



TOWN OF WENHAM
Cemetery Department
Wenham, Massachusetts

RULES & REGULATIONS OF

Main Street Cemetery
Main Street Wenham, MA
&
Iron Rail Cemetery
Rubbly Road Wenham, MA

**Town of Wenham
Main Street & Iron Rail Cemeteries
Wenham, MA 01984**

RULES & REGULATIONS

I. Introduction

The Wenham Cemetery Commission is charged with the supervision of operations and rules to maintain burial grounds for the Town of Wenham with the help and cooperation of the Wenham Highway Department.

It is the goal of the Wenham Cemetery Commission to create and maintain traditional New England cemeteries which are peaceful and lovely resting grounds for the citizens of Wenham and it is to further these goals and maintain these cemeteries that these rules are designed and printed.

II. Cemetery Hours

The Cemeteries will be open daily for visitors and owners of plots from 7:00am until dusk. Any unauthorized person found within the Cemetery outside the prescribed opening hours may be deemed a trespasser and as such will be liable to prosecution.

III. Office Hours

All business related to the cemeteries may be done through the Cemetery Department whose office is located in the Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street 2nd Floor, during Town Hall hours, Monday through Thursday 8:30am until 4:30pm and Friday, 8:30am until 1:00pm (these hours are subject to change). This office will be closed on all legal holidays and weekends.

IV. Sale of Lots

Cemetery lots shall not be used for any other purpose than a place of burial for the human dead.

Sale of cemetery plots is restricted to residents of Wenham, town employees or persons who were residents for a significant period of time and their spouses. Wenham residents who are Veterans qualify for burial in the Veterans Section at a reduced cost. In the case of Veterans who died while on active duty or as a direct result of a service related incident are granted a plot at no cost. A spouse may be buried next to any veteran at the full cost for a cemetery plot.

The fee structure is established by the Cemetery Commissioners and is subject to change. Perpetual care of plots comes with the purchase of a plot. This shall consist of grading, seeding of grass, cutting of the grass and raising the plot level, if necessary, to maintain an even ground surface. The fee structure is as follows:

- A) Burial Plot..... \$1000
- B) Cremation Plot..... \$ 500
- C) Veterans Plot..... \$ 500

Description of plots will be at the Cemetery Commissions Office or with Wenham's Burial Agent. It is the duty of the plot owners to notify the office of changes in address.

Anyone desiring to place a mausoleum in the Wenham Cemeteries must purchase one additional plot on both sides of the mausoleum. (For example, a mausoleum which is two plots wide would require the purchase of two plots for the mausoleum and two additional plots, one on each side, for a total of four plots. A mausoleum that fits in one plot would require the purchase of three plots total.)

Transfer of any plot or plots in all cemetery locations shall be done only through the Cemetery Commission office including sales of previously sold lots. The Cemetery Commission may purchase plots in the Main Street Cemetery from valid owners (ones who are in ownership of the deed) who wish to sell them. Plots may be purchased for the original sale price if there is a probable buyer waiting and if the Cemetery Commission feels it has appropriate funds available. A waiting list will be kept of those who desire to obtain plot (s) in the Main Street Cemetery. Plots will be offered by seniority on the list. Prices for the plots will be at current rates.

V. Interment / Disinterment

The Cemetery will be available for openings from 8:00am until 3:30pm Monday through Friday except for legal holidays or any other holiday town unions have in their contracts. Openings may take place on weekends or holidays with additional fees to offset labor costs.

The funeral director is responsible for providing the Burial Agent with a Burial Permit and a check made out to the Town of Wenham for the appropriate opening fee prior to the burial.

There is only one full burial per plot or up to four (4) cremation remains, with the exception of existing vaults. (See fee schedule below) The exception being, that only two (2) are allowed in the smaller “Cremation Plots” sold only in the Iron Rail Cemetery

“Green Burials” are permitted using no concrete vaults and some sort of decomposing coffin, i.e. wood or cardboard at Iron Rail Cemetery **only**.

A special section of the Iron Rail Cemetery is designated for cremation burials. These plots are smaller and sell at a reduced price from a regular plot.

The employees of the cemetery are the only persons who will be permitted to open graves with the following exceptions:

- A) A disinterment by order of a court of competent jurisdiction and a certified copy of such order has been filed with the town.
- B) The coroner directs the disinterment for the purpose of holding an inquest and has filed with the Burial Agent his signed authorization to release the body to himself and his lawful agent.

All disinterment and removal charges must be paid at the time service is rendered.

The fees for services are set by the Cemetery Commission and are subject to change. The fees are as follows:

- A) Full Burial Opening Monday - Friday.....\$ 850
- B) Full Burial Opening Weekends & Holidays.....\$1000
- C) Cremation Opening Monday – Friday.....\$ 400
- D) Cremation Opening Weekends & Holidays.....\$ 750

In case of emergency arising from extreme weather conditions or other cause beyond human control, or because of any other extenuating circumstances, the Burial Agent may at his discretion post-pone a scheduled interment/disinterment.

VI. Grave Markers / Plantings / Decorations

No raised headstones are allowed in the cremation section of the Iron Rail Cemetery. Grave markers must be stone or bronze plaques set flush with the ground. No planting is allowed in the cremation section. Two sets of remains are allowed to be buried in the same cremation plot. If a person wishes to have their remains buried and have a headstone, they must be buried in a regular plot or one of the few cremation plots located in the regular burial section.

All grave markers in the cemetery must be of natural stone or bronze plaques. Any other markers must be approved by the Cemetery Commission prior to installation. In the Veterans Section at Iron Rail Cemetery, all graves shall be marked with the granite headstones supplied by the United States Government to Veterans at no cost. Spouse's graves must be marked with granite headstones of the exact dimensions as the government markers. The purpose of this is to create and maintain a dignified military appearance in this section.

The Cemetery Commission reserves the right to install all marker foundations. Fees for installation must be paid in full before work will commence. Request for a foundation shall come from the monument company and shall state the plot number and the name of the plot owner.

Military markers will be installed by the Town of Wenham at no charge.

Plantings are allowed, but restricted to the owned plot. Plantings tend to grow larger and spread, so they must be maintained to the plot boundaries. Plantings that are not maintained will be pruned or removed at the discretion of the Cemetery Commission.

Grave decorations of cut flowers must be removed no later than five days after placement. Living plants in pots may be set in the ground. They must be maintained by the family of the deceased and may be removed if they die or become unsightly. Visible plastic pots, markers, and decorations as well as candles, hooks, solar lights or other non-natural materials are not allowed and will be removed. No food, bird seed, or other consumables are permitted.

Benches may be installed, but only if made of natural stone and with prior approval of the Cemetery Commission and must be sited on an owned plot and cover no more than 50% of the plot.

VII. Grounds

Operators of vehicles both public and town operated, within the Cemetery must drive with care, at a low rate of speed and follow paved paths at all times, avoiding grassed areas, and never blocking entrances and exits.

No dogs, leashed or unleashed, are permitted on cemetery grounds.

All persons in the cemetery shall avoid conduct unbecoming a sacred place. Loud talk or noise, sports activities, peddling or soliciting or the placing of signs are prohibited.

The Highway Department will maintain trees and shrubs within the cemeteries for the purpose of general appearances, but will not maintain individual lot plantings.

No cutting of flowers, trees or shrubs is permitted in the cemeteries.

Special care of plots through an established Flower Fund is possible and subject to conditions set by the Cemetery Commission. Inquires regarding the flower fund, please contact the Cemetery Commission's Office.

Out of respect, all work in the Cemetery within sight or sound of an opening shall cease.