

Hope Grove Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Article 1. Lots may be purchased by residents and owners of real property in Hope, for the burial of their immediate family, i.e. husband, wife, children, stepchildren, father, and mother. All other transfers and sale of lots and burials shall be at the discretion of the Sexton and Selectmen.

Article 2. Sale of the lots will be at the Town Office. Price for each burial lot shall be \$450.00 and must be paid at the time of sale. Those wishing to purchase a lot should contact the Sexton to make the arrangements in determining the location of the lot or lots available.

Article 3. The owners of lots or graves in this cemetery, or their heirs, shall not grant, sell or convey to any person or persons their interest in said lots or graves. Upon approval of the Board of Selectmen, interests in said lots must be sold back to the town for the original selling price.

Article 4. The lots and graves in this cemetery shall be used only for the purpose of one (1) human burial, or four (4) human cremation urns per lot, and burial is to be made under the direction of the Sexton or their Representative.

Article 5. No interment shall be made until the owner of record has been determined by the Sexton or a Representative of the cemetery committee. No interment shall be made until the fees for the opening of the grave have been paid in full.

Article 6. The cemetery will be closed to burials from December 1st to April 15th as well as vehicle traffic, foot traffic is permitted during these months.

Article 7. A fee, to be established by the Selectmen for the representative of the cemetery committee may be charged for the identification of lots, and the fee shall be paid to the Treasurer of the Town of Hope.

Article 8. Memorial stones of an upright nature shall be allowed, the size not to exceed Forty-eight (48) inches long, sixteen (16) inches wide and thirty-three (33) inches above the turf, to be set on a cement foundation installed by a cemetery monument or memorial setter. The depth of the cement foundation must be at least four (4) feet from the bottom of memorial stone per lot.

A lot memorial stone for a double-lot of an upright nature shall be allowed, the size not to exceed fifty-three (53) inches long, sixteen (16) inches wide, and thirty-three (33) inches above the turf, to be set on a cement foundation installed by a cemetery monument or memorial setter. The depth of the cement foundation must be at least four (4) feet from the bottom of memorial stone and centered between the two (2) lots having the same ownership.

If a memorial marker is chosen instead of an upright memorial stone, the size must be twenty-four (24) inches long and twelve (12) inches wide, also set on a cement foundation as regulated above for upright stones.

For Memorial stones less than the above, the size shall not be less than six (6) inches by twelve (12) inches and must be approved by the Sexton or a Representative prior to installation. Fieldstones are permitted provided that their dimensions fall within the above guidelines.

Article 9. The cleaning of a memorial stone is allowed by a family member, it must be done in an environmentally safe matter and using approved cleaning methods to ensure the integrity of the stone. Bleach and other harsh detergents are strictly prohibited. Contact the Sexton or a representative for proper instructions on cleaning stones.

Article 10. Except for cremation remains, all burials must be in a concrete, fiberglass, or other approved vault used for such burials.

Article 11. All burials shall be made with the head towards Hatchet Mountain Road.

Article 12. No Wooden Blocks or wooden markers, Cement or Composition Stones shall be allowed on any lot or grave.

Article 13. Planting of Trees, Shrubs, Perennial Flowers or Bushes on the lots is not permitted, but annual flowers are allowed. Baskets and vases of real or artificial flowers, along with wreaths, flags and their holders are allowed. All baskets, wreaths and vases may be removed by cemetery workers from October 15th to April 15th to allow for clean-up work.

Article 14. For the purpose of memorializing a deceased Hope Resident whose remains have not been interred in a public cemetery. The Families of the deceased may record name, birth and death dates upon the Remembrance Stone located at the back of the old portion of Hope Grove. The deceased must have been a Hope Resident at the time of their death. The cost of engraving is the responsibility of the family. A copy of the death certificate will be required and approved by the Sexton or Representative. The following Guidelines must be used: Monument Modern Roman font, sized 1 inch, for the name. The same font, sized ¾ inch for the dates. A proof must be submitted to the Sexton or representative and approved prior to the engraving.

Article 15. Money from the sale of burial lots will be divided 30% for perpetual care fund, the interest of which, together with the remaining 70%, will go to the Cemetery General Fund for maintenance and development of Hope Cemeteries.

Article 16. Animals, Bicycles, Motorcycles, Motorbikes, Snowmobiles, and All Terrain Vehicles are prohibited within the cemetery.

Article 17. The bringing of firearms into the cemetery, is prohibited. The discharge of, or carrying of, any offensive weapon, such as bow and arrows, air rifles, slingshots, or the hurling of rocks or pellets, is strictly prohibited. However, an exception will be allowed only when followed by a military or Public Servant (i.e. Law Enforcement or First Responder) processional.

Article 18. The Selectmen or Sexton and their Representative may remove anything that is unauthorized from the cemetery or deemed as unsightly, i.e. dead flowers, torn flags, broken or damaged decorations or displays at their will and discretion. Trash and refuse will not be left on the cemetery grounds and must be carried out and disposed of properly. This is a Sacred and Honored place.

Article 19. The Town of Hope is not responsible for lost, stolen, or destroyed displays.

Article 20. These rules, regulations and pricing may be changed at any time by a majority vote of the Selectmen of Hope, Maine.

Adopted by the Hope Board of Selectmen on July 28, 2020