

STANDARD & PRINCIPLES

2024 EDITION



HOPEDALE VILLAGE CEMETERY



WELCOME TO
**HOPEDALE VILLAGE
CEMETERY**

FUNDAMENTALS

Hopedale Village Cemetery, established in 1847, is a non-sectarian, nonprofit cemetery. A grave or lot in the cemetery can only be purchased by residents or former residents of Hopedale. The cemetery grounds are private property and are regulated by a Board of Trustees and run by cemetery superintendents and staff. Cameras are in place for the safety and security of visitors.

Rules, Regulations, and Prices are subject to change without notice.

No more than four single grave sites or two double grave sites can be purchased by individuals, groups, or religious organizations. Requests for the purchase of more than the amounts stated are subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

The cemetery will not be responsible for any monument, marker, or for any flowers placed on graves. Funeral flowers and baskets will be discarded within one week after a funeral. All Christmas and winter decorations (i.e., wreaths, baskets, etc.) must be removed by the last Sunday in March and all summer flowers must be removed by the third Sunday in October.

The Superintendent has the authority to close the cemetery for snow removal, ice, mud, or extremely high wind conditions, to ensure the safety of lot owners and visitors.

GRAVES AND LOTS

A grave or lot in the cemetery can be bought by residents or former residents of Hopedale only. All graves and lots must be paid IN FULL at the time of purchase.

A lot owner who desires a larger lot can transfer the original lot back to the cemetery and the amount will be applied to the cost of the larger lot, provided the original lot has NOT been used for a burial.

A lot owner may sell the lot back to the cemetery Trustees for the original purchase price provided the lot has not been used.

A lot owner may sell an unused grave or graves or may grant to a relative the right of burial in an unused grave with the permission of the cemetery's Board of Trustees. The lot owner must sign an order of interment which shall be filed with the official records of said lot or lots. The sale of cemetery lots is regulated under Chapter 114 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PERPETUAL CARE

The cost of perpetual care is included in the total price of the lot. Perpetual care covers the maintenance of the surface of lots or graves, the mowing of grass, the removal of leaves and natural debris, but does not include care of any kind to monuments, markers, or bushes, shrubs or plants placed on the grave by the owner.

FUNERALS

A notice of 48-hours is required for all interments. Interment fees must be paid in advance or by the Funeral Director at the time of the funeral and must be accompanied by the usual burial permit. The Superintendent may »

» refuse to make an interment until a more expedient time if too many funerals are scheduled for the same day.

There will be no funerals on the following holidays:

- ∞ *New Year's Day*
- ∞ *Memorial Day*
- ∞ *Independence Day*
- ∞ *Labor Day*
- ∞ *Veterans Day*
- ∞ *Thanksgiving Day*
- ∞ *Christmas Day*

FOUNDATIONS AND MONUMENTS

A lot owner must sign a work order allowing monument companies to do work. Only one upright stone is allowed per lot. Monument benches must have the approval of the Board of Trustees. New mausoleums are no longer allowed in Hopedale Village Cemetery.

Largest allowed stone sizes:

- ∞ *Single grave site: 2'6" w x 1'2" d x 3' h*
- ∞ *Two abutting grave sites: 3'6" w x 1'2" d x 3'6" h*
- ∞ *Four abutting grave sites: 5' w x 1'2" d x 3'6" h*

Cemetery personnel will place military markers on grave lots if requested by the lot owner. No military markers will be placed on lots after November 1st. Requests received after November 1st will be scheduled for spring.

PLANTING & DECORATIONS

The planting of flowers should be within 12 inches of the side or front of gravestones. Lot owners may plant a shrub or bush on either side of the monument space. Shrubs or bushes planted on lots are restricted to a height of three feet or less at full growth. No planting of any kind is allowed behind the headstone or monument.

The cemetery reserves the right to remove, without notice, any planting made in violation of the foregoing regulations and to charge the lot owner for the expense incurred.

No enclosures of any nature (fences, bricks or stones) are allowed around headstones or flower beds. The Superintendent may prevent or remove any erection or enclosure and remove or prune any trees or shrubs deemed to be unsightly or injurious to the immediate locality, or to the general good appearance of the grounds.

Potted plants or flower baskets will be permitted but can be removed without notice if they are deemed to be unsightly. A lot owner is permitted to have lot improvements made subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.

The cemetery will exercise reasonable care in inspecting trees and removing in whole or part, those apparently in unsound or dangerous condition. But it expressly disclaims responsibility for injury or damage either to persons or property resulting from trees or parts thereof falling from natural causes.

Perpetual candles and solar lights are allowed on grave sites but must not be too bright (maximum intensity of up to approximately 10 lumens). Lights that are deemed too bright will be removed and kept in the cemetery's »

» stone staff building for 30 days before being discarded. Lights should be placed within 12 inches of the sides or front of the stone. No solar spotlights are allowed. No lights are allowed behind the headstone or monument.

Headstone saddles and any decorative artificial flowers should be securely attached to the stone as these items can dislodge in high winds. Any headstone additions – saddles, lights, pottery, etc. – that have become dislodged from the grave area will be removed and stored in the stone building on the grounds and kept for at least 30 days. Any not claimed within 30 days will be discarded.

PROHIBITED

Hopedale Village Cemetery is private property. No vehicles are allowed on the property except on cemetery business or to visit the premises. No trucks are allowed on the property except through the express permission of the cemetery Superintendents. No dumping is allowed on cemetery property. The Cemetery is not responsible for lost or damaged items left on grave lots. Items found without identification will be kept for 30 days before being discarded.

Dogs and other pets are not permitted on cemetery grounds.

Wind chimes, metal plant hangers (shepherd hooks, etc.), balloons, breakable objects, and other similar adornments to grave areas are prohibited and will be removed.

Non-decorative items will be considered trash and discarded immediately. The cost of any clean-up by cemetery staff may be charged to repeat offenders.

No alcoholic beverages are allowed on cemetery property. Any alcoholic beverages or containers left on the property will be discarded.

The Hopedale Village Cemetery Board of Trustees reserves the right to modify these regulations without prior notice.

Physical Address:
1 Fitzgerald Dr.
Hopedale, MA 01747

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 86
Hopedale, MA 01747

contact@hopedalevillagecemetery.org

<http://www.hopedalevillagecemetery.org>

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