



From the office of
Cemetery Commission

RULES & REGULATIONS

GOVERNING TOWN OWNED CEMETERIES

INTERMENTS & BURIAL RIGHTS

1. Lots and single grave plots are sold by the issuance of a deed, prepared by the town clerk and certified by the cemetery commission. (A lot can be up to eight single grave plots 20'X20'SF. A plot is one full size grave 5'X10'SF.) Cremation graves are 14"DX12WX16" L.
2. No lot or single grave plot purchased is to be resold, transferred or given away. In the event a lot or grave is no longer wanted it will be returned to the town and the original purchase price will be refunded to the original buyer.
3. For existing lots or single grave plots where the original purchaser(s) has/have passed away, the designated next of kin, by documentation is recognized as the rightful owner in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws. This designated person shall notify the Cemetery Commission in writing with proof of their ownership which will be entered into the town records. Failure to notify the Cemetery Commission may cause delays when an interment is needed.
4. All lots and single grave plots are sold in accordance with the current fee schedule and include perpetual care to be paid prior to the issuance of a deed. Only a Bank Cashier's Check will be accepted. There are no time payments.
5. The maximum number of burials allowed in one single grave plot will be one full body burial with up to two cremations or 6 cremations with no full body.
6. One monument is allowed per lot of two grave plots or more, not to exceed 3' high x 3' wide x 1' deep to be placed on an attached base. Foundations for monuments shall be constructed of concrete and at least 18" deep. A single grave plot is allowed a monument not to exceed 2' high x 2' wide x 1' deep or flat marker not to exceed 12"X 16". Foundations are not required for markers. Markers will be placed flush to the ground.
7. No interments will take place before payment of all fees to include Perpetual Care, if applicable, a "Burial Permit", and a Death Certificate to accompany an "Interment Order" completed and signed by next of kin, funeral director or a representative and a cemetery commissioner. See, 239 CMR 3.01 and 3.13; M.G.L. c. 114, §45 and §45A.

DESCENT & DISTRIBUTION

1. Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 114, Section 29:
 - If a lot owner dies intestate, the lot descends to the heirs at law, but subject to the provisions of Chapter 190, Section 3.
2. Full body burial shall have cement vaults or cement boxes with solid domed covers. There are no restrictions placed on the type of cremation container, however, the container must fit in the space allotted for the cremation grave.
3. Under no circumstances shall any evergreens or shrubs be planted on any grave lots or single grave plots in any Lakeville Town owned cemetery. Plants may be planted only in front of a monument but shall not exceed eighteen inches from said monument. No plantings are allowed beside or behind a monument. Plants and cut flowers in vases will be removed when wilted or unsightly. Any decorations depicting an event or holiday will be removed within thirty days following the holiday or event. Markers may have potted plants placed upon them. However no in-ground plantings are allowed in front of, behind or aside of marker.
4. No structure or object shall be allowed on a lot or single grave plot that interferes with or obstructs the mowing and maintenance of the cemeteries--such as coping, curbing, fencing, grave mounds, borders, enclosures, vigil lights, wood chips, stone chips, shepherd hooks, urns, statues, etc.
5. The Cemetery Commission has the authority to remove or transplant anything from the lots or single grave plots wherever or whenever the Commission shall deem necessary. The Commission reserves and shall have the right to correct any errors that may be made by it, in making interments, disinterment's or removals or in the description, transfer or conveyance of any interment rights and property, by canceling such conveyance and substituting and conveying in lieu thereof interment property or burial rights of equal and similar location as far as possible. In the event such an error shall involve the interment of the remains of any person in such burial rights or property, the Cemetery Commission shall have the right to remove and/or transfer such remains so interred to such other property or burial rights of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof.

6. The Cemetery Commission Members, Lakeville Highway Department and the Lakeville Town Gravedigger are the only authorized persons to perform maintenance or work in Town owned cemeteries.
7. The Cemetery Commission will exercise all care to protect monuments and markers. It disclaims responsibilities for any damage or loss caused by an act of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, accidents, riots, or order of any military or civil authority.
8. Domestic animals are not allowed in town cemeteries.
9. No rubbings of any kind shall be made of any grave stone, marker, or monument without the written permission of the Cemetery Commission.
10. During the months of December through February when there is ice and snow present it will be at the discretion of the cemetery commission to allow burials.

A Schedule of Cemetery Fees, as well as telephone contact numbers for the Cemetery Commission, are available at the Town Website, **www.lakevillema.org** . Please contact the Cemetery Commission with any questions to these rules and regulations.

The intent of these rules and regulations is to have cemetery order and equality and to ensure that our cemeteries are kept in uniformity with each other and in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws.