Bernardston Cemetery Corporation

Bylaws

Introduction to bylaws.

The staff and trustees of the Bernardston Cemetery Corporation would like to see the natural beauty of the cemetery retained, and ask that certain policies be respected so that all visitors may enjoy the same beauty. Please keep these simple rules in mind as you give care and consideration to any gravesites you attend. Thank You.

1. These bylaws replace any and all bylaws previously established for the Bernardston Cemetery Corporation.

2. These bylaws may be altered or amended at any Trustees’ meeting provided the subject matter has been discussed by a majority of the corporation officers and trustees at least thirty days before the meeting.

3. Burial spaces will be sold only to residents of Bernardston or to close relatives of people already buried on corporation land.

4. Sale price must include cost of space plus perpetual care for the space. No interments shall be permitted or memorial placed in, or on, any property not fully paid for.

5. Any monument stone or marker above ground level must be at head of grave.

6. Monument foundation shall be:
   a. Same depth as grave.
   b. At least five inches larger on all sides than the monument.
c. Put in under supervision of person designated by Trustees.

d. Prior approval must be obtained from the superintendent before any monument or marker may be installed or erected.

7. No interment of any body, or the cremated remains of any body, other than that of a human being, shall be permitted in the cemetery.

8. The utmost care will be exercised in making a disinterment or removal, but the board shall assume no liability for damage to any casket, burial case or urn incurred in making the removal.

9. The burial rights in a lot can only be sold back to the cemetery; and the purchase price shall be equal to the original purchase price. No reimbursement shall be made for perpetual care expense.

10. The dimensions of one burial plot are 3'X 8', which may, as a matter of right, be used to accommodate:

   A. One (1) adult burial vault plus one cremation urn (without vault); or

   B. No burial vault, but up to two cremation urns (without vaults).

Burial of additional cremation urns above the foregoing limits shall be allowed by the Bernardston Cemetery Corporation upon payment of $225 per additional cremation urn (without vault). No single burial plot shall be used to accommodate more than one burial vault.

11. The cemetery grounds will be opened from 7:00 a.m. until sunset.

12. The cemetery shall in no way be held liable for any injuries sustained by anyone while in the cemetery.

   **Conduct within the cemetery.**

13. All persons are prohibited from any disrespectful use of the cemetery grounds. Anyone damaging property, whether owned by the corporation or others, on corporation land shall be liable to arrest, prosecution and payment of any damage. Property shall include in addition to land
and buildings, flags, flowers, shrubbery, trees, monuments, stones, markers and any and all tools and machinery necessary to the ordinary business and maintenance of the cemeteries.

14. Automobiles shall not exceed a speed of 5 miles per hour when driven through the grounds. Snowmobiles, go-carts and other mechanized vehicles are not allowed.

15. Dogs, horses and other domesticated animals shall not be allowed on the cemetery grounds, unless authorized by the Board of Trustees (i.e. Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies.)

16. No signs, notices or advertisements of any kind shall be allowed in the cemetery unless authorized by the cemetery agents or employees.

17. The board of Trustees and Officers and their agents are hereby empowered to enforce all rules and regulations and shall have supervision and control of all persons within the cemetery, including the conduct of funerals, traffic and employees.

**Grave Decorations**

   a. No trees, large shrubs or large bushes are permitted.
   b. Flowers or small shrubs may not intrude on adjacent spaces or walkways.
   c. Trustee's permission must be received before planting small ornamental shrubs.
   d. Any planting of flowers must be at head of grave. Landscape borders for planting at headstone shall be no more than 18" from foundation and only on the east side of foundation and flush to the ground. Plantings must not interfere with walkways, or adjacent spaces.

19. Bernardston Cemetery Corporation reserves the right:
a. at any time and without notice, to remove any dead plants, dead flower or faded artificial flowers when they are considered, by the staff, to be unsightly and no longer be attractive to the grounds;

and

b. and to remove shrubbery or plantings that have been planted incorrectly, have overgrown, or are unsightly. Whenever possible the lot owner will be notified of the need for removal. Otherwise, notification will consist of tagging the item and removal by cemetery personnel within 60 days if not removed by owner.

20. Artificial flowers, such as silk flowers, will be allowed all year long, but subject to being removed as stated in rule 19.

21. NO PLASTIC FLOWERS SHALL BE ALLOWED AT ANY TIME.

22. Special cases may arise in which the literal enforcement of a rule may impose unnecessary hardship. The board reserves the right, without notice, to make exceptions, suspensions, or modifications in any of these rules and regulations when it seems advisable. Such temporary exception, suspension or modification shall in no way be construed as affecting the general application of such rule.

Adopted- April, 1989
Revised- April 11, 1994
Revised- July 11, 2011