closed hours will be charged with a misdemeanor and henceforth be brought before a court of proper jurisdiction.
- K. State Law regarding injury to burial grounds and historical tablets, as found in Sections 8379 through 8385 inclusive, shall be enforced and persons apprehended for such violations shall be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

SECTION IV

These regulations shall take effect immediately upon endorsement by the Cemetery Commissioners and when duly recorded in the Records of the Town Clerk's office. All previous regulations in conflict with the above are hereby rescinded.

Signed by the Selectmen of the Town of Bethel, March 8, 2010:

Neal Fox, Chair Bill Richards Joe De Freitas

Effective April 1, 1988

Amended September 10, 2001; July 7, 2008; October 27, 2008; April 13, 2009; March 8, 2010; May 9, 2022; August 8, 2022; November 28, 2022

Originally filed in the Bethel Town Clerk's Office on June 1, 2010 and recorded in Town Proceedings Book 7 Page 361.

Attest: Jean Burnham, Town Clerk

Amended copy filed in the Bethel Town Clerk's Office on Dec 1 2022 and recorded in Town Proceedings Book 7 Page 401-403

Attest: Pamela Brown, Town Clerk

