

## TOWN CEMETERY REGULATIONS, READING, VERMONT

\*\*\* Please visit the 'Cemeteries of Reading' page of the Town website to find the latest version of these bylaws and Order of Internment forms (<http://www.readingvt.govoffice.com>) \*\*\*

### **1. DEFINITIONS**

Perpetual care: A "Perpetual Care Cemetery" is a cemetery which has established an irrevocable trust fund for the maintenance, repair, and care of all interment spaces, features, buildings, roadways, parking lots, water supply, and other existing cemetery structures. All of the Reading Town cemeteries are operated as perpetual care cemeteries.

The following regulations pertain to all of the Reading, Vermont town cemeteries:

### **2. PURCHASE OF CEMETERY LOTS**

- The purchase of a cemetery lot authorizes the owner the RIGHT TO INTER human remains within the boundaries. No other rights are granted except as explicitly stated in these regulations. Title to the real estate remains with the Town.
- The RIGHT TO INTER shall be sold to Reading residents only. No lot shall be available to non-Reading residents unless that person is a close relative (sibling, child, ward, parent) or spouse (legal or civil) of a Reading resident.
- Lots shall be sold in cemeteries or sections of cemeteries that have not been officially closed.
- Lots shall be sold in the following size:
  - a. Vault plots (5' x 12') shall accommodate one (1) full burial.
  - b. Cremation plots (2.75' x 5.5') shall accommodate two (2) cremation burials.
- Four corner stones will be purchased at the same time a lot is purchased. The Cemetery Commission will coordinate the procurement and placement of the corner stones.
- Lot prices are reviewed annually to insure the Town's ability to maintain cemeteries going forward. The Town negotiates corner stone prices annually based on their market value.
- All lot sales include perpetual, regular maintenance. The perpetual care assumed by the Town of Reading Cemetery Commission shall in no case require the maintenance, repair, replacement of any memorials, foundations, or monuments placed or erected upon any lot.
- No lot shall be assigned nor RIGHT TO INTER issued unless payment has been made in full.
- Ledge, large boulders, or mature trees may reduce the capacity of a lot. The owner may ask the Cemetery Commission to have these items removed. If the Commissioners agree, the owner must pay for the work in advance. The owner may instead choose to accept the reduction in size and/or capacity or choose another lot within the cemetery with no additional charge.
- No lots or parts of lots located within the burying grounds of the Town of Reading shall be transferred, exchanged, or disposed of in any manner without the knowledge and approval of the Cemetery Commission and written authorization of original purchaser or representative.
- Lots that will not be used may be sold or donated back to the Town of Reading. In a sale back to the town where the original price is not known, the Cemetery Commission shall set a fair price.

### **3. INTERMENTS**

- No burials shall take place without the prior notification of a cemetery commissioner and a signed Internment Order (available on Town website).
- All burials shall be vault or cremation burials unless otherwise approved by the Cemetery Commissioners and subject to pertaining Vermont state laws.

- All interments, including cremations, shall be done under the supervision of the Cemetery Commission or their designee.
- Full burials must be covered by a cemetery vault or cement grave liner.
- Burial of cremated remains must utilize an urn vault; the urn vault may be used with or without an urn.
- Required minimum depth of vault burials is a distance of 5 feet from the natural surface of the ground to the bottom of the outside vault or liner.
- Required minimum depth of cremation burials is a distance of 30" to the bottom of the outside urn vault.
- No burials shall take place between November 1st and April 1st. Any deviation will be at the discretion of the Cemetery Commissioners only.

#### **4. MARKERS AND MONUMENTS**

- All new burials shall minimally be marked by a headstone and cornerstones.
- No monuments, markers or other objects shall be placed in the burial grounds until the Cemetery Commissioners have approved location of same.
- Monument installation shall be by the owner's contractor under the supervision of the Cemetery Commission and be completed no more than 6 months after the first burial occurs on the lot.
- Only one above ground monument shall be installed on a cemetery lot. Additional flush markers may be installed to mark full burials (e.g. foot stone). Flush markers are required above each cremation.
- Above ground monuments shall be mounted on a suitable foundation.
- All monuments shall fit within the footprint of the lot.

#### **5. LANDSCAPING AND DECORATIONS**

- The planting of non-woody, live plants is limited to an area of 12 inches in front of the above ground monument.
- No grading, seeding, planting of trees or shrubs, or applying of fertilizer shall be done within the burial ground unless approved by the Cemetery Commissioners.
- The Cemetery Commissioners or their designees are authorized to remove any item which may have deteriorated, or is deemed a safety hazard for maintenance workers (e.g. mowing).
- All decorations, real or artificial must be removed before November 1st or same will become property of the cemetery and disposed of accordingly.

#### **6. GENERAL RULES**

- Vehicles not involved with cemetery operations are restricted to the town roadways.
- All cemeteries under the control of the Town of Reading shall be closed to the public from 9:00 PM until 6:00 AM daily.
- Exceptions to regulations may be made on a case by case basis at the discretion of the Cemetery Commission.

For information regarding State Cemetery Laws, please visit:  
<https://www.sec.state.vt.us/media/616600/digging-deep-2014.pdf>

Adopted: May 4th, 2016

Town of Reading  
 Cemetery Commissioners

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