

TOWN OF EUSTIS, CEMETERY ORDINANCE

Hours of Operation

The normal operating hours of the Town of Eustis cemeteries shall be from dawn to dusk.

Restricted Activities

Any gathering not in keeping with the purpose and dignity of a cemetery is prohibited. No dogs or other domestic animals, other than service dogs, shall be allowed in cemeteries. Such allowed animals may not be allowed to run free and each owner must pick up their animal waste and prevent them from urinating on any grave monument or marker. Town cemeteries are for the burial of human dead and no pet burials are allowed.

Sexton

The Town of Eustis shall appoint a sexton each year to ensure that all graves dug are done so in accordance with accepted practice as determined by the sexton.

Headstones, Lot Markers and Corner Markers

The location of headstones, lot markers and corner markers shall be approved by the sexton prior to placement. The sexton shall be contacted at least 48 hours prior to placement of headstones, lot markers or corner markers. The sexton may charge for this service. Concrete foundations are required under all headstones and monuments above ground, except grass (flush) markers.

In the event of multiple urn burials consisting of more than two per burial plot, the sexton may require grass markers instead of standing monuments on the interior of the lot which would impede mowing and proper caretaking of that lot.

Adornment of Gravesites

Glass is prohibited in order to ensure the safety of the grounds crew. Artificial flowers must be placed in containers. The Town or their designee reserves the right to cause the removal of trees or shrubs planted on a gravesite which become dangerous or detrimental. Such trees or shrubs may be removed only after reasonable attempts have been made by the Town Office to contact the lot owner or other responsible party (contact will be made to the last known lot owner via registered letter/return receipt). No hedges, fencing, walls, curbing, railings or similar structures or enclosures shall be erected around gravesites. All summer decorations must be removed by October 15th, and all winter decorations must be removed by May 1st.

Vaults

Vaults are required for all burials, except direct burial urns.

Authority for Removal of Items Placed on Gravesites

The Town reserves the right to trim any vegetation or remove any items which are contrary to this ordinance, or which have become unsightly or unsafe, and no longer contribute to the beauty and dignity of the cemetery. The Town is not responsible for any items removed.

Burial season

New burials can commence no earlier than May 1st. A delay of the burial season may depend current ground conditions such as frost, ice or snow. The end of the burial season depends on frost and or snow conditions. No burials will take place when the ground is covered with snow unless the grave is already opened.

Multiple purchasing of Lots

Anyone wishing to purchase two or more burial lots must first seek permission from the Town of Eustis Board of Selectmen.

Cemetery lot ownership determination

Anyone who wishes to be buried in a Eustis town cemetery (including cremains and urns) must either own the burial lot or have permission from the current lot owner(s). Burial by assumption that they are a family member of a deceased original lot owner is not allowed through this town ordinance and according to state law. Proof of ownership is at the discretion of the sexton, or the Board of Selectmen, and must be in the form of either:

1. The original burial lot deed. Whoever has the original deed will be assumed the rightful owner.
2. Proof that the lot was legally obtained through such devices as a will, probate court, or legal transfer of ownership.
3. Everyone must be in agreement that a burial can occur in the event of multiple owners who have legal joint ownership of a particular burial lot.