

TOWN OF HANOVER

CEMETERIES



Rules and Regulations & History

Center Cemetery
LeeAnn L. Allen, Clerk
781/ 826-3189

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE HANOVER CEMETERIES

As amended by the Board of Public Works on March 13, 2002

1. Only Hanover residents, who can provide an acceptable form of documentation, shall be permitted to purchase grave sites in the Hanover Cemeteries. Purchases shall be limited to the number of persons in the family residing in the Town at the time of purchase unless the number of persons in the family is an odd number, the purchase of the next highest even number of graves sites will be allowed with the approval of the Board of Public Works. Former residents, who can document town residency for at least ten years, will be allowed to purchase graves at double the price of current residents.
2. Active military personnel, who are Hanover residents at the time they enlist in the military, may purchase lots in the Hanover Cemeteries with the same conditions as in Rule 1.
3. If the owner of a lot dies, then the ownership of the lot shall vest in his heirs at law or devisees subject to the limitation and conditions as imposed by Section 29, Chapter 114 of the General Laws of Massachusetts.
4. In the event a lot owner no longer desires burial rights in Hanover Cemeteries, an unoccupied lot may only be sold to the Town of Hanover for the price stated on the original deed. No re-sale of a lot may be made except by the Cemetery Supervisor.
5. Descriptions of lots will be in accordance with the plans which are kept on file in the Public Works office and at the cemetery office.
6. A total of one full interment and a maximum of 8 cremations are allowed on one grave.

7. No interment of two or more bodies shall be made in one grave, except in the case of parent and child or two infants buried in one casket.
8. Only one monument shall be allowed on each lot. The Department of Public Works shall reserve the right to designate the location of said monument in order to facilitate the care of the area. Any markers including corner markers shall be flush with the established ground elevation. The owner must have the approval of the Department of Public Works before any marker may be placed on any grave/lot.
9. All monuments shall be provided with foundations installed by Cemetery personnel. The cost of the monuments and foundations will be at the expense of the owner. Foundation sizes shall be restricted as follows: Maximum size -

Single Grave:	24" width
Double Grave:	36" width
Three or More Graves	48" width
Flush Marker:	30" width
Height	42" high
10. The cemetery will be open for interments from 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM daily, with the exception of Saturday, Sundays and Holidays. When holidays fall on Saturday or Monday and delay will cause unreasonable hardship or inconvenience, interments may be made on such days with the approval of the Board of Public Works.
11. The right is reserved by the Board of Public Works to require at least one working day's notice prior to any interment and at least one week's notice prior to any disinterment or removal.
12. Once a casket containing a body is within the confines of the Cemetery, no funeral director, nor his embalmer, assistant, employee, or agent shall be permitted to open the casket or to touch the body

without the consent of the legal representative of the deceased or on order signed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

13. When the person directing the funeral, whether he be a funeral director or acting in some other capacity, brings the remains into the Cemetery, the Supervisor shall have the absolute right to assume that said remains are those of the person provided for in the interment permit and the Supervisor shall not be liable for any difference in the identity between the person whose remains are to be interred and the person named in the permit.
14. The Cemetery Supervisor and the employees of the Cemetery are the only persons who will be permitted to open graves with the following exceptions:
 - a. When the cemetery is directed to make a disinterment by the order of the court of competent jurisdiction and a certified copy of such order has been filed with the Board of Public Works.
 - b. When the coroner directs the disinterment for the purpose of holding an inquest and has filed with the Board of Public Works, has signed authorization to release the body to himself and his lawful agents, in such a case, the disinterment must be made by the coroner or his lawful agents.
15. The use of upright emblems is not permitted, except for flags supplied by the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Hanover Fire and Police organizations. Cemetery personnel at their discretion may remove these flags provided on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, when they become excessively worn or unsightly and during the winter season.
16. The Department of Public Works will take all necessary precautions to protect grave lettering, carvings and ornaments on all memorials, monuments and any other structures in the cemetery. The

Department of Public Works will NOT be liable for the damage or injury of any of the above.

17. All monuments shall be of natural stone.
18. Metal flower holders, wood or metal flower boxes, baskets with potted plants and potted flowers will be permitted to be placed at the bottom of any monument, and any exception to the above must bear the approval of the Department of Public Works. Glass containers, fencing, balloons, vegetation with thorns or other objects, which may impede maintenance or endanger personnel or equipment, will not be allowed. No plantings are allowed around flush markers.
19. The Department of Public Works must approve all shrubs, evergreens and plantings before they are set in place and shall have the authority to remove or transplant any material, which has been placed or planted upon any grave/lot. No artificial flowers will be permitted. No shrubbery will be allowed on a single grave. No plantings should encroach on neighboring lots. Plantings may be removed by Cemetery personnel October 1 and April 1, or at their discretion, as they become unsightly or overgrown with weeds.
20. The use of illuminating lights or candles must be approved by the Department of Public Works.
21. All instructions pertaining to interment and monuments shall be delivered in writing and addressed to the Department of Public Works. The Cemetery Division will not be held responsible for verbal communications. Should the lot owner fail or neglect to make such designation, the Cemetery Division reserves the right to make the interment in a location designated by the Board of Public Works.
22. It is the duty of the lot owner to notify the cemetery of any change of post office address. For purposes of notification, the last address on file will be used.

23. The Board of Public Works reserves, and shall have the right to correct any error that may be made.
24. Employees of the cemetery are not permitted to do any work for lot owners except upon order of the supervisor.
25. The cemetery will be open from dawn to dusk.
26. Persons visiting the cemetery or attending funerals are strictly prohibited from picking flowers, wild or cultivated, breaking or injuring any tree, shrub, or plant, or from writing upon, defacing or injuring any memorials, fence or other structure within the cemetery grounds.
27. Unauthorized persons are not permitted within the cemetery or its buildings, and
 - a. Loud or boisterous noise is not permitted.
 - b. Loitering or littering on the grounds or in any of the buildings is not permitted.
 - c. Bringing dogs into the cemetery or any of its buildings is not permitted.
28. The maximum speed limit of 10 MPH will be enforced in all Hanover Cemeteries. Horses or recreational vehicles such as mini-bikes and snowmobiles shall not be allowed on cemetery grounds.
29. All burials, including cremations, will be contained in a suitable reinforced concrete, metal or fiberglass vault with a one (1) piece cover.
30. Under no conditions will a sale of lot card or certificate be issued until payment has been made in full previous to any burials.

31. The right to enlarge, reduce, replot or change the boundaries or grading of the cemetery, or a section or sections, from time to time, including the right to modify or change the locations of or remove or regrade roads, drives or walks, or any part thereof is hereby reserved. The right to lay, maintain and operate, or alter, or change pipe lines or gutters for sprinkling systems, drainage, etc. is also expressly reserved, as well as the right to use cemetery property not sold to individual plot owners for cemetery purposes including interment of the dead, or for anything necessary, incidental or convenient thereto. The Board of Public Works reserves to itself and to those lawfully entitled thereto a perpetual right of ingress and egress over plots for the purpose of passing to and from other plots.
32. The Board of Public Works may adopt, and hereby expressly reserve the right at any time to adopt new rules and regulations, or to amend, alter, and/or repeal any rules or regulations, and/or article, section, paragraph and/or sentence in these rules and regulations without notice.
33. The “Policy for Police Memorial Lot, Fire Department Memorial Lot, and Department of Public Works Memorial Lot in Hanover Center Cemetery” adopted on December 17, 1997 is a part of these Rules and Regulations.
34. The instrument of conveyance of these Rules and Regulations and any amendments thereto constitute the sole agreement between the Board of Public Works and the plot owner. The statement of any employee or agent, unless in writing by the Board of Public Works, shall in no way bind the Cemetery.
35. The Board of Public Works is hereby empowered to enforce all Rules and Regulations and to exclude from the Cemetery any person violating the same. The Board of Public Works shall have charge of the grounds and buildings including the conduct of funerals, traffic,

employees, plot owners, and visitors and at all times shall have supervision and control of all persons in the Cemetery.

36. Any resident aggrieved by these rules and regulations for any reason, may apply for a variance which may be granted after a hearing by the Board of Public Works, whose decision shall be final.

DEFINITIONS

GRAVE: The term grave shall apply to a space of sufficient size to accommodate one standard adult interment.

LOT: A parcel of land in the Hanover Cemeteries composed of one or more graves. Lots are in multiples of 2 and 4 graves.

MONUMENT: A memorial stone erected in remembrance of a person.

MARKER: The term marker shall mean a memorial flush with the ground.

LOT MARKER: The term lot marker means a device used by the cemetery to locate corners of the lot or plot.

INTERMENT: The act or ceremony of burying remains or ashes in the earth or tomb.

PERPETUAL CARE: The continued preservation, care, improvement or embellishment of individual lots in the cemetery. This care is automatically included in the sale of a lot/grave.

DEED OF OWNERSHIP: The term deed of ownership shall apply to the original conveyance given by the Town to the original purchaser.

“HISTORY OF HANOVER” Cemeteries – 1910

“Previous to the incorporation of the town the burial-places for the most of the population living within her borders must have been the old cemeteries in Scituate. Doubtless the one north of Union bridge was used as well as the one at Church Hill. After the incorporation, Hanover made immediate provision for the burial of its dead and, in 1727, the Town of Scituate made a grant from its Common Lands of ten acres for a training-field and burying-ground. This lot was divided into two parcels, one of seven and one-half acres for the training-field and one of two and a half acres for the burial-ground. Later the town voted to give to John Rogers a deed of seven and one-half acres, which was not included within the borders of the present cemetery and to take in return a deed of three acres, which was probably the basis of the present cemetery.

“It is doubtful if the town ever occupied any part of this present cemetery ground for a training-field although the “Gun House”, within the memory of men now living, stood on the lot near Main Street, a few rods east of the tombs.

“The earliest burials were made in the northerly part of the cemetery, as then constituted, and stones are now standing which give a date as early as 1730.

“Before 1700, few graves in any of the cemeteries of the Old Colony were indicated with stone monuments, wooden markers being used. But, when Hanover was incorporated, they had become common.

“The early stones were of slate, imported Welsh slate, it is said. They have stood the test of time. The cuts on these stones are repulsive but the inscriptions are lengthy and indicate tenderness and appreciation.

“The most of these old stones face the west, as they do in so many of the older cemeteries. Until the beginning of the nineteenth century,

all the graves had, as a top covering, small stones for a depth of at least one foot.

“During the early part of the nineteenth century, marble stones came into use and this use continued for a long time; but a majority of these have fallen and the decay of all is inevitable. Granite is now the principal material used for headstones and monuments.

“Probably the graves unmarked in the cemetery exceed in number those that are marked. Briggs, in his “Church and Cemetery Records”, gave a list of the majority of the stones standing, when this book was published.

“In 1788, David Stockbridge presented the town with a parcel of land containing one and one-quarter acres. This now constitutes the northwest part of the cemetery.

“About 1850, John Barstow gave to the town a lot of land and this lot now forms the southeasterly part of the cemetery.

“In 1891, the town purchased of Joshua Studley 12 6-10 acres, of Mrs. Andrew T. Damon 3 8-10 acres, and at the same time, Mrs. Eliza Salmond gave to the town 3-10 of an acre of land. This now forms the northerly part of the present grounds. The cemetery now contains 25 6-10 acres.

“In 1808, the town voted to purchase a hearse. Previous to this we think the Bier and Pall had been used for transporting the dead to their final resting place.

“Previous to 1844 the grounds had little care except such as was given by friends and individual owners of lots. On that date, the town passed a vote to “raise a Committee to cause to be built a tomb and to exterminate the bushes on the Burying-ground”; but as late as 1860 the old graves were still covered with heaps of small stones and the low-bush blueberries covered the most of the ground. Since that date more and more attention has been given to the care of the grounds and

now there are few country cemeteries that can surpass our own for beauty of situation or that show greater attention or more modest, beautiful monuments.

“The Grand Army by the inauguration of Decoration Day has aroused a sentiment that has done much to make our cemetery an attractive spot; and no heart can be untouched by the simple impressive ceremonies of the day, especially those at the Memorial Urn, which was erected by our Womans’ Relief Corps in memory of the “Unreturned”; and at the Soldier’s Monument, which stands on the green at the entrance to the cemetery grounds.

“Early in the history of the Colony, family burial lots were common and there were three at least at Hanover; one west of Center Street on the Albert White farm, one west of Winter Street and one at West Hanover, a few rods northwest of the house of Alpheus Packard. This latter lot is now fenced and several headstones are still standing.

“The one west of Center Street was the Hatch family burial lot and here James Hatch, the first Selectman was buried. Cornelius White owned this land in the early part of the nineteenth century. He tried to have the town take possession of this burial lot and preserve it but no definite action was taken and the ground was ploughed.

“It was a tender thought to bury the loved ones on the home place. Time and change are unfelling and experience teaches us that one common ground with perpetual care is more in harmony with our better thoughts in connection with our dead.

“At Assinippi near the town line is another burial ground established about 1789, this having been used largely by families in that section of the town.”

From the above descriptions as quoted by the History of Hanover, 1910, a summation to that date has been given.

At present due to various land acquisitions the Town of Hanover, Center Cemetery encompasses 39.8 acres of which 24 acres are completely developed and properly maintained since perpetual care has become mandatory.

The Department of Public Works takes particular pride in the maintenance of this area and is always open for suggestions for any improvements possible within the total operating capacity.

HANOVER CEMETERIES

Schedule of Charges Effective June 1, 2002

Burial Rights -	Per Grave	\$600.00
	Per Grave for Former Residents	\$1,200.00
	Per Cremation/Infant Lot	\$150.00
	Per Cremation/Infant Lot for Former Resident	\$300.00
Interment -	Weekdays from 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM	\$600.00
	Including Veteran's Marker	\$650.00
	After 2:00 PM additional per hour	\$100.00
	Sat., Sun., Holiday	\$850.00
	Including Veteran's Marker	\$900.00
	Cremation - Stillborn	\$150.00
	Sat., Sun., Holiday	\$250.00
	Winter Conditions (December 1 to April 1 for all openings)	\$ 75.00
Foundations -	Monuments per Square Foot	\$50.00
	Marker Set in Concrete per Square Foot	\$50.00
	Veteran's Marker	\$50.00
	Marker in Soil	\$30.00

All markers are to be set at ground elevation.

Shrubs -	Surcharge per shrub to go to Perpetual Care Fund	\$50.00
Removal -		\$1,000.00
	Cremation - Stillborn	\$150.00

Payments – Make checks payable to the Town of Hanover

For further information please contact Cemetery at 781-826-5574
or
Department of Public Works at 781-826-3189