

**Policies of the Henniker Cemetery Trustees
Adopted June 23, 2011**

A. Introduction:

The Henniker Cemetery Trustees are voted into office by the residents of the Town of Henniker at Town Meeting.

Their duty is to oversee the following Henniker cemeteries: Old/Center Cemetery; First Burial Yard; Plummer Cemetery; Quaker/Friends Cemetery; Colby Cemetery; Patten Family Yard; Gordon Graveyard; Harriman & Huse Cemetery; Chase Yard.

The Trustees shall abide by all applicable New Hampshire state laws.

These policies have been set in order to provide for uniform standards of use, appearance and maintenance and for an appropriately respectful atmosphere.

Questions should be directed to the Trustees for discussion at a scheduled meeting.

The following town cemeteries are closed to future burials: Old/Center and The First Burial Yard.

B. Definition of Terms:

Trustee – A duly voted member of the Henniker Cemetery Trustees.

Cemetery – All cemeteries and family graveyards listed above.

Deed – The title to one or more lots, including all covenants applying to the sale and ownership.

Owner – A person with sole interest in a plot in a cemetery.

Co-owner – A person with a joint interest in a plot in a cemetery.

Lot – Each of the individual parcels that may be laid out in a cemetery.

Plot – What an owner has purchased, which may be more than one lot.

Burial space – The space in a lot for the burial of one coffin.

Cremation space – The space in a lot for the burial of a container of ashes.

Marker – A flat plaque of stone or metal that is flush with ground level.

Monument – A headstone or other indicator of a burial that rises above ground level.

Closed cemetery – A cemetery where no new burials or monuments, or changes to existing monuments are allowed.

C. General:

Cemeteries that are on town property are generally open every day from dawn to dusk.

Cemeteries or family graveyards that are on private property need the property owner's permission to access.

Lots may be used only for human burials.

D. Purchase and ownership of lots:

Past or present legal residents of Henniker are eligible to purchase lots.

The Trustees shall determine the sizes, prices and availability of lots and how many casket or cremation burials are allowed in lots of various sizes.

Plots must be paid for by check or cash. After payment the owner receives the deed to the plot, along with a copy of our policies.

The Trustees do not resolve competing claims of ownership of any plot.

Plots may not be sold by the owner directly to another person without a vote and written permission of the Trustees.

Abandonment of a plot is defined by NH RSA 289:18. The Trustees may institute forfeiture proceedings under state law for plots that have been abandoned.

E. Burials:

The decision of who may be buried in a plot rests with the owner. The Trustees do not arbitrate disputes in this matter. Before a burial, the Trustees may ask for proof of ownership of a plot or proof of the owner's intentions to allow a particular burial.

No burial may occur without the Trustees' knowledge and approval.

All graves shall be dug by a person hired by the Trustees.

Vaults are required for all casket burials. A suitable durable container for ashes is required for every cremation burial.

Above ground crypts or mausoleums are not allowed in any cemetery.

F. Monuments, Markers, etc.

For new or presently unimproved plots, only one monument will be allowed. This monument must, to the greatest extent possible, be in the center of the plot. The Trustees must approve exceptions.

No monuments or markers may be placed in any closed cemetery. No alterations may be made to any existing monument or markers in said cemeteries or graveyards.

Repairs to broken gravestones shall be done under the supervision of the Trustees.

A Veterans' Affairs marker ordered for a burial should be shipped to the gravedigger, who will install it.

Bronze VA markers require an approved concrete or stone base. VA markers do not require a base.

No new fences around plots or raised platforms on plots will be allowed.

Any corner markers that a plot owner wishes to install must be flush with the ground.

G. Plot Care and Appearance

The Trustees' goal is that the grounds of the cemetery be safe, aesthetically pleasing and respectful to the cemetery's purpose. Owners are responsible for acting in accordance with this goal.

The Trustees take care of mowing; raking leaves and general clean up in the cemeteries.

The planting of anything other than flowers requires the approval of the Trustees.

No artificial flowers or plants and no glass containers are permitted.

Small objects and mementos may be placed on top of monuments, but the Trustees are not responsible for them.

Decorations that are too large, inappropriate or offensive are not allowed and may be removed by the Trustees.

H. Vehicles

Vehicles of any kind are not allowed in any cemetery for purposes unrelated to cemetery business.

This does not apply to vehicles required by handicapped persons.

I. Visitors

Visitors are permitted in the cemeteries only for Cemetery business and are expected to behave appropriately.

No grave rubbings may be made without prior permission of the town Selectmen and the Trustees shall oversee such activities.

Dogs may be walked in the cemeteries but they must be leashed and the person walking them must clean up after them.

An adult must accompany children under the age of eighteen visiting any cemetery.