

TOWN of MEREDITH

CEMETERY ORDINANCES

First Ordinance: July 11, 1994

Revised: September 18, 2000

Revised: December 12, 2005

Town of Meredith Cemetery Ordinances - Terms

- 1) The term “Board” shall mean the duly elected Board of Selectmen of the Town of Meredith, N.H.
- 2) The term “Cemetery” shall mean Town owned cemeteries, singly or together.
- 3) The term “Deed” or “Certificate” is a document of conveyance of burial space for human remains to the original proprietor or his/her designee.
- 4) The term “Grave” is an area containing or intended to contain interments of human remains.
- 5) The term “Interment” shall mean the disposition of human remains by entombment or burial.
- 6) The term “Lot” is a specified bounded area intended for the interment of human remains. The term “Lot, Plot or Burial Space” shall be used interchangeably.
- 7) The term “Monument” shall mean the family name monument.
- 8) The term “Marker” shall mean the individual’s name marker at each grave site.
- 9) The term “Memorial Marker” shall mean any fraternal organization or military marker.
- 10) The term “Sexton” shall mean the person or designee of persons duly appointed by the Meredith Town Manager to manage and oversee cemetery operations.
- 11) The term “Town Manager” shall mean the Town Manager duly appointed by the Meredith Board of Selectmen, or his/her authorized agent.

Town of Meredith Cemetery Ordinances – Section I

- 1) All people, vehicles and funerals within the cemeteries are subject to the control and order of the Meredith Town Sexton.
- 2) NO animals are allowed in the cemeteries.
- 3) No bicycles or motor vehicles of any kind are permitted in the cemeteries unless part of a grave lot visitation or funeral service. Motor vehicles, duly registered, must be operated in a safe manner at a speed not to exceed 10 m.p.h. within cemetery grounds. No motor vehicle shall cross or park on any grave, lot or lawn.
- 4) No firearms are permitted on cemetery grounds unless approved by the Sexton or Town Manager. (Military funeral services and Memorial Day exercises excluded).
- 5) No signs, notices or advertisements of any kind shall be displayed or posted in the cemeteries.
- 6) Any person making gravestone rubbing(s) within Town Cemeteries shall be liable for any gravestone damage occurring during said activities.
- 7) All town-owned cemeteries are closed from dawn to dusk unless exception given by the Town Manager or the Meredith Cemetery Sexton.

Town of Meredith Cemetery Ordinances – Section II

- 1) The deed, certificate of ownership or any other grant of any interment space within Town Cemeteries confers only the right or privilege of interment of human remains. NO animal burials will be allowed in Town Cemeteries.
- 2) The Meredith Village Cemetery Certificate of Rights grants the proprietor of said certificate the right to burial or entombment only.
- 3) The Town of Meredith reserves the right to regulate the size, location, number and type of all monuments and anything else placed or planted on any lot within a Town owned cemetery.
- 4) All new Meredith Village Cemetery Lot purchasers will be issued a copy of the current Town Cemetery Ordinances plus a grave allocation sheet when issued their Meredith Village Cemetery Certificate of Rights.
- 5) Transfers or assignments of any Lot, or interest therein, shall be made through the Meredith municipal office in writing by the Lot owner(s). All transfers of ownership in Lots shall be subject to a nominal charge, which charge shall be paid to the Town of Meredith when the transfer is recorded. Upon receipt of the nominal charge, the Town of Meredith will issue a new certificate to the Lot owner.
- 6) It shall be the duty of the Lot owner(s), heirs or assignees to notify the Meredith municipal office of any change of address.
- 7) The private resale of any grave, lot or “right to burial” within any Town owned cemetery is prohibited. Any grave, lot, or “right to burial” may either be donated to or sold back to the Town of Meredith (for resale) by their current owners for the original purchase price.

Town of Meredith Cemetery Ordinances – Section III

- 1) All plantings of flowers, shrubs and trees within Town Cemeteries including plant species, height, numbers and location must be approved by the Meredith Town Sexton prior to planting. The sexton shall have the right to enter upon any Lot and upon his/her discretion may remove any grass, leaves, branches and neglected or undesirable flowers or plants. Upon sexton discretion any improper or offensive objects not conducive to a dignified, well-ordered cemetery may be removed after owner notification, if possible. Artificial flowers may be displayed on Lots in suitable containers. NO glass plant containers of any kind are allowed on cemetery grounds and will be immediately removed by the sexton.
- 2) The Town of Meredith and its sexton is not responsible for the care or maintenance of anything placed or planted on a Lot, including but not limited to monuments, memorials, vases, urns, flowers, memorial flags or other decorations. The sexton may remove anything from a Lot at his/her discretion when it becomes unsightly, dangerous, or affects the grass or surrounding area in an adverse manner. The sexton shall remove all summer decorations from all cemeteries commencing October 15th and all winter decorations commencing March 15th each year if not previously removed.
- 3) The Town of Meredith or their designee shall take reasonable precautions to protect all Lots within Town Cemeteries from loss or damage but distinctly disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond the Town's reasonable control and especially from damage caused by the elements, acts of nature, thieves, vandals, strikers, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents, invasions or riots. The Town of Meredith will not be responsible for any items lost, misplaced, broken or stolen from any cemetery Lot.
- 4) The Town of Meredith reserves the right to restrict and regulate the size, height, location and number of all monuments and markers placed on any lot within town owned cemeteries.
 - 1) All monument designs and dimensions must be approved and authorized by the Town sexton and Lot owner(s) prior to installation.
 - 2) Monument companies installing approved monuments within Town owned cemeteries must receive Town Cemetery Sexton permission before monument installation begins. Monument companies working within any town owned cemeteries are liable for any damage caused by them or their employees or subcontractors during monument installation or while performing any other type of work within town owned cemeteries.
- 5) All monuments and bronze grass level markers within Meredith Village Cemetery shall be set upon a cement foundation. All monument foundations, corner posts and grass level markers shall be installed by the Town sexton at a feasible time of the year within a reasonable amount of time.
- 6) All markers and corner posts within Town cemeteries shall be installed flush to the ground. Stick post memorial markers may be placed beside a monument or marker.
- 7) Town fees will be charged for the installation of all foundations, markers and corner posts and must be paid prior to work commencing. (See Price Schedule page
- 8) All sexton decisions and rulings may be appealed through the Meredith Board of Selectmen.

Town of Meredith Cemetery Ordinances – Section IV

- 1) Once a casket containing a body is within cemetery grounds, no funeral director, or his/her embalmer, assistant, employee or agent shall be permitted to open the casket or touch the body of the deceased without the consent of the legal representative(s) of the deceased, or by an order signed by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 2) When instructions regarding the location of an interment space within a lot cannot be obtained or are indefinite, or when, for any reason, the interment space cannot be opened where specified, the sexton may, at his/her discretion, open the interment space in such location within the lot or another lot as he/she deems best and proper, so as not to delay the funeral and the Town of Meredith shall not be liable in damages for any error made.
- 3) The Town of Meredith reserves and shall have, the right to correct any errors that may be made either in making interments, disinterring, or removals, or in the description, transfer, or conveyance of any interment property, either by canceling such conveyance and substituting and conveying in lieu thereof, other interment property of equal value and similar location as close as possible to the original Lot.
- 4) All full burials within Town cemeteries shall require a cement vault. All cremation burials require a non-perishable urn, or a perishable urn or container sealed within a cement urn vault. The scattering of human cremains is only allowed on Town cemetery lots where the current lot owner, or their heirs or legal assignees have given written permission to do so, with said written permission to be filed with the Town Cemetery Sexton before any scattering of cremains occurs.
- 5) A maximum of 1 full burial and 2 cremation burials, or 3 cremation burials and no full burials will be allowed per grave lot in all Town cemeteries.
- 6) The cremains of only 1 person per cremation lot within Meredith Village Cemetery is allowed.
- 7) Vault company(s) is liable for any cemetery damage caused during their vault installations or vault closings.
- 8) Prior to the interment of a body within a Town owned cemetery, the person in charge of the funeral (funeral director, family heirs, legal assignee, private individual, etc.) must present to the Town of Meredith Cemetery Sexton a valid burial permit and an order of interment signed by the lot owner of the burial space to be used. If the lot owner is deceased or otherwise incapacitated, an order of interment signed by his/her heir, or legally appointed assignee before any burial occurs.
- 9) The receiving tomb is for temporary use only. Winter tomb storage begins on December 1st of each year. All stored bodies must be removed from the receiving tomb prior to June 1st of each year. The Meredith Town Sexton reserves the right, without notice, to have removed from the Meredith Village Cemetery tomb any remains not in a good state of preservation, or when the condition of the body demands its interment.

Section IV continued

- 10) The remains of any person who has died of an infectious or contagious disease must be interred within a sealed casket or have been cremated, and said remains shall not be allowed to be stored in the Meredith Village Cemetery receiving tomb.

Town of Meredith Cemetery Ordinances – Section V

- 1) All burials within Town of Meredith owned cemeteries are subject to the Town of Meredith Cemetery Sexton's approval and supervision.
- 2) The Town of Meredith will not sell, deed or otherwise grant any grave lots or rights to burial within any Town owned cemetery except Meredith Village Cemetery.
- 3) The proof of Lot ownership or the right to burial within any cemetery now owned by the Town of Meredith, devolves upon, and must be proved by, the person(s) seeking interment in said cemetery, or by his/her legal heir or designee, such proof required prior to the Town sexton granting interment approval within any of the Town owned cemeteries..
- 4) The Town of Meredith will inter cremains only (no full burials) within all Town owned cemeteries except Meredith Village Cemetery. Such cremain interments will be subject to the regular Town interment charge and all pertinent Town cemetery ordinances.
- 5) The Town of Meredith Cemetery Department will open and close full burial graves **only** within the Meredith Village Cemetery. Any other full burial grave openings and closings allowed in any other town owned cemetery must be contracted out by the person in charge of the funeral. All burials in any Town owned cemetery will be under the supervision of the Meredith Town Cemetery Sexton and subject to all pertinent Meredith Town Cemetery Ordinances.
- 6) The person (duly licensed funeral directors, contractors, heirs, legal assignees, private individuals, etc.) in charge of any funeral conducted within any Town owned cemetery will be held liable for all cemetery damages (to stonewalls, lawns, monuments etc) caused by the conduction of that funeral, regardless if said damage was caused by themselves, their contractors, sub contractors, or any other participants brought into the cemetery for the purpose of that funeral.

Town of Meredith Cemetery Ordinances
Fee Schedule
and Grave Opening Charges

- 1) The Town of Meredith will open all full burial and cremation graves within Meredith Village Cemetery year-round, on a timely basis, as determined by current weather and digging conditions.
 - A. All summer grave openings require a 48-hour advance notice. The summer interment schedule for Meredith Village Cemetery will be April 1st through November 15th unless changed by the Town Sexton due to unusual snow and/or ground frost conditions.
 - B. All winter grave openings require a 72-hour advance notice. The winter interment schedule for Meredith Village Cemetery will be November 16th through March 31st unless changed by the Town Sexton due to unusual snow and/or ground frost conditions. Winter grave opening times will be determined by the Town Sexton based on:
 - 1) current weather conditions (including storms, depth of frost, mud, extreme temperatures, etc.
 - 2) Equipment availability
 - 3) Town work week cycle
- 2) Meredith Village Cemetery Summer Grave Opening Fees are:
 - A. **\$400** per full burial grave, for a summer, non-holiday, weekday grave opening or disinterment.
 - B. **\$500** per full burial grave, for a summer weekend or summer holiday grave opening or disinterment.
 - C. **\$200** per cremation grave, for summer, non-holiday, weekday cremation grave opening or disinterment
 - D. **\$250** per cremation grave for summer weekend/holiday cremation opening/disinterment
- 3) Meredith Village Cemetery Winter Grave Opening Fees are:
 - A. **\$500** per full burial grave, for a winter, weekday, non-holiday grave opening or disinterment.
 - B. **\$600** per full burial grave, for a winter weekend or winter holiday grave opening or disinterment.
 - C. **\$300** per cremation grave, for winter weekday, non holiday cremation grave opening/disinterment.
 - D. **\$350** per cremation grave, for any winter weekend or holiday cremation grave opening or disinterment

FEE SCHEDULE AND OPENING CHARGES, continued

- 4) Meredith Village Cemetery Tomb Holding Fees are:
- A. **\$125** per body stored between December 1st through January 31st
 - B. **\$75** per body stored between February 1st through March 31st.
 - C. Tomb holding fees apply only to bodies not being interred in a Meredith cemetery
 - D. Meredith Village Cemetery interments will take precedence in tomb storage use.

5) Cost of Graves in Meredith Village Cemetery:

- A. Full burial graves (4 ft x 11 ft) are **\$500** per grave
- B. Cremains only grave (2 ft x 2.5 ft) are **\$150** per cremain only grave. (See Town Ordinances for monument restrictions on cremain graves.)
- C. To ensure the orderly development of the Meredith Village Cemetery all graves for sale and all lot locations within the Meredith Village Cemetery will be determined by the Town Cemetery Sexton.

6) Meredith Village Cemetery Monument/Marker Installation Fees:

- A. **\$100** each for any size monument foundation
- B. **\$25.00 per set of four** corner posts- installed
- C. **\$25 each** for Grass Level Marker to be installed
- D. Government issued veteran's markers to be installed at ***no charge***.

7) Replacement Right to Burial Certificates (also referred to as "Deeds"):

There will be a **\$10.00** charge for replacement of Right to Burial Certificates (also referred to as "Deeds".)

- 8) **Right to Burial Certificates/Deed Research:** Research will be conducted at the rate of **\$16.00 per hour**

Cemetery Ordinance as revised December 12, 2005, as Approved by Board of Selectmen:

_____	Date:_____
Robert C. Flanders, Chairman	
_____	Date:_____
Frank Michel	
_____	Date:_____
Peter Miller	
_____	Date:_____
Carol Granfield, Town Manager	

Meredith Village Cemetery Ordinances
Fee Schedule-Increases - Effective 3/15/06

Description	Current Fee	Fee
Summer Full Grave Opening (Monday-Friday)		\$400.00
Summer Full Grave Opening (weekends and holidays)		\$500.00
Summer Cremain Grave Opening (Monday-Friday)		\$200.00
Summer Cremain Grave Opening (weekend and holidays)		\$250.00
Winter Full Grave Opening (Monday-Friday)		\$500.00
Winter Full Grave Opening (weekend and holidays)		\$600.00
Winter Cremain Grave Opening (Monday-Friday)		\$300.00
Winter Cremain Grave Opening (weekend and holidays)		\$350.00
Winter Tomb Storage Fee	<i>\$150/body</i>	Dec 1st-Jan 1st-\$125/body Feb 1st-March 31st-\$75/body
One Full Burial Grave Lot (size 4 ft x 11 feet)		\$500.00
One Cremain Grave Lot (size 2 feet x 2.5 feet)		\$150.00
Concrete Monument Foundation	<i>\$40 any size</i>	\$100 each, any size
Corner posts installed-set of four		\$25.00
Install Grass Level Marker		\$25.00
Install Veteran's marker (Federal Gov't issued)	<i>N/C</i>	N/C
Replace "Right to Burial" Certificate/Deed		\$10.00
Research Right to Burial Certificates/Deeds	<i>\$16 per hour</i>	\$16 per hour

Winter: Nov 1st to April 1st

Summer: April 1st to Nov 1st