

RULES & REGULATIONS FOR MANSFIELD CEMETERIES



Town of Mansfield
4 S Eagleville Rd
Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268

May 2011
Revised April 2021

Introduction & General Rules

Cemeteries are precious and fragile records of genealogical history. It is important to preserve them and the artwork of the gravestone carvers as well as the integrity and sanctity of the site. Therefore, please understand that:

- The right of admittance to the grounds is reserved.
- Children will be permitted on the grounds only if accompanied by a parent/s, guardian or other adult, who shall be responsible for their conduct.
- The Town, acting through its Sexton or other designated official, may expel from the cemeteries or cause to be arrested any persons disturbing its sanctity by noisy, boisterous, or other improper conduct, or any person violating any of the rules and regulations.
- All persons shall respect the solemnity of the cemetery and strictly observe the rules which have been established to ensure quiet and good order at all times.
- The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to approve or decline any memorial or marker design.
- Any marker that must be moved to dig another grave in the plot is the family's financial responsibility.
- The Town of Mansfield assumes no responsibility when a marker has to be moved and reset.
- The Town of Mansfield reserves the right to amend and change guidelines without notice.
- Reasonable efforts are made to protect approved memorials but the Town disclaims responsibility for any damage or injury thereto.
- There shall be no decoration, adornment, use of monument, inscriptions or planting except as expressly permitted under these rules. The right is reserved by the Town to enter upon any lot and prohibit, modify or remove any object, adornment, monument, inscription, planting or work done not conforming to the rules.
- Please report any theft or vandalism to the Mansfield Public Works Department and the Resident State Trooper's Office.

("Marker" is the general term used to encompass all types of grave stones.)

Specifications for Cemetery Memorials

Gurley Cemetery

New Mansfield Center Cemetery

Design specifications have been developed and approved by the Mansfield Cemetery Committee to ensure that all monuments are relative in design and size with the surrounding monuments, and to facilitate future burials and maintenance.

Single grave plot (plot measuring 4' x 8')

A monument shall have a base no longer than 30" and/or stone no larger than 24" and will be at the head of the grave.

Double grave plot (plot measuring 8' x 8')

A monument shall have a base no longer than 30" and/or stone no larger than 24". Stone will be placed at center line with four flush foot stones and flush corner marker. Only one upright monument will be allowed on the double grave plot.

Triple grave plot (plot measuring 12' x 8')

A monument shall have a base no longer than 48" and /or a stone no larger than 36". This monument shall be placed at the head of the graves, centered over the three graves with flush corner markers. Only one upright monument will be allowed on the triple grave plot.

A half lot (4 grave plots head to head plot, measuring 8' x 16')

A monument shall have a base no longer than 48" and /or a stone no larger than 36." This monument shall be placed in the center of the plot with four flush corner markers.

A full lot (8 grave plots head to head plot, measuring 16' x 20')

A monument shall have a base no longer than 48" and /or a stone no larger than 36." This monument shall be placed in the center of the plot with four flush corner markers.

Specifications for cemetery monuments for the Gurley Cemetery will follow the above dimensions, however, ALL must be a slant stone. ALL must have corner markers.

Specifications for All Cemeteries

- Only one headstone and up to four footstones will be allowed on a single grave site.
- No benches of any type will be allowed on any grave site.
- All memorials must be kept in line with others in the section and in character and size with those of the surrounding markers and memorials.
- Remains must be interred in an urn or other appropriate container.

Monuments & Markers

All monuments shall be approved by the Cemetery Committee. No gravesite or plot monuments or markers shall be located and set without approval of the Sexton. Corner plot markers shall be flush with ground surface. Cost of monuments and markers are the responsibility of the owner. The erection or installation of monuments or memorial markers shall not take place on Sundays or legal holidays. No monument work, once installed, shall be removed from a grave unless approved by the Sexton.

Plantings

1. Trees, gardens, curbing, fencing, hedging, shrubs, borders, statuary or enclosures of any kind shall not be allowed on or around the gravesite/s or plot. The Town reserves the right, without prior notice to remove any tree, shrub or obstacle on any lot that may hinder the efforts of opening of graves or the proper maintenance of the cemetery, or in the judgment of the Town shall seem undesirable.
2. Container plants may be placed on the gravesite or plot, provided that the Town will remove the plants if they have died or if the plants are in a state of decline. Artificial decorations are permitted, though they may be removed by the Town if they become discolored, or if they leave wires causing a problem to cemetery maintenance activities.

3. No glass containers shall be used to contain flowers or plants. Only plastic, clay or metal containers shall be used. At the end of the growing season all containers shall be removed. If any containers remain the Town shall remove them. The Town reserves the right to remove any and all containers for good reason. The Town further reserves the right to remove and restrict the placement of any and all decorations/remembrances in accordance with these rules.

4. No person shall apply toxic chemicals (such as weed killers or pesticides) on gravesites.

5. Dumping of fill materials, compost, wood materials, rubbish, old flowers etc., is prohibited.

6. All persons are strictly prohibited from any unauthorized picking or pruning of flowers, plants, or shrubs, whether cultivated or wild; breaking or injuring any tree or shrub; marring any memorial, defacing property in any way, or disturbing birds or other wildlife.

7. The Town of Mansfield will conduct both Spring and Fall clean ups of each cemetery and will remove any decorations or remembrances that are in need of disposing.

PERPETUAL CARE

All gravesites/plots which are sold will be furnished with perpetual care which shall include regular mowing and trimming of grass as well as two seasonal clean-ups in the Spring and Fall. Perpetual care shall not include maintenance, repair or replacement of monuments or markers or replacement of plants.

Interments

1. Only human remains may be interred in the town cemeteries. A concrete or other permanent vault is required for all full burials. There shall be only one vault per gravesite. Up to four ash interments may be placed in one gravesite or one vault and three ash burials.

2. All graves shall be opened and closed under the supervision of the Sexton. No interment or disinterment shall be allowed without the consent of the Sexton. Interment or disinterment shall be made only by a contractor authorized by the Sexton or other authorized representative of the Town. Notice of at least 24 hours shall be given to the Sexton of any desired grave opening. No grave shall be opened or interment made on legal holidays unless required for public health reasons and ordered by the Sexton. Funerals and/or graveside services shall be concluded so that the grave can be closed by sundown unless the Sexton expressly permits otherwise in consideration of special hardship.

Plot Sales & Certification Records

1. The Sexton shall be authorized to sell gravesites or plots (two or more gravesites) and act on behalf of the Town Clerk in the activities described herein. The price for graves/plots shall be set by the Town Council. A Certificate of Burial Rights shall be prepared by the Town Clerk for each gravesite or plot sold. Full payment will be rendered before interment. The Town Clerk shall keep records showing the name of the purchaser or owner of burial rights for each gravesite or plot.
2. A Certificate of Burial Rights grants the purchaser the right of interment and extends this right to their heirs and family descendants.
3. If a Certificate of Burial Rights of the lot or grave has been lost or mislaid, a substitute Certificate of Burial Rights may be issued to the person who has established legal right to the plot. In establishing this legal right:
 - a. An affidavit sworn to before a notary public must be presented in which the person claiming rights to interment privileges in said plot must identify themselves, establish their rights to said plot, and state that no other party has prior or equal rights to said plot. Upon the presentation of the affidavit, the Town Clerk shall have the right to rely on the statements contained therein, and the person(s) making the affidavit shall be responsible for any errors or omissions of the affidavit.
 - b. In the case of the loss of a Certificate of Burial Rights to a lot or grave, a substitute certificate may be issued to the person who has established legal right to it after satisfactory proof of said loss and ownership has been presented to the Town Clerk, together with an affidavit, reasonably and satisfactory in form and substance to the Town Clerk, by a person having personal knowledge of the facts which may be conclusively relied upon by the Town Clerk to permit the use of unoccupied portions of any interment space referred to in such affidavit.
4. The use of a plot or gravesite is for the plot holder or plot holder's relatives for interment purposes only. A person not a member of the plot holder's family may be interred in said plot with permission from the plot holder's family. The plot holder shall not have any right to sell, transfer, exchange, or in any manner dispose of said plot without the written permission of the Town Clerk. Any transfer is subject to these rules and regulations and to the payment of the transfer fee established by the Town Council.
5. The owner is responsible for designating grave locations within each burial plot; confirmation of such location to be made prior to interment.

Ownership & Transfer of Interment Rights

Descent of Ownership

1. When an interment of an owner or relative is made and the owner or any joint owner dies without making disposition of the remaining interment space, it shall be held and reserved as the interment space of the original owner's family.
2. In a family interment space, one plot may be used for the owner's interment, one for the owner's spouse, if any, or named person referenced on the deed who has a vested right of interment, and the children and the parents of the deceased owner acquire vested rights of interment in any remaining interment space and may be interred in order of death without the consent of any other person claiming any interest in such interment space. If no child or parent survives, the vested rights of interment go in order of death, first to the spouse of any child of the owner and, second, in order of death to the next heirs at law of the owner.
3. In unusual circumstances cemetery plots that cannot be used by the owner may be sold back to the Town for the purchase price originally paid, unless said plot already has a burial within it.

Specifications for Riverside Burying Grounds

Scattering Area:

The scattering area is along the perimeter of the cremation section of this cemetery, outside of the designated walkway.

1. Application for scattering of cremation remains shall be made through the Sexton or the Town Clerk and can be purchased in advance.
2. The Sexton shall inform the applicant of the procedure and location for scattering. The Sexton must be present during the actual scattering.
3. Scatterings must be conducted between sunrise and sunset.
4. The scattering fee is payable to the Town of Mansfield. If the applicant desires the name, year of birth and year of death to be placed on the central memorial in the scattering area, arrangements can be made by contacting a monument company for the engraving at current costs.

In-ground Remains:

The in-ground remains area is within the walkway in the central portion of the cremation remains section. It is delineated by four granite posts. Plots 3' x 3' are laid out within the section. One or two burials of ashes are allowed within each plot.

1. Application for an in-ground remains plot must be made through the Sexton.
2. The Sexton or their designated representative must be present during interment.
3. The remains must be interred at the depth specified by the Sexton. Any associated cost for internment shall be borne by the responsible party.
4. The remains must be interred in an urn or other appropriate container.
5. A granite slant marker (commonly called a headstone), that measures 18 inches long, 10 inches wide and 12 inches high may be placed on the 3' x 3' plot. The proposed marker shall be approved by the Mansfield Cemetery Committee. No grave site or plot marker shall be installed without approval of the Sexton.
6. Because of the natural setting, no plastic flowers or plastic plantings of any kind are allowed.

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