

Town of Walpole Cemetery Department

Effective: May 3, 2011

Rules and Regulations of the Cemetery Commissioners of the Town of Walpole, Massachusetts, are made for the protection of Lot Owners and in conformity with the Town By-Laws and Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Section I: General Rules

1. The Board of Selectman acts as the Cemetery Commissioners for the Town of Walpole.
2. The Walpole Cemetery Department must perform all grave openings.
3. All business transactions that take place for purchase of lots/graves, openings, foundations or other work shall be checks payable to the TOWN of WALPOLE.
4. Forty- eight hours advance notice is required for all interments.
5. All interments must include a burial permit in accordance with the MGL Chapter 114 and be placed in permanent vault without a split cover.
6. Business hours in Town Cemeteries are from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday.
7. Town Cemeteries will be closed from dusk to dawn.
8. The Superintendent or designee will be in full control of funerals, persons and traffic within the cemeteries.
9. The roads in the cemeteries are built for the Lot Owners and are not to be used for pleasure driving, bicycle riders or as additional off street parking.
10. Cars must not drive over 10 mph in the Town Cemeteries. Drivers must be courteous and exercise caution for pedestrians while driving on cemetery roads.
11. Visitors are requested not to walk across lots unless on their way to visit graves. Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts provide a fine for crossing cemetery lots unless on business.
12. No dogs are allowed on town cemetery property.

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Section I (cont.)

13. No recreational or sports activities are allowed on cemetery property.
14. No climbing or sitting on headstones or monuments.
15. Water conservation will be practiced at all times in the cemeteries. No permanent attachments or sprinklers shall be attached to any water spigots.
16. The Superintendent of Cemeteries shall have sole charge of all plans and maps of Town cemeteries.

Section II: Purchase of Lots and Perpetual Care Requirements

1. Lots and graves are for sale to Walpole residents and their immediate family members only.
2. Non-residents with an immediate family member buried in a Walpole cemetery may purchase grave lots in that cemetery for themselves and immediate family members. Additional cost for the purchase will reflect the most recent Cemetery Fee Schedule.
3. Lots/graves must be paid in full before an interment may be made.
4. Lots and graves shall be held indivisible and upon the death of the owner, the rights and privileges granted shall vest in his/hers heirs-at-law, in accordance with the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
5. The Commissioners must approve the transfer of all lots and graves.
6. The Town may purchase vacant grave lots back from a lot/grave owner. The Commissioners must approve the purchase of the lot/grave. The Town may only reimburse the lot owner for the amount paid at the time of purchase.
7. Two full burials may be interred in one grave, referred to as Extra Depth, only if the conditions permit.

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Section II (cont.)

8. Persons wishing to obtain a lot/grave must contact the Superintendent's office first.
9. Once a lot/grave has been selected and payment received, the Superintendent shall send notice immediately to the Town Treasurer of such purchase and the Treasurer will prepare the deed in duplicate of the lot(s)/grave.
10. Both the Treasurer and the Town Clerk shall sign the deed after the Treasurer has received payment for said Lot/grave. The deed will then be notarized and registered in the Treasurer's record journal and in the Town Clerk's office of permanent record. A copy of the deed shall be sent to the Superintendent to be filed with the Cemetery records.
11. The original deed shall be delivered only to the owner or the Funeral Director in charge of the burial, whoever has paid for it, by the office of the Town Treasurer.
12. Perpetual Care shall be made a part of all deeds from 1972 on; fee shall be set by the Cemetery Commissioners.
13. Lots and graves, for which no payment of Perpetual Care has been made for (20) years, shall be charged extra to reflect the most recent cemetery fee schedule for an interment that shall go towards Perpetual Care.

Section III: MONUMENTS

1. Monuments and markers may be erected subject to the approval of the Superintendent.
2. All monuments in new sections, developed after 1971, in all town cemeteries shall be of uniform size as follows:
 - 1 grave: 2-2' x 1-2' x 3-0' high
 - 2 graves: 3-0' x 1-0' x 3-0' high
 - 3 or 4 graves: 3-6' x 1-0' x 3-0' high
3. Cenotaphs will only be permitted in the sections of Town Cemetery developed before 1971 and must require a special permit from the Commissioners. A sketch And size must be submitted for approval.

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Section III (cont.)

4. Only one monument will be allowed on a lot under the guidelines established under these Rules and Regulations. Veteran's flat marker for those who qualify would be exempt. The Commissioners must approve any waivers for these Rules and Regulations
5. The Cemetery Department must install all foundations for monuments. A sketch and size must be submitted for approval.
6. All work of setting and handling of monuments will be under the supervision of the Cemetery Department.
7. Orders for foundations for Memorial Day will not be accepted after the 10th of May. Orders for foundations will not be accepted after the 1st of November until the frost is out of the ground in the spring, at the discretion of the Cemetery Superintendent or his designee.
8. Lettering on existing monuments will not be authorized until a signed request for such work is received by the Superintendent from the lot owner.
9. Payments for foundations must be made before monument is set.
10. The charge for foundations is per square foot and in accordance to the most recent Cemetery Fee Schedule.
11. Flat markers made of bronze will be set in concrete and a per- square- foot fee will apply. The only exception to this fee will be the Veterans bronze markers.
12. The Cemetery Department is not responsible for any damage to monuments, benches or markers.
13. Granite benches are allowed on the grave lots, with the maximum dimension of the benches not to exceed 48"L X 16" W X 14" H. Ground conditions must be suitable for the placement of a bench and set by Monument Installers only.

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Section IV: Flowers and Shrubs

1. Planting or work of any nature on lots may be done only after permission has been secured from the Superintendent.
2. Lot owners are responsible for maintenance of all shrubs and plantings. The cemetery department reserves the right to remove any shrubs, plantings, potted plants, baskets and flowers that are not properly maintained or are overgrown on the lot.
3. Metal holders for cut flowers are permitted in all areas of the cemetery.
4. The Cemetery Superintendent shall have placed in all cemeteries suitable containers for the disposal of materials and decorations.
5. The Cemetery Department is not responsible for any flowers or decorations placed on graves. Any decorations or items left on the graves deemed to be inappropriate or offensive will be removed without notice or recourse.

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Active Town of Walpole Cemeteries:

Maple Grove Cemetery	5.56 Acres	Kendall St.	Central Walpole
Rural Cemetery	6.54 Acres	Pemberton St.	North Walpole
Terrace Hill Cemetery	8.20 Acres	Washington St.	South Walpole
Plains Cemetery	1.50 Acres	Kingsbury St.	West Walpole

Historical Burial Grounds:

Old Burial Ground	.51 Acres	Main & Kendall St.
Guild Burial ground	.30 Acres	Old Post Rd.
Blake Lot		Walpole Town Forest
Abigail Hartshorn Smith Tomb		1385 Washington St. (DPW garage)

Telephone number for Town Cemetery (508) 660-7382

Private Active Cemeteries in Walpole

Saint Francis Cemetery:	Washington St, South Walpole Managed by Blessed Sacrament Church 808 East St, Walpole Tel. (508) 668-4700
East Walpole Cemetery	Pleasant St., East Walpole Managed by the Trustees of the Reservations Tel. (508) 668-6136



RULES

and

REGULATIONS

Adopted by the

Walpole Cemetery Commissioners

For all cemeteries under the control

of the

TOWN OF WALPOLE

**Nancy Mackenzie
Eric Kraus
Michael C. Berry
Clifton Snuffer
Christopher G. Timson**

**Robert LeBlanc
Superintendent of Cemeteries**

**Lawrence McDavitt
Cemetery Foreman**