



# Town of Freetown • Assonet Burying Ground Rules and Regulations

October 1, 2007

## I. General Rules

- 1.01 The cemetery is open from 7:00 a.m. till sunset. From June through September, the cemetery closes at 7:00 p.m.
- 1.02 During winter months, visitors enter the cemetery at their own risk when roads are covered with snow and ice.
- 1.03 The speed limit on all cemetery roads is 15 MPH.
- 1.04 Disposing of household garbage within the cemetery shall be considered fineable littering.
- 1.05 Automobiles, pick-up trucks, hearses, limousines, and bicycles are the only vehicles permitted within the cemetery.
- 1.06 Dogs are prohibited within the cemetery at all times, other than "seeing eye dogs."
- 1.07 Alcohol is not permitted within the cemetery at any time.
- 1.08 The Town will take every reasonable precaution to protect the private property of lot and grave owners within each cemetery from loss or damage, but it disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond its control, especially from the acts of thieves and vandals, and from Acts of God. Due to the age and terrain of the town's cemeteries, they have many inherent hazards. Entry upon cemetery grounds is the acceptance of these risks, releasing the Town of Freetown of any and all liability and/or claims.

## II. Sales of Lots & Burials

- 2.01 A single grave shall measure five feet wide and ten feet long. These general proportions shall be maintained for lots consisting of multiple graves.
- 2.02 All lots shall be marked with a flat or upright headstone within two months of purchase. Corner posts must be made of a permanent material, set at ground level, and be installed at the same time as the headstone.
- 2.03 Funerals may begin no earlier than 9:00 a.m., and may end no later than 5:00 p.m.
- 2.04 All interments will be arranged by a private licensed undertaker who is responsible for notifying the Town in writing at least 72 hours before any interment takes place. All interments shall be in a permanent container such as cement or bronze vaults or in a concrete sectional vault.
- 2.05 Anyone owning and wishing to sell a cemetery lot must sell it back to the Town. The person selling will be paid what they originally paid for the lot, not including perpetual care, and the Town will resell at the prevailing price. This shall apply to graves originally sold by the Town on or after October 1, 2007.

## III. Decorations

- 3.01 American flags placed on the graves of veterans, and markers for holding such flags, are under the sole care and custody of the Veterans' Agent, and shall not be moved or removed except under his guidance and direction.
- 3.02 Shrubs should never exceed the height of the stone. Live flowers and small plants may be planted within twelve inches of the front of a gravestone.
- 3.03 Temporary decorations and markers must be durable, suitably anchored, and easily removable. Temporary decorations become the property of the Town as soon as they are placed and can be removed or modified at any time without notice. The Town will not be held liable to any owner for the cost of such items.
- 3.04 If artificial or cut flowers or potted plants are used, the Town reserves the right to remove them when they are unsightly. This would also apply to wreaths, baskets of greens, and any other objects that have become unsightly.
- 3.05 Glass/ceramic containers or ornaments, crushed stone, and other decorations which might interfere with mowing are not acceptable and may be removed without notice.
- 3.06 Christmas wreaths must be removed by January 31st, or they will be removed by the Town.
- 3.07 No objects or plantings shall be placed more than twelve (12) inches in front of the monument.
- 3.08 According to state law, no eternal flames may be used.