

Stoddard Cemetery Commission

Cemetery Regulations

The following rules and regulations for the Stoddard Cemeteries, together with the Laws contained in Chapter 289 of the State of New Hampshire Statutes constitutes the guidelines for the care and protection of the Stoddard Cemeteries.

1. Cemetery Rules

- A. Town of Stoddard cemeteries are open sunrise to sunset.
- B. Animals are not permitted.
- C. Children under 18 not permitted unless accompanied by an adult.
- D. Plantings are allowed 12 inches in front and 12 inches to the side of the headstone. Plantings should not extend beyond the plot size.
- E. Fresh flowers are allowed at all times and will be removed by caretakers once the blooms have failed.
- F. No burials November 15 through May 1 because of ground conditions.

2. Ownership/Internment –

- A. **Plots** may be purchased by people with Stoddard connections, meaning a Stoddard taxpayer, relative thereof or a relative to former Stoddard resident previously buried in Stoddard Cemeteries. The cost shall be \$300. per single burial lot. ***Lots used may contain one vault burial or can contain up to 4 cremations per lot. Burials of double deep in one grave site is prohibited.*** Contact the Cemetery Commissioner to purchase a Plot.
- B. Notice of internment must be given to the Cemetery Commission 48 Hours in advance of the burial so the lot can be marked by a member of the Cemetery Commission to assure opening of the correct plot. The Commission can be contacted by the name of the Chairman on the **Stoddardnh.org** web site or by contacting the Stoddard Town Hall at 603-446-3326 who will contact a Cemetery Commission member.
- C. The ownership of an unoccupied burial lot within the Town of Stoddard will not be recognized without a deed being issued by the Board of Selectmen.
- D. Town of Stoddard burial sites are 4 ft by 10 ft.
- E. A “Death Certificate” is required for any burial in a Town of Stoddard Cemetery.
- F. Resale of lots- In case a lot is no longer needed or wanted by the heirs it must be sold back to the Town for the price paid at the time of original purchase. Any accrued interest would have diverted to the care of the cemetery; Therefore that amount would be forfeited.
- G. All excavating of graves **including cremations** are at the expense of the requesting parties. Said burial within the Town of Stoddard will be done by a contractor appointed by the Cemetery Commission.
- H. Burial Vaults: Every coffin buried in a lot or single grave must be enclosed in a concrete, Stone or other approved permanent vault of approved specifications.
- I. Cremations must be in a cement vault, urn or other approved container or method, (i.e. inserted into the headstone). A cremation burial will not be recognized unless the Cemetery Commission is notified via a “Death Certificate”.

- J. Fees charged for the interment or disinterments. These vary depending on the time of year, location, full burial or cremation, and are billed directly by the approved Contractor to the person requesting the service.
- K. No burial lot may be built up to a level higher than the contour of the ground around it.
- L. No curbs, fences or borders of any kind will be placed or erected on or around any burial lot.
- M. No animal remains or ashes are allowed in a Town of Stoddard cemetery.
- N. All cemeteries in the Town of Stoddard will be closed for internment's for the winter months from Nov 15 through May 1st due to ground conditions.
- O. **Perpetual Care.** Funds derived from the sale of the plots shall be used for the general maintenance of the cemeteries, mowing, gates, trees and other features of the cemetery. This fee shall be considered as payment in full by the purchaser for the care of the plot by the Town of Stoddard in perpetuity. This does not include repairs to any monuments placed on the lots.

3. Monuments

- A. The owner of any lot will have the right to erect a suitable headstone, monument or tomb.
- B. Monuments erected in the cemetery shall be erected on a concrete foundation. The foundation surface shall be equal to the base area occupied by the headstone; said foundation should be pored to a depth of 36 inches or more to prevent headstone tipping due to frost movement. The Cemetery Commission should be contacted prior to the installation for the proper plot location and to ascertain that a sufficient base has been poured.
- C. Families should get written contracts with gravestone installers to correct leaning stones for a period of several years.
- D. Flat headstones set flush with the ground require a foundation to prevent sinking below ground level.
- E. At the time of burial, a temporary marker may be placed such as a wooden cross, but if in the judgement of the Commissioners it is inappropriate, or deteriorated, it may be removed.
- F. Only one upright family headstone will be allowed per family plot or one headstone per plot.
- G. Corner marker stones must be placed flush to the ground. Contact a Cemetery Commission representative to mark the correct location before they are installed.
- H. Should any headstone, footstone, cornerstone, or tomb become unsightly, dilapidated, or a menace to visitors, the Cemetery Trustees will have the right to either correct the condition or remove the same.
- I. **Vandalism & Repairs to Monuments:** In the case of damage from vandalism or an act of nature, the purchaser of the stone will be contacted, or their heirs if known, and the cost of such repair shall be paid for by them. At the option of the Cemetery Commission the monument will be repaired and the cost of such repairs will be assessed to the purchaser of the monument.
- G. Rubbings are not allowed at any of the Town of Stoddard cemeteries.

4. Flowers & Plantings

- A. Plantings are allowed 12 inches in front and 12 inches to the side of the headstone. Plantings should not extend beyond the plot size.
- B. Permanent shrubs perennial plants or flowers whose maximum height does not exceed the height of the headstone or cover the name on the headstone may be placed on the plot
- C. Planting of trees, large shrubs, hedges, installing fences edging or curbing, covering area with shells, crushed stone, or other material, creating a statuary, metal objects and the like are expressly forbidden.
- D. Artificial floral displays attached into the ground with wires are not allowed and will be removed. The wires pose a safety problem. Artificial flowers and displays are allowed in moveable pots or mounted on the headstone. All artificial arrangements will be removed October 31st of each year by the caretaker.
- E. As a special mark of respect to those who have served our country in its Armed Forces, the American Flag may be displayed on their gravesites. All flags will be removed without notice as they become soiled, faded or otherwise unsightly.
- F. Flowers, plants or other modifications are the private responsibility of relatives etc. If in the judgement of the Cemetery Commission these additions are inappropriate, neglected or deteriorated they will be removed. .

General Rules and Exceptions.

- A. Persons within the cemetery grounds shall use only the walkways or roads. Any person injured while on any other portion of the cemetery other than the walks or roads shall in no way hold the Town liable for any injuries sustained.
- B. Besides being subject to the Rules and Regulations, all interments and removals are made subject to the orders and laws of the Town, County and State.
- C. The Caretaker is hereby empowered to enforce all Rules and Regulations and to exclude from the property of the town any person violating the same, and at all times shall have supervision and control of all persons. The Caretaker will use the best interest of the cemetery that may be needed from time to time, to meet emergencies not covered by these Rules and Regulations.
- D. The Cemetery Commissioners reserve the right, without notice, to make exceptions, suspend or modify any of these Rules and Regulations when, in their judgement, the enforcement of a rule may impose unnecessary hardship in a particular case.
- E. The Town of Stoddard reserves the right to correct any errors made by it in the interment, disinterments, or removals or in the description, transfer or conveyance of any interment property.
- F. The Town of Stoddard shall in no way be liable for any delay in the interment of a body where a protest to the interment has been made, or when the Rules and Regulations have not been complied with.

**Stoddard Cemetery Commission
Stoddard Board of Selectmen**

(Ver 09/06/2013)