RULES & REGULATIONS FOR

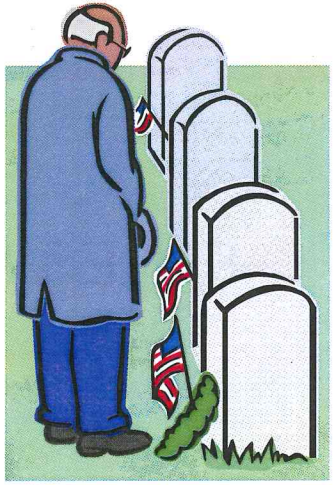
Mansfield Cemeteries

Town of Mansfield
4 South Eagleville Rd
Mansfield, CT 06268

May 2011

INTRODUCTION, GENERAL RULES

Cemeteries are precious and fragile records of the genealogical history. It is important to preserve them and the artwork of the gravestone carvers as well as the integrity and sanctity of the site. Therefore, please understand that:



- The right of admittance to the grounds is reserved.
- Children will be permitted on the grounds only if accompanied by a parent/s, guardian or other adult, who shall be responsible for their conduct.
- The Town, acting through its Sexton or other designated official, may expel from the cemeteries or cause to be arrested any persons disturbing its sanctity by noisy, boisterous, or other improper conduct, or any person violating any of the rules and regulations.
- All persons shall respect the solemnity of the cemetery and strictly observe the rules which have been established to ensure quiet and good order at all times.

MONUMENTS, MARKERS

All monuments shall be approved by the Cemetery Committee. No gravesite or plot monuments or markers shall be located and set without approval of the Sexton. Corner plot markers shall be flush with ground surface. Cost of monuments and markers are the responsibility of the owner. The erection or installation of monuments or memorial markers shall not take place on Sundays or legal holidays. No monument work, once installed, shall be removed from a grave unless approved by the Sexton.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR CEMETERY MEMORIALS - GURLEY CEMETERY AND NEW MANSFIELD CENTER CEMETERY

Design specifications have been developed and approved by the Mansfield Cemetery Committee to ensure that all monuments are relative in design and size with surrounding monuments, and to facilitate future burials and maintenance.

Single Grave marker for single gravesite:
Maximum base length for a single grave is 36 inches
(see note in double interment section)

Double Interment:
This style is for situations where the grave plot is for two or three peoples' ashes, but only one grave wide. Follow single gravesite maximum.

Family Interments:
This style is for situations where two grave plots are for up to six peoples' ashes, but only two graves wide. In this case the companion grave marker size shall be followed.

Family Grave markers:
Only for four grave sites head to head. Maximum base length will be the same as two grave sites. Stone will be placed at center line with four flush foot stones and flush corner markers.

Family Grave Markers
Only for six grave sites head to head. A maximum base length of 60 inches but must be one large center stone to be placed at center of entire grave sites with six flush footstones and flush corner markers.

Family Grave Markers:
Only for eight or ten grave sites. A maximum base length of 60inches but must be one large center stone to be placed at center of entire gravesite with eight or ten flush footstones and flush corner markers.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR CEMETERY MEMORIALS - RIVERSIDE BURYING GROUNDS

Single grave marker for a 3 foot x 3 foot plot must be a slanted granite type marker not to exceed 1 foot at the highest point or exceed 18 inches in width.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR ALL CEMETERIES

- Only 1 headstone and 1 footstone will be allowed on a single grave site.
- No benches of any type will be allowed on any grave site.
- All memorials must be kept in line with others in the section and in character and size with those of the surrounding markers and memorials.

- The Committee reserves the right to approve or decline any memorial or marker design.
- Any marker that must be moved to dig another grave in the plot is the family's financial responsibility.
- The Town of Mansfield assumes no responsibility when a marker has to be moved and reset.
- The Town of Mansfield reserves the right to amend and change guidelines without notice.
- Reasonable efforts are made to protect approved memorials, but the Town disclaims responsibility for any damage or injury thereto.
- There shall be no decoration, adornment, use of monument, inscriptions or planting except as expressly permitted under these rules. The right is reserved by the Town to enter upon any lot and prohibit, modify or remove any object, adornment, monument, inscription, planting or work done not conforming to the rules.
- Please report any theft or vandalism to the Mansfield Public Works Department and the Resident State Trooper's Office.

(Marker is the general term to encompass all types of gravestones.)

PLANTINGS

1. Trees, gardens, curbing, fencing, hedging, shrubs, borders, statuary or enclosures of any kind shall not be allowed on or around the gravesite/s or plot. The Town reserves the right, without prior notice to remove any tree shrub or obstacle on any lot that may hinder the efforts of opening of graves or the proper maintenance of the cemetery, or in the judgment of the Town shall seem undesirable.
2. Container plants may be placed on the gravesite or plot, provided that the Town may remove the plants if they have died or if the plants are in a state of decline. Artificial decorations are permitted, though they may be removed by the Town if they become discolored, or if they leave wires causing a problem to cemetery maintenance activities.
3. No glass containers shall be used to contain flowers or plants. Only plastic, clay or metal containers shall be used. At the end of the growing season all containers shall be removed. The Town reserves the right to remove any and all containers for good reason. The Town further reserves the right to remove and restrict the placement of any and all decorations/ remembrances in accordance with these rules.
4. No person shall apply toxic chemicals (such as weed killers or pesticides) on gravesites.
5. Dumping of fill materials, compost, wood materials, rubbish, old flowers etc., is prohibited.
6. All persons are strictly prohibited from any unauthorized picking or pruning of flowers, plants, or shrubs, whether cultivated or wild; breaking or injuring any tree or shrub; marring any memorial, defacing property in any way, or disturbing birds or other wildlife.

PERPETUAL CARE

All gravesites/plots which are sold will be furnished perpetual care which shall include regular mowing and trimming of grass. Perpetual care shall not include maintenance, repair or replacement of monuments or markers, or replacement of plants.

PLOT SALES AND CERTIFICATION RECORDS

1. The Sexton shall be authorized to sell gravesites or plots (two or more gravesites) and act on behalf of the Town Clerk in the activities described herein. The price for graves/plots shall be set by the Town Council. A Certificate of Burial Rights shall be prepared by the Town Clerk for each gravesite or plot sold. Full payment shall be rendered before interment. The Town Clerk shall keep records showing the name of the purchaser or owner of burial rights for each gravesite or plot.
2. A Certificate of Burial Rights grants to the purchaser the right of interment and extends this right to his/her heirs and family descendants.
3. If a Certificate of Burial Rights of the lot or grave has been lost or mislaid, a substitute Certificate of Burial Rights may be issued to the person who has established legal right to the plot. In establishing this legal right:

a) An affidavit sworn to before a notary public must be presented in which the person claiming rights to interment privileges in said plot must identify him/herself, establish his/her rights to said plot, and state that no other party has prior or equal rights to said plot. Upon the presentation of the affidavit, the Town Clerk shall have the right to rely on the statements contained therein, and the person(s) making the affidavit shall be responsible for any errors or omissions of the affidavit.

b) In case of the loss of Certificate of Burial Rights to a lot or grave a substitute certificate may be issued to the person who has established legal right to it after satisfactory proof of said loss and ownership has been presented to the Town Clerk, together with an affidavit, reasonably satisfactory in form and substance to the Town Clerk, by a person having personal knowledge of the facts which may be conclusively relied upon by the Town Clerk to permit the use of unoccupied portions of any interment space referred to in such affidavit.

4. The use of a plot or gravesite is for the plot holder or plot holder's relatives for interment purposes only. A person not a member of the plot holder's family may be interred in said plot. The plot holder shall not have any right to sell, transfer, exchange, or in any manner dispose of said plot without the written permission of the Town Clerk. Any transfer is subject to these rules and regu-

lations and to the payment of the transfer fee established by the Town Council.
5. The owner is responsible for designating grave locations within each burial plot; confirmation of such location is to be made prior to interment.

OWNERSHIP AND TRANSFER OF INTERMENT RIGHTS - DESCENT OF OWNERSHIP

1. When an interment of an owner or relative is made and the owner or any joint owner dies without making disposition of the remaining interment space, it shall be held and reserved as the interment space of the original owner's family.
2. In a family interment space, one plot may be used for the owner's interment, one for the owner's spouse, if any, or named person referenced on the deed who has a vested right of interment, and the children and the parents of the deceased owner acquire vested rights of interment in any remaining interment space and may be interred in order of death without the consent of any other person claiming any interest in such interment space. If no child or parent survives, the vested rights of interment go in order of death, first to the spouse of any child of the owner and, second, in order of death to the next heirs at law of the owner.
3. In unusual circumstances cemetery plots that cannot be used by the owner may be sold back to the Town for the purchase price originally paid, unless said plot already has a burial within it.

INTERMENTS

1. Only human remains may be interred in the town cemeteries. A concrete or other permanent vault is required for all full burials. There shall be only one vault per gravesite. Up to four ash interments may be placed in one gravesite or one vault and three ash burials.
2. All graves shall be opened and closed under the supervision of the Sexton. No interment or disinterment shall be allowed without the consent of the Sexton. Interments or disinterments shall be made only by a contractor authorized by the Sexton or other authorized representative of the Town. Notice of at least 24 hours shall be given to the Sexton of any desired grave opening. No grave shall be opened or interment made on legal holidays unless required for public health reasons and ordered by the Sexton. Funerals and/or graveside services shall be concluded so that the grave can be closed by sundown unless the Sexton expressly permits otherwise in consideration of special hardship.

RIVERSIDE BURYING GROUND

In addition to the general rules outlined above, the following are specifications for the Riverside Burying Ground.

SCATTERING AREA

The scattering area is along the perimeter of the cremation section of this cemetery, outside of the designated walkway.
1. Application for scattering of cremation remains shall be made through the Sexton or the Town Clerk and can be purchased in advance.
2. The applicant must present a SCATTERING AUTHORIZATION FORM properly completed. Forms are available from the Town Clerk's office.
3. The sexton shall inform the applicant of the procedure and location for scattering. The sexton need not be present during the actual scattering.
4. Scatterings must be conducted between sunrise and sunset.
5. The scattering fee is payable to the Town Of Mansfield. If the applicant desires the name, year of birth and year of death to be placed on the central memorial in the scattering area, arrangements and payment (current cost) may be made through the Town. The plaques will be added to the central memorial on a periodic basis. No monuments or commemorations of any kind will be allowed in the scattering area.

IN-GROUND REMAINS

The in-ground remains area is within the walkway in the central portion of the cremation remains section. It is delineated by four granite posts. Plots 3' x 3' are laid out within this section. One or two burials of ashes are allowed within each plot.
1. Application for an in-ground remains plot must be made through the Sexton.
2. The Sexton or his/her designated representative must be present during interment.
3. The remains must be interred at the depth specified by the Sexton. Any associated cost for interment shall be borne by the responsible party.
4. Because of the natural setting, no plastic flowers or plantings of any kind are allowed.