

TOWN OF GRANVILLE, VT
CEMETERY COMMISSION
GRANVILLE CEMETERY REGULATIONS (2026)

SUMMARY

The purpose of the Cemetery Commission bylaws is to ensure legal interment and respectful decorum in the Granville cemeteries. These rules are intended to safeguard the sanctity of our honored dead and the common spaces they share.

1. All burials, exhumations, stone placements, and work done in a Town of Granville cemetery must have the approval of the Cemetery Commission. The sexton will record all burials with the Town Clerk directly after the burial. All other work will be recorded in the records of the Cemetery Commission.
2. Corner stones are required for all burial sites. Markers shall be obtained and installed as soon as possible by a registered monument company.
3. All graves must be permanently marked. The Cemetery Commission shall approve the size and style of the principal family monument. All markers other than the principal monument shall be at ground level.
4. The right to plant permanent herbage, flowers, shrubs, or trees is the explicit authority of the Cemetery Commission. Any planting done without permission will grant the Cemetery Commission the right to remove plantings as it sees fit.
5. Artificial, impermanent, and/or manmade structures will be removed when they become unsightly or at the end of the season, no later than November 1st every year.
6. The sale or resale of any Cemetery lot must be approved by the Commission.

LOTS AND PRICES

4-person	9' x 18'	(4 caskets or 8 cremains)	\$1200
2-person	9' x 9'	(2 caskets or 4 cremains)	\$ 600
Single	9' x 4.5'	(1 casket or 2 cremains)	\$ 300

A full copy of cemetery rules and regulations is available from the Cemetery Commission or the Granville Town Clerk.

The following rules and regulations have been adopted by the Granville Cemetery Commission for the Elmwood, North Hollow and South Hollow cemeteries. All lot owners and visitors within the cemeteries, and all lots sold, shall be subject to these rules and regulations.

SECTION I. DEFINITIONS

1. CEMETERY

The term cemetery is hereby defined to include a burial park for earth interments, a community mausoleum for vault or crypt interments, a crematory or crematorium and columbarium for cinerary interments, or a combination of one or more than one thereof.

2. CERTIFICATE OF OWNERSHIP

The term certificate of ownership shall apply to the original conveyance given by the cemetery to the original purchaser.

3. COMMISSION

The term Commission shall mean the person or persons duly elected by the town for the purpose of conducting and administering the cemetery.

4. INTERMENT

The term interment shall mean the permanent disposition of the remains of a deceased person by cremation and inurnment, entombment or burial.

5. LOT

The term lot shall apply to numbered divisions as shown on the record plat which consist of two or more plots.

6. LOT MARKER

The term lot marker refers to any means used by the cemetery to locate corners of the lot or grave.

7. MARKER

The term marker means a memorial flush with the ground.

8. MEMORIAL

The term memorial shall include a monument, marker, tablet, headstone, private mausoleum or tomb for family or individual use, tombstone coping, lot enclosure, urn, and crypt and niche place.

9. MONUMENT

The term monument shall include a tombstone or memorial of granite or marble which shall extend above the surface of the ground.

10. PLOT

The term plot shall apply to a space of sufficient size to accommodate one adult/casket or two urns/cremains of approximately four feet by nine feet.

SECTION II. GENERAL RULES

The Town of Granville, a municipality, organized and existing under the laws of the state of Vermont, owns and operates Elmwood, North Hollow, and South Hollow cemeteries in accordance with the laws of the state of Vermont. It reserves the right to refuse the use of any of the cemetery facilities at any time to any person or persons whom the Commission may deem objectionable to the best interest of the cemetery.

RULE 1

All fees or charges for services are payable at the Town Clerk's office as herein stated. Patrons of the cemetery are requested not to pay any fee or gratuity to any cemetery employee.

RULE 2

Respectful decorum is expected at all times in the cemetery. Visitors should use only designated roads and footpaths in the cemetery and should avoid walking upon or across lots. They should refrain from picking flowers, breaking or injuring all plantings, and defacing or damaging all structures within the cemetery. Lewd or loud behavior is strictly forbidden.

RULE 3

Vehicles are prohibited from parking on or driving through cemeteries unless their owners are performing necessary maintenance of gravesites or landscape or are paying respects to the interred. All vehicles should stay on designated roads, unless granted allowance by the sexton.

RULE 4

Decoration of lots and monuments with memorabilia, such as toys, chairs, cans and bottles, and similar ornaments, is discouraged. The Commission reserves the right to remove such objects.

RULE 5

The Commission reserves the right to adopt additional rules and regulations or to amend, alter or repeal and rule or regulation at any time. All alterations and amendments will be sufficiently warned.

SECTION III. LOTS AND LOT OWNERS

RULE 1

Anyone who wishes to purchase a cemetery lot should contact the sexton and/or Cemetery Commissioners for choosing the plot location and entering the information into the Town records. Payment for the lot must be completed before burial takes place. All lots are reserved for human remains only.

RULE 2

The Commission reserves the right to enlarge, reduce, replat, or change the boundaries or topography - including roadways and footpaths - of the cemetery. Maintenance operations such as gutters, pipes and drainage are similarly reserved rights. The Commission members reserve the right of ingress and egress over lots as necessary.

RULE 3

Descriptions of lots will be in accordance with the cemetery plats which are kept on file in the Granville Town Office.

RULE 4

The Commission will take all reasonable precautions to protect lot owners and their cemetery property from loss or damage that is reasonably within control of the Commission. Damage caused by acts of God, malicious vandals or thieves, unavoidable accidents or similarly unforeseen disasters are considered outside of the Commission's reasonable control.

SECTION IV. CARE OF LOTS

RULE 1

The general care of the cemetery is assumed by the Commissioners and includes cutting the grass at reasonable intervals, the raking and cleaning of the grounds, and the pruning of shrubs and trees that may be placed by the management.

RULE 2

The general care assumed by the Commissioners shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair or replacement of any memorial, tomb, or mausoleum placed or erected upon lots: nor the doing of any special or unusual work in the cemetery. Nor does it mean the reconstruction of any marble or granite work or any section or plot or an portion or portions thereof in the cemetery, caused by the elements, an act of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, strikers, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents, invasions, insurrections, riots, or by the

order of any military or civil authority, whether the damage be direct or collateral, other than as herein provided.

RULE 3

Perpetual care endowment funds shall be established at a minimum of 20% of the cost of the lot in accordance with state law. The Town Treasurer will hold and invest the principal sum deposited by the lot owner and use the annual interest income therefrom to defray the cost of the general operation of the cemetery.

SECTION V. CORRECTION OF ERRORS

The Cemetery Commission reserves, and shall have, the right to correct any errors that may be made by it either in making interments, disinterments or removals, or the description, transfer or conveyance and substituting any conveying in lieu thereof other interment property of equal value and similar location as far as possible, or the Commissioner, by refunding the amount of money paid on account of said purchase. In the event such error shall involve the interment of the remains of any person in such property, the Commissioners reserve, and shall have the right to remove or transfer such remains so interred to such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof.

SECTION VI. DESCENT OF TITLES

The laws of the state of Vermont govern the descent of title to cemetery lots as well as other matters pertaining to assignments, conveyances, devises, trust deeds and inalienability. The Commissioners will assist any lot owner who desires information or advice on questions pertaining to his lot.

SECTION VII. INTERMENTS

RULE 1

All funerals on entering the cemetery shall be under the charge of the Cemetery Commissioners.

RULE 2

Once a casket containing a body or cremains is within the confines of the cemetery, no funeral director, nor his embalmer, assistant, employee, or agent, shall be permitted to open the casket or to touch the body without the consent of the legal representative of the deceased or an order signed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

RULE 3

Burial permits are required to be filed at the Town Clerk's office.

RULE 4

Lot owners shall not allow interments in their lots in return for remuneration of any kind.

RULE 5

No interment of two or more bodies shall be made in one grave except in the case of mother and child or two infants buried in one casket.

RULE 6

When an interment is to be made in a lot, the location of such interment shall be designated by the lot owners with the agreement and approval of either the sexton or Cemetery Commission.

RULE 7

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

- a. When the cemetery is directed to make a disinterment by order of a court of competent jurisdiction and a certified copy of such order has been filed with the Commissioners.
- b. When the coroner directs the disinterment for the purpose of holding any inquest and has filed with the Commissioners his signed authorization to release the body to himself and his lawful agents. In such a case, the disinterment must be made by the coroner or his lawful agents. Cemetery employees will not be permitted to assist the coroner or his agents.

RULE 8

In order to maintain a high standard of care and to eliminate sunken graves caused by the collapse of wood boxes, it is required that all burials must be in outside containers made of natural stone or of metal or of reinforced concrete. All such containers may be so made and installed as to meet specifications established by the Commissioners. Outside containers may be procured from any source provided they meet the established specifications. When cemetery employees handle or install such containers a reasonable charge will be made for such service.

RULE 9

All charges for interment, or services in connection therewith, shall be paid to the Cemetery Commissioners who will issue a receipt therefore, upon request.

RULE 10

Arrangements for the payment of any and all indebtedness due to the cemetery must be made before interment will be made.

RULE 11

The right is reserved by the Commissioners to insist upon at least 24 hours notice prior to any interment and at least one week's notice prior to any disinterment or removal.

RULE 12

All interments, disinterments, and removals must be made at the time, and in the manner, and upon the charges fixed by the Commissioners.

RULE 13

Besides being subject to these rules and regulations, all interments, disinterments, and removals are made subject to the orders and laws of the properly constituted public authorities.

RULE 14

The Commissioners will not be responsible for any order given by telephone or for any mistake occurring from the lack of precise and proper instructions as to the particular space, size of grave, and location in a lot, where interment is desired.

RULE 15

The Commissioners will not be liable for the interment permit nor for the identity of the person sought to be interred.

SECTION VIII. MEMORIAL LANDSCAPING AND ARTIFICIAL DECORATIONS

RULE 1

The Commission will undertake to maintain, as may be practicable, the planting of trees and shrubs to preserve and maintain landscape features. The Commissioners shall not be responsible for any kinds of plantings - including individual plantings - damaged by the elements, vandals, thieves, or by other causes beyond its control.

RULE 2

The Commission has the authority to remove all artificial decoration such as plastic bouquets, lawn chairs, bottles and cans, and other manmade structures as well as all floral designs, flowers, weekends, trees, shrubs, plants or herbage of any kind from the cemetery as soon as, in the judgment of the Commissioners, they become unsightly, dangerous, detrimental, or diseased, or when they do not conform to the standards of cemetery decorum.

RULE 3

The Commissioners shall not be liable for floral pieces, baskets, or frames in which, or to which, such floral pieces are attached beyond the acceptance of such floral pieces for cemetery services held in the cemetery.

RULE 4

The Commissioners reserve the right to prevent the removal of any planted flowers, floral designs, trees, shrubs, plants, or herbage of any kind unless the Commissioners give consent.

RULE 5

All plastic, silk, or any other such flowers or pieces of this nature shall be removed no later than November 1st of each year.

SECTION IX. ENFORCEMENT OF RULES

The Cemetery Commission is hereby empowered to enforce all rules and regulations and to exclude from the cemetery any person violating the same. The Commission shall have charge of the ground and buildings including the conduct of funerals, traffic, employees, lot owners and visitors and at all times shall have supervision and control of all persons in the cemetery.

Adopted this _____ of _____, 2026

Veronica Parrish

Kate Stauss

Vacant position
