

HOPE CEMETERY CORPORATION

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THOMAS F. LITCHFIELD, SUPERINTENDENT

The Mission of Hope Cemetery is to maintain, protect and enhance the cemetery and its surrounding property as a peaceful and inviting sanctuary.

Rules and Regulations

Revised August 2022

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The cemetery is open from dawn to sunset from April 1 to November 30, weather and ground conditions permitting.
- Messages left on voice mail or email will be responded to asap throughout the year.
- The website may contain answers to your questions.
- Snowmobiles, ATVs and off-road motorcycles are not permitted on the property.
- Dogs are not permitted on cemetery property unless confined in a vehicle or on a leash.

OWNERSHIP

- A deed gives only the right of interment (burial) of human remains. The deed carries with it the right to provide an approved memorial. Ownership of the land remains with Hope Cemetery Corporation (the Cemetery).
- Deed holders, when not the original purchaser of the deed, should
 1. Notify the Cemetery of their right of interment immediately.
 2. Notify the Cemetery of any change of address; written communications from the Cemetery will be sent to the address on record.
- Sale or assignments of a deed between individuals will not be valid until recorded by the President or other Officer of the Board of Directors of the Cemetery .
- The Cemetery will not repurchase burial lots after they have been sold except for operational purposes at the discretion of the Superintendent and/or the Board of Directors.

BURIALS

- Interment or work on any lot by cemetery personnel will not be done until all bills associated with that lot are paid, unless ordered by the court.
- Licensed funeral directors are responsible for all interment charges; such charges must be paid at the time of burial.
- The Cemetery requires at least twenty-four hours' notice before burial or storage in the vault, not including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

- The Cemetery Superintendent authorizes a burial of remains. Appropriate permits must be in order and signed by all required parties before the burial occurs. A "burial-transit permit" is required for remains stored at the Cemetery vault for more than fourteen days.
- The person/funeral home in charge of the remains must obtain a signature from the Superintendent on the permit, but should keep all copies of the permit until burial is completed. No remains may be stored more than eight months without it being considered final disposition. Removal of the remains after eight months will be considered a disinterment and will require a new permit.
- All burials, disinterments and removals shall be made by employees of the Cemetery upon payment of such fees fixed by the Hope Cemetery Board of Directors.
- When a casket containing a body is on cemetery property, no person shall be permitted to open the casket without the consent of the person having legal custody of the deceased, or by court order.
- No casket burial will be allowed without a vault approved by the superintendent.
- Removal of remains may not be done without a signed order from the next of kin and/or the owner of the lot or grave. A licensed funeral director must be present.
- Pet (cremations only) burials are at the discretion of the Cemetery Superintendent or the Board of Directors.

MONUMENTS

- Deed holders are responsible for maintenance, repair and preservation of monuments and other structures.
- Any monument exceeding four feet in height and/or having a base in excess of one half the width of the lot on which it stands, or any non-monument landscape feature such as low wall, corner markers and/or borders must be approved by the Superintendent and the Board of Directors' Design Committee.
- All monuments and their locations must be approved by the Superintendent prior to their installation.
- All monument foundations are to be installed by Cemetery personnel.
- All charges must be paid before foundations and monuments are installed.
- Monuments or inscriptions not approved by the Superintendent may be removed at the discretion of the Cemetery.
- Foot markers must be flush with the ground unless prior approval has been granted by the Superintendent or the Design Committee.

PLANTINGS AND DECORATIONS

- Where allowed, the planting of a tree, its species and its location, is subject to the Superintendent's approval.
- Flowers and other small plants may be planted only immediately in front of a monument.

- Potted plants are permitted on top of flush markers and behind raised markers if they are the only markers on the lot.
- Potted plants must be removed by Columbus Day.
- Shrubs must be in line with monuments and contained well within the boundaries of the lot.
- Shrubs or trees planted at the Cemetery are considered the property of the Cemetery.
- The removal of shrubs or trees is to be done by Cemetery personnel only.
- Rose or other thorny bushes are not permitted.
- Flags may be placed upon lots or graves by representatives of lodges, posts and like organizations, not to exceed one week before Memorial Day. They must be removed by the same representatives not later than the weekend following Flag Day, June 14.
- Winter decorations may be in place from December 1 through March 31.
- Artificial decorations are not permitted.
- Illumination or lighting of any kind is not permitted.
- Glass, china and other easily breakable containers are not permitted at any time.
- Plantings or other objects may be removed by Cemetery personnel when they are considered overgrown, inappropriate, or not permitted.