

## **TOWN OF RHINEBECK CEMETERY RULES & REGULATIONS<sup>i</sup>**

### **GENERAL**

1. All deeded plots in the Town of Rhinebeck Cemetery are sold in accordance with the provisions of the Laws of the State of New York and shall not be used for any other purposes than as a burial place for dead human beings.
2. The following information must be provided to the cemetery with plot purchase: a. Name of purchaser b. Address c. Phone number d. Email e. Alternate contact person
3. The following information must be supplied to the cemetery prior to any interment: a. Name of deceased b. Name of informant c. Place of birth, if known d. Date of Birth, if known e. Date of Death f. Time and Date of Interment g. If not an adult, names of parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of deceased h. name of funeral director.
4. Plot owners are responsible for notifying the Cemetery of any name change in address. All notices required to be sent shall be sent to the last known recorded address and such notice shall be deemed adequate.
5. Plot owners are prohibited from allowing interment to be made on their plots for compensation.
6. Resale by plot owner. If the plot is empty, the plot owner may sell or convey such plot at a price no greater than the current price, subject to the prior notice to and approval of the Town of Rhinebeck Cemetery. The Town of Rhinebeck Cemetery reserves the right of first refusal for the purchase of a resold plot. If plot is not sold back to the Cemetery, new purchaser must supply required information (provided under Rule #2, above) to the Town of Rhinebeck Cemetery.
7. Interments in a lot are restricted to the owner and the owner's designees.
8. The full purchase price must be paid before the deed will be given or a burial allowed on the plot.
9. Plot owners are prohibited from using pesticides on their plots.
10. All winter holiday wreaths and other decorations, natural or otherwise, must be removed by March 15. Cemetery personnel reserves the right to remove them after this date.
11. All monument foundations must be measured out by cemetery personnel. All foundations must be poured by monument companies in coordination with cemetery personnel.
12. No monument shall be delivered or left at the cemetery without prior notice to the custodian. All monuments must be placed by Cemetery Custodian or monument company.
13. All cremations, family or funeral home directed, must be accompanied by a cremation certificate.
14. Interment fees must be paid at the time of burial, not before or after.
15. Any burial that runs beyond 2:30 PM is considered after hours and will be charged the "after hours" fee.
16. Any burial that falls on a weekend or designated town holiday will be charged "weekend" or "holiday" fee.

## **CONVENTIONAL**

1. Placing of glass, of any kind, including blocks or vases as receptacles for flowers, whether artificial or grown, on plots is prohibited.
2. The Cemetery reserves the right to remove all flowers, wreaths, or other decorations from plots as soon as they become unsightly.
3. The cemetery reserves the right to remove any planting, embellishment on the lot, effigy, or inscription that is unsightly, offensive, or dangerous or that interferes with maintenance.
4. No shrubs, bushes, or trees shall be planted or grown on a plot. Annual and perennial plantings are permitted provided that they are placed only at the head of a grave and within 18 inches of the monument/grave marker. The planting of annuals and perennials are permitted between monuments/grave markers only when a plot owner owns adjoining plots. The Cemetery reserves the right to remove any plantings in violation of this rule.
5. Vaults or grave liners are NOT required for interments.
6. If, during maintenance, personal objects around the monument are moved, it will be the owner's responsibility to return them to their original state.
7. All monuments are restricted in size to dimensions that will not cover more than 20% of the surface area of the plot. Every monument shall be finished true and level so as to fit on foundations without wedging or sprawls.
8. No monument shall exceed 5' high x 8' wide, including the base.
9. Mausoleum size may not exceed two-body capacity.

## **NATURAL BURIAL**

1. The natural designated portion of the Town of Rhinebeck's Cemetery is reserved for burial that does not use a vault (partial, inverted, or otherwise), a vault lid, concrete box, slab or partitioned liner.
2. Decedents are not to have been embalmed.
3. Burial containers are to be limited to those made from materials that are nontoxic/nonhazardous, ~~and~~ natural/plant derived, and biodegradable, with shrouds permissible (i.e. untreated woods, wool, cotton, hemp, linen, flax, cardboard, seagrass, bamboo, wicker, willow, hemp, paper mache).
4. Shrouded bodies must be entirely wrapped and be supported on a solid, untreated board for lowering. The board must be at least as long as the body and as wide as the widest part of the body. Plywood and particle support boards are not acceptable.
5. Cars are not permitted inside the Natural Burial Ground, except by permission of Cemetery personnel.
6. Pesticides and herbicides are prohibited.
7. Unless a tree is deemed unsafe, unhealthy or contrary to conservation goals, all living existing trees will be left in place.
8. The forest floor will be maintained in its natural state. Grasses and other vegetation will only be trimmed or cut when deemed necessary for reasons of safety, access or environmental conservation.

9. All graves will be mounded and allowed to return to their natural state.
10. Grave markers are permitted, but not required. Natural fieldstone, quarried stone, or river stone, no more than 24 inches long and no more than three inches thick may be used as a marker. All stones must be indigenous to the Hudson Valley. Single plot stones may not exceed 200 square inches. In cases where a grave marker is used for two or more adjoining full plots, stones may be larger, but may not exceed 250 square inches. For adjoining cremation plots, stones must still be 200 square inches or less. Stones may not be machine cut or polished. Machine cut stones hand chiseled to look “natural” are not acceptable. Stones may be engraved, but no dyes, coloring or paints of any kind may be used. The cemetery reserves the right to remove markers that do not comply. Only one marker per plot, including cremation plots.
11. All plots will be marked on a survey map, the coordinates of which will also be engraved on a 3-inch round steel marker placed on each burial plot.
12. All graves are opened by Cemetery personnel. Family members may not dig graves. Family members are permitted to fill in graves.
13. Graves are dug to a depth of 3 ½ feet.
14. Due to the natural processes following burial, posthumous exhumation is not permitted.
15. Only one full body allowed per gravesite. One cremation burial may be included.
16. No plantings of any kind allowed.
17. No artificial flowers or other decorations, including painted rocks, may be placed on graves. Natural wreaths, without metal or plastic frames, and cut flowers are permitted. No vases. No potted plants. The cemetery reserves the right to remove any objects not in compliance.
18. Plots are 5x10. Half plots (for cremation burial) are 5x5.

---

<sup>i</sup> (adopted by Resolution 2014098 March 10, 2014)  
(revised by Resolution 2017250 December 10, 2017)  
(revised by Resolution 2019190 August 12, 2019)  
(revised by Resolution 2021042 February 8, 2021)  
(revised by Resolution 2022-107 April 11, 2022)  
(revised by Resolution 2023-095 March 13, 2023)