

TOWN OF VERSHIRE CEMETERY BYLAWS
Adopted by Vershire cemetery trustees September 15, 2022
Approved by the Select Board October 11, 2022

Introduction

The Town of Vershire owns and maintains three cemeteries. The elected cemetery trustees are responsible for the care and maintenance of these cemeteries. They do, however, depend upon the cooperation, consideration and respectful behavior of Vershire residents and visitors to keep the cemeteries in good condition. The trustees expect visitors to take care not to damage the grass, the plantings, graves, markers and memorials and to be considerate of other visitors. This means, for example, walking dogs only on leash and cleaning up after them, leaving no litter, and not riding around the cemeteries on recreational vehicles.

Vershire Center cemetery is the smallest of the three. People may visit it via a short driveway from the Vershire Center Road, just past the Mountain School. The first burials in this cemetery took place in the last decade of the 18th century; the last ones in the first decade of the 20th century. This cemetery is now closed for burials with no lots available for purchase.

Vershire Village cemetery is located off the North Road, behind the Vershire Bible Church. It contains graves dating from the early 19th century on up to the present. This cemetery is still open for burials in existing lots but there are only a few lots available for purchase.

South Vershire cemetery, also called Mountain Ash cemetery, is on Mountain Ash Road just off the South Vershire Road. The first burial there dates from 1815. Of the three cemeteries, this has the most space available; it is open both for burials in existing lots and for the purchase of lots.

Purchase of Cemetery Lots

Persons wishing to purchase a cemetery lot should contact the cemetery trustees. They may contact the town clerk to find out who the current trustees are. The cemetery trustees will advise prospective purchasers as to what lots are available. Once the purchaser has reached a decision, the cemetery trustees will place temporary corner markers to identify the selected lot. No lots shall be sold or burials permitted unless at least temporary corner markers are in place.

Lots: A full-sized grave space is 4' x 10', suitable for one casket burial or up to four cremation urns. A double lot, 8' x 10', is suitable for two casket burials or one casket burial and up to four cremation urns, or eight (8) cremation urns. A half-sized lot, 4' X 5', is suitable for up to two (2) cremation urns. No one may purchase more than two (2) double lots or four (4) full-sized lots; in other words, the largest amount of cemetery terrain that may be purchased is 160 square feet.

Prices: Vershire's cemetery lot prices are determined, placed into effect, and subject to change by the cemetery trustees. The current price of a full-sized lot is \$450. The price of a double lot is \$700. The price of a half-sized lot is \$225. The town clerk will give the purchaser a receipt at the time of sale, but will not deliver the deed until permanent corner markers have been installed and paid for.

Corner markers

The purchaser of a lot is responsible for purchasing and installing lot corner markers within thirty days of purchasing a lot. Corner markers shall be stone, a minimum of 4 inches by 4 inches in diameter, and set approximately flush with the ground. If after thirty days of the lot

purchase, the corner markers have not been installed, the cemetery trustees will arrange to buy and install the corner markers and will bill the purchaser of the lot.

Memorial Monuments and Grave Markers

Memorial monuments are above-ground monuments set on a below-ground concrete foundation of a minimum of three (3) feet deep. Grave markers (also called plaques) may be stone or metal set flush with the ground. They should be set in a minimum of six (6) inches of hardpack or two (2) inches of concrete. Monuments or grave markers shall be at least six (6) inches inside all lot boundaries. There may be only one monument per full-sized or half-sized cemetery lot and, at the most, two monuments per double lot. There may be more than one grave marker if there is more than one burial in the lot.

Within a month of a cremation burial, those responsible for the burial shall provide the cemetery trustees with a diagram of the burial lot, showing the location of the cremation urn so that subsequent cremation burials do not disturb previous ones.

All memorial monuments and grave markers and their placement shall be first approved by the cemetery trustees. Monuments and grave markers should be installed within a year of a burial.

Plantings

Owners of a lot may place potted plants or plant annual plants, such as petunias for example, on their lot without seeking permission of the cemetery trustees. However, please obtain the permission of the cemetery trustees before planting anything permanent on a grave lot, such as perennial flowers. Remember that plants grow and spread. Do not plant trees or shrubs or any flowers or plants that are likely in time to encroach upon adjacent lots. The cemetery trustees have the right to remove any plants or other objects from grave lots as they deem necessary for the care and maintenance of the cemetery.

Funds

100% of all money from the sale of lots shall be placed in the cemetery trust fund known as the Fidelity Growth Fund, to be used at the discretion of the cemetery trustees.