

Truro Cemetery Commission

Rules & Regulations for All Public Burial Grounds

Truro, Massachusetts 02666



1. Lots shall not be used for any other purposes than for the burial of human dead.
2. All work done on lots or graves by order of the owner, or by the owner himself, shall be under the supervision of the Cemetery Commission (hereafter "Commission"), whose approval must be obtained for all work and the location of all plantings, curbings, monuments, markers, etc.
3. There are restrictions on the planting of trees, shrubs, hedges, and climbing and creeping plants. All plantings must be approved by the Commission.
4. If any existing trees or shrubs on a lot shall, in the judgment of the Commission, by means of their roots, branches, or otherwise, become detrimental to the lot, or to an adjacent lot, path, or road, or dangerous and inconvenient, the Commission may cause such trees, or shrubs, or parts thereof to be removed.
5. Owners of lots surrounded by curbing are urged to confer with the Commission regarding the desirability of removing the curbing in order to expedite mowing. No installation of new curbing will be permitted, except flush curbing approved by the Commission. All rubbish from any work of any kind must be removed by the person doing the work and the grounds left in good condition.
6. No new fences of any kind will be permitted on lots. Owners of lots presently surrounded by fences are urged to confer with the Commission regarding existing fence posts and rails.
7. Any decorations which are inconsistent with the proper keeping of the grounds will not be allowed.
8. Rustic baskets, wire frames, old bouquets, tin cans, bottles, dead plants, trees, or shrubs, and all other decorations may be removed from lots and graves when they become unsightly in the opinion of the Commission, or anyone in the employ of the Commission. It is understood that any flowers, plants, etc., put there by the owner or members of their family are to be removed by them within a reasonable time.
9. The Town shall not be responsible for injury to stones, monuments, markers, or lots by vandals or any persons not in the employ of the Town.
10. Grave markers, headstones, and corner bounds must be installed flush and must have a foundation the full size of the base of the markers extending down to the level of the vault. Foundations for central monuments must be of concrete and the full size of the base, extending below the surface of the lot at least 4 feet 6 inches (4'6"). Two inches of cement and concrete outside of the monument foundation must be used. Prior to installation of a monument, markers, or corner bounds, a "Permit to Install" must be obtained from the Commission.
11. All monuments and markers shall be of a design and character approved by the Commission.
12. No monument susceptible to disintegration or corrosion, such as limestone, sandstone, cement, iron, or wood will be permitted.

Truro Cemetery Commission

Rules & Regulations for All Public Burial Grounds

Truro, Massachusetts 02666

13. All monuments shall be located on the lot by the Commission according to the plan for that particular lot.
14. The size of the monument is governed by the size of the lot and by the particular section in which the lot is located. In general, a monument shall not exceed two-thirds of the plot width in length; one foot width, and a maximum height of 38 inches (38"). Monuments of other sizes must meet the approval of the Commission.
15. No tomb shall be constructed or allowed.
16. All workers in any capacity within the confines of the cemetery are subject to the direction of the Commission. Workers who do not comply with the regulations and proprieties of the place will not be permitted in the future to work in the cemetery.
17. Only one monument will be allowed per lot (minimum area 10 feet by 10 feet). Only flush markers will be permitted on smaller lots.
18. A permanent vault of some type is required.
19. No grave may be opened without permission being granted by a Cemetery Commissioner.
20. In case of cremation, a copy of the certificate issued by the crematory must be filed with the Town Clerk before the burial of cremains.
21. Burials, including cremains, in lots not covered by perpetual care shall not be permitted, unless arrangements are made in advance of burial for payment of perpetual care for that lot at the current prevailing rate. It shall be the responsibility of the person making arrangements for the burial to contact the Commission regarding payment for perpetual care.
22. Full payment for new lots must be made prior to any burial.
23. Sale of lots for speculative purposes or as security for a debt is prohibited. Any lot that has had an interment shall not be sold. At the request of the owner of one or more lots in a Town cemetery, the Commission will make available to the public the owner's lot(s), but the Commission will not buy back the lot(s). In the case of hardship, as determined at the sole discretion of the Commission, the Commission will place an article on the next Annual Town Meeting warrant requesting voter approval to buy back an owner's lot in a Town cemetery at the original cost. The purchase of cornerbounds is not refundable and must be removed prior to ownership transfer.

Truro Cemetery Commission

Rules & Regulations for All Public Burial Grounds

Truro, Massachusetts 02666

24. A lot shall be indivisible. Subject to Massachusetts General Laws, Ch. 114, Sect. 29, upon the death of the grantee the devisee of said lot, or the heir at law, shall be entitled to all the privileges of the original grantee, and if there be more than one devisee or heir at law, and they shall not in writing notify the Commission which of the heirs or devisees shall represent the said lot, the Commission shall not be held liable for any actions as a result of this. When any lot passes from the original grantee to an heir at law all rules and regulations as have been, or may be adopted hereafter, shall apply.
25. When two or more persons have rights of ownership in the same lot, they shall designate in writing to the Commission which one of them shall represent the lot. Upon their failure to do so, the Commission shall enter on the records which of said persons shall represent the lot while such failure continues.
26. Interments of two bodies in one grave will not be allowed, except in the case of a mother and infant child. Not more than two (2) cremains in urns or boxes measuring no more than 10 inches by 10 inches by 10 inches will be allowed in one grave (5 feet by 10 feet). (29) The marker at said lot shall accommodate all inscriptions. (36.) Interment of one body and one cremation will be allowed in a single grave.
27. Automobiles, trucks, bicycles, motorcycles, or foot passengers will not be allowed to use the roads or paths as a thoroughfare. Vehicles must not be turned in the cemetery.
28. A lot shall be holden subject to all by-laws, rules, regulations, and restrictions made and to be made by the Commission, and any acts of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts which may affect same.
29. See no. 26, as amended.
30. Sale of lots will be to residents of Truro, owners of property and tax payers in Truro. The Commissioners will have the authority to make exceptions.
31. All cornerbounds will be flush and lettered.
32. All single graves will have 4 inch cornerbounds.
33. Raised flushmarkers are not allowed.
34. With the sale of new lots an offer can be made to have the Commission install cornerbounds with a check from the purchaser to the vendor to accomplish same.
35. Future lots sold in the Old North Cemetery will be a minimum size of 10 feet by 10 feet (3 burials).
36. See no. 26 and 29, as amended.

Truro Cemetery Commission

Rules & Regulations for All Public Burial Grounds

Truro, Massachusetts 02666

THE FOLLOWING RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL PERTAIN TO THE NEW SOUTH CEMETERY:

1. Lot size is 4 feet by 10 feet and may be purchased in clusters.
2. Purchaser must place corner bounds within a month after purchase.
Bounds shall be 4 inches by 4 inches and placed flush to the ground level.
3. Only single flush markers with adequate foundations will be permitted.
Inscriptions are to be placed on the flush markers.
4. Six cremations will be permitted in a single grave.
5. Until further notice the Cemetery will consist of the ellipse, phase one area only.
6. All plantings will be restricted to the native plants found in the New South Cemetery.

THE FOLLOWING SHALL PERTAIN TO GREEN BURIALS:

1. Green burial is allowed in a designated area of the Old North Cemetery marked with a fence and sign.
2. Green burial will be allowed in the New South Cemetery Expansion Section when it is developed.
3. In the designated green burial areas:
 - a. No burial vault is required.
 - b. The deceased should not be embalmed.
 - c. A burial container is not required, but if used, should be biodegradable and free of toxic materials.
 - d. Burial depth is be 4 feet to the bottom of the container or shroud.
 - e. Graves must be mounded to allow for return to natural state.
 - f. All decorations must be of natural elements or biodegradable materials.
 - g. Grave markers must be a flat natural or quarried stone, no larger than 2 ft. x 1ft. set directly without foundation.

AMENDMENTS AND EXCEPTIONS

Upon a determination of undue hardship or unfairness in any given instance, the Commission reserves the right to make exceptions to these rules and regulations, and such exceptions shall not be construed as a revision of these rules and regulations.