

# TOWN OF HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS



## CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS

## **TOWN OF HADLEY CEMETERY REGULATIONS**

These regulations apply to the following town-owned cemeteries:

Old Hadley Cemetery located on Cemetery Road  
North Hadley Cemetery located on River Road  
Hockanum Cemetery located on Hockanum Road  
Russellville Cemetery located on River Road  
Plainville Cemetery located on MT. Warner Road

### **HOURS**

All Town-owned cemeteries are open to the public during daylight hours only. However, cemeteries will be closed during winter since snow plowing is not permitted due to the proximity of monuments and interment markers to pathways and gravel driveways.

### **FUNERALS**

Interments are allowed when weather conditions permit. During winter months when the ground is frozen and snow is present, interments must be deferred until Hadley's Interment Specialists determine soil conditions are favorable to prepare the grave site.

### **FLAGS**

Only American flags related to military service are to be displayed. Placing of flags must be approved by the Hadley Cemetery Committee or DPW Director or designee.

### **PLANTINGS**

Artificial plants and flowers may be displayed during winter months only. Live, annual plants are to be planted within plot boundaries. In accordance with past protocol, no trees, shrubs, or perennials may be planted on plots or within the entire cemetery boundaries. Any existing plants or shrubs that extend beyond plot lines or obscure monuments will be pruned or removed to maintain the appearance of the site. Floral displays will be removed when they become unsightly.

### **BURIAL MONUMENTS/INTERMENT MARKERS**

Only one upright monument is allowed per plot. Its height must not exceed four feet. Where the deed includes multiple, adjacent plots one monument may span the entire deeded lot. In addition to the one monument, interment markers may be located within each plot. The dimensions of interment markers must not exceed two feet in length and foot in width. When installed, the top of the interment marker must be even with the soil line.

### **BURIAL MONUMENT STYLE**

In keeping with the character of burial monuments in the cemeteries, neither porcelain nor metal attachments to upright burial monuments is permitted. Memorial benches are not allowed, unless they are designed and placed as a headstone/monument for at least two

adjacent plots. Monuments and interment markers must rest upon a foundation sufficient to support the entire monument/marker.

### **SALE OF PLOTS**

All plots must be purchased together with Perpetual Care. Copies of Deed and Perpetual Care document will be on file with the Town Clerk and may not be altered without the approval of the Town Clerk. The owner(s) of plot(s) may transfer ownership with the approval of the Cemetery Committee or DPW Director or designee. A revised deed will need to be executed and filed with the Town Clerk.

### **BUY BACK OF PLOTS**

The Town of Hadley will consider buying back of previously sold unused plot(s) from purchasers or heirs in accordance with procedures established by the town. The request for buy back must be in writing and is subject to the approval of the Cemetery Committee or DPW Director or designee. Reimbursement will be in the amount of the original purchase price and is also subject to the availability of funds.

### **CREMATION INTERMENTS**

Each plot (typically 3-4 feet wide by 10-12 feet long) may contain no more than one full burial and up to four cremation burials unless otherwise approved by the Cemetery Committee or DPW Director or designee.

### **PERPETUAL CARE**

Perpetual care includes general maintenance, grass mowing and trimming, and cleanup of cemetery grounds, but does not include the maintenance, repair or replacement of monuments or markers, unless damaged by the town.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

No metal detectors are allowed. No pets are allowed. There shall be no food packages, beverage containers, toys, flags, balloons, or other memorabilia left at grave sites. These and other items deemed inappropriate to the overall appearance of the cemetery will be removed by the town.