

# TOWN OF ALEXANDER

## CEMETERY ORDINANCE

### Section 1 PURPOSE

For the mutual protection of lot owners, the cemetery, and the Town, the following rules are hereby established for the Alexander Cemetery. All lot owners and persons visiting the cemetery are expected to abide by these rules which are enacted to maintain the cemetery as a peaceful and beautiful resting place and a reverent symbol of respect for deceased loved ones.

### Section 2 GENERAL

- a) The cemetery shall be open between the hours of sunrise and sunset. No person shall enter the cemetery at any other time, except by permission of the caretakers.
- b) Firearms in the cemetery are prohibited, except for a military escort, or when unloaded and within a motor vehicle. The discharging of any offensive weapon such as bow and arrows, slingshots, air rifles, or the throwing of rocks or pellets, is prohibited.
- c) Bicycles, ATVs, snowmobiles, and dirt bikes are prohibited as are domestic animals, including dogs and horses. Note, a pet within a motor vehicle is permissible.
- d) No person shall willfully damage or destroy any tomb, gravestone, monument, or other object designed as a memorial for the dead, or any fence, tree, or shrub found within the cemetery.
- e) Floral or other displays shall be removed from lots by November 15<sup>th</sup>, and Christmas displays shall be removed by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- f) Chairs, settees, or similar items are not permitted permanently within the cemetery.
- g) The caretakers shall have the right to remove all floral designs, flowers, weeds, trees, shrubs, plants, or other items that do not conform to the standards maintained at the cemetery. Further, the caretakers shall have the right to remove trees, shrubs, or bushes planted on a gravesite that have become dangerous or detrimental to the adjacent grounds because of encroachment of roots or branches.
- h) Waste materials (faded flowers, old pots, etc.) shall be disposed of through the lot owners' home trash or recycling. Waste materials shall not be left in the cemetery or deposited in the area surrounding the cemetery.
- i) Glass containers are prohibited.
- j) All trees, shrubs, bushes, etc. shall be planted in a container, following the adoption of this ordinance.

### **Section 3 LOT OWNERSHIP**

- a) Residents of Alexander desiring a lot should visit the cemetery with the caretakers who will aid them in making a selection. A copy of this ordinance shall be given to the new lot owner. It shall be the duty of the lot owner to notify the caretakers or the Town Office of any change of address.
- b) Transfer of lots will not be recognized without the consent of the caretakers.
- c) The lot owner shall have the right to erect a stone or monument on his/her lot and one individual marker for each grave. In addition, a military and/or lodge flag holder is permissible. The location of headstones, lot markers, and corner markers shall be approved by the caretakers before the placement.
- d) The general care of the cemetery is the responsibility of the Town through the caretakers. This includes reasonable care of the unassigned lots, the roadways, the woods at the edge of the cemetery, and the lawn along the Airline.
- e) All lots have perpetual care. Pending funding by the voters, the Town shall mow the entire cemetery annually before these three holidays, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day, and as needed and determined by the caretakers.
- f) All reasonable precautions will be taken to protect the assigned lots within the cemetery from damage, but the cemetery will not be responsible for any loss or damage.
- g) Gravesites of veterans will be maintained according to Maine Statute 13 title §1101.
- h) Lot owners shall notify the caretakers if a veteran has been buried in the lot.

### **Section 4 INTERMENT**

- a) When an interment of a body or cremains is to be made in a lot, the location of such interment shall be designated by the lot owner, or by his/her authorized representative. The caretakers shall be notified of such interment.
- b) The caretakers shall record in the caretaker's notebook each interment and provide the Town Clerk with this information so that the duplicate caretaker's notebook at the Town Office can be kept up to date.
- c) To maintain a high standard of care and to eliminate sunken graves, all burials must be made in an outside container constructed of natural stone, metal, reinforced concrete, or approved synthetics. All cremains shall be buried in an approved urn. Ashes may not be scattered in the cemetery.
- d) Pets may only be buried as cremated remains in the family lot pending notification to the caretakers and subsequent to all regulations of this ordinance.
- e) Cost of repairing damage to existing lots and/or cemetery property relating to interment shall be borne by the family, the funeral home, and/or by the contractor.
- f) The caretaker reserves the right to postpone interment time due to weather, civil, or national emergencies.
- f) To prevent damage to existing lots and/or placement errors, winter interment will not be permitted.