



## TOWN OF RAYMOND NH Cemetery Rules and Regulations Updated 4/23/2026

### **Summary**

The Cemetery Trustees have been elected to oversee and maintain the public cemeteries within the Town of Raymond. It is the desire of the Trustees to provide the residents of Raymond with a well-groomed and peaceful country cemetery where visitors may benefit from a calm and satisfying experience. Consequent to this responsibility, a comprehensive set of Rules and Regulations has been adopted and revised over the years. Copies are available through the Town Office or Raymond website: [raymondnh.gov](http://raymondnh.gov).

Although there are approximately fourteen (14) identified burial grounds within the town limits, the Old Pine Grove and New Pine Grove Cemeteries located on Epping Street are presently the only public graveyards open for interments.

These rules and regulations apply only to the municipal cemeteries; however, every cemetery in the Town of Raymond, including private graveyards, must be registered at the Town Office and is subject to the Town of Raymond Zoning Ordinances.

Also note that all private burial grounds are controlled by the laws of the State of New Hampshire regulating the interment of human remains, including RSA 289.

## **ARTICLE I            Management**

1. Cemeteries owned by the Town of Raymond shall be operated and maintained in accordance with RSA 289 and all other applicable state laws.

## **ARTICLE II            Sale of Rights to Interment Lots**

1. No interment rights shall be issued for a lot in unplotted ground.
2. No interment shall be permitted in any lot until said rights to interment are paid in full and all interment permits are obtained.
3. The total price of lots shall be paid at the time of the purchase of the rights to interment.
4. Prices of rights to interment lots shall be in accordance with the Town of Raymond fee schedule.
5. The Cemetery Sexton or their designee shall be the only person authorized to sell rights to interment lots.
6. Cemetery lots may be transferred in accordance with RSA 289:24  
Unused lots may be sold back to the Town at the original purchase price.
7. People desiring to allow the interment of remains other than those of their immediate families in their site may do so upon presenting a written request signed by the owner of the rights to interment site, or their successor in interest, when approved by the Cemetery Trustees.
8. Upon purchasing a plot or plots, the purchaser will be provided with a copy of the cemetery regulations.

## **ARTICLE III            Size of Rights to Interment Lots**

1. One (1) casket with one (1) additional cremation urn; or three (3) cremation urns may be interred in the same single lot.
- ~~2.~~ The interment of the remains of more than one person in one casket will not be permitted except the remains of mother (or father) and infant, or two infants enclosed in one casket. Cremated remains may be interred in a casket.

3. Lot sizes (Lots are sold as individual rights to inter):
  - Single lots 40 inches x 120 inches
  - 6 grave family lot 10 feet x 20 feet
  - 12 grave family lot 20 feet x 20 feet

**ARTICLE IV            Site Markers**

1. Corner markers are required at the base of all interment sites and must be set flush with the ground. They may be square, oval, or round. They will be installed within 60 days of the purchase of the plot weather permitting.

**ARTICLE V            Maintenance**

1. Maintenance includes the cutting and trimming of the grass at reasonable intervals, the raking and cleaning of the grounds when deemed necessary by the Sexton or Cemetery Trustees, the pruning of shrubs and trees that may be placed by the Town and the removal of dead flowers and trash.
2. Such maintenance shall in no case mean the repair, maintenance or replacement of any memorial, marker or structure of any kind erected upon interment sites; nor the planting of flowers or plants; nor does it mean the reconstruction of any marble, granite, bronze, concrete, or any other work or any section of plot, damage to which may have been caused by the elements, an act of God, thieves, vandals, explosions, unavoidable accidents, riots or by order of any military or civil authority, whether damaged is caused by direct or collateral means.
3. If a Trust has been established calling for the placement of flowers or urns, this will be done in accordance with the terms of the trust. Costs for this will be submitted to the Trustees of the Trust Funds for reimbursement.

**ARTICLE VI            Records**

1. A map showing the plan of the Old and New Pine Grove Cemetery and their division into sections, as well as a master plan of each section showing the divisions of each section with site numbers shall be kept by the Town.
2. A card identification system and/or computer record in which the sections, number, and the name of each interment rights owner and those interred in either of the Pine Grove Cemeteries shall be kept by the Town.

**ARTICLE VII            Funerals and Interments**

1. Funerals and interments will be arranged following the “Raymond Cemetery Interments Process Procedures.”
2. Arrangements for interments shall be made at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance and directly to the Cemetery Sexton or their designee. Exceptions for religious reasons only shall be at the discretion of the Sexton.
3. Concrete liners are required for all full body interments.

4. Natural or “Green interments and natural organic reduction of human remains (composting) are not permitted at this time.
5. The person giving the order for the interment must supply the necessary information for the interment records of the Town. In addition, such person must present an interment permit prior to interment, as required by the laws of the State of New Hampshire.
6. All funerals, on arriving at the gate, are under the direction and control of the Cemetery Sexton or designee.
7. Interment & cremation holes will only be dug by those authorized by the Cemetery Trustees.
8. Cremation holes will be 30” deep and compacted with a tamping device. Sod will be replaced. The center of the hole will be marked with an 8” steel pin.
9. NOTE: Only non-degradable urns may be interred.
10. Extra soil will be moved to the storage area at New Pine Grove Cemetery.
11. No disinterment or removal of any remains will be permitted except:
  - a. With the consent, in writing, of the owner of the interment rights, next of kin, or legal representative.
  - b. With the permit required by the laws of the State of New Hampshire.
12. The Town, Cemetery Trustees, or Cemetery Sexton shall not be responsible for any order given by telephone, or any mistake occurring from the want of proper instructions as to the proper grave location where interment is to be made.

## **ARTICLE VIII     Monuments**

1. No monument shall be erected without prior approval of the Cemetery Sexton or their designee. No monument or marker may be erected on any interment site until the rights to interment have been paid in full and the owner is in possession of the rights interment certificate.
2. Monuments will only be installed by authorized individuals.
3. The monument contractor must submit a dimensioned drawing of the monument showing foundation sizes, base sizes, and actual monument size.
4. No monument will be permitted to be erected bearing any mark or symbol deemed objectionable by the Cemetery Trustees. The right is reserved to prohibit or remove any monument deemed objectionable by the Cemetery Trustees.

5. One upright monument will be permitted on each single or family plot with interment rights. Flush (footstone) markers may also be included for each interment. The monument base or stone length shall not exceed 30 inches on a single (40 inches wide) lot, 40 inches on a double (80 inches wide) plot, and 60 inches on a triple wide (120 inches wide) plot. The monument base width shall not exceed sixteen inches. The monument itself shall not exceed an overall height from the ground level to the top of more than three feet six inches.
6. Families may request permission to install a second upright monument on 20'x 20' plots or any pre-regulation plot containing 8 or more grave spaces, provided that: 1. The monument is aligned with existing upright stones. 2. Height, style, and orientation are aesthetically appropriate and approved by the Trustees. 3. Installation complies with all current foundation, safety, and footing requirements. 4. Placement does not interfere with cemetery operations or adjacent lots.
7. All flush markers shall be granite, flat on the bottom (sawed) as well as flat on the top. They are to be set flush with the grade and may rest on a concrete foundation but shall not be adhered to the foundation. They shall be not less than 4" thick and not more than 6" thick. Single markers shall be 12" x 24" in size and double markers shall be 15" x 36" in size. Military and fraternal insignia may be engraved on the markers.

**ARTICLE IX Foundations or Footings**

1. All foundations or footings for upright monuments shall be at least three (3) feet below ground level.
2. All foundations or footings for monuments shall be built by the monument dealer, under the Cemetery Sexton's or their designee's supervision, and charged to the interment site owner.

**ARTICLE X Shrubs and Trees**

1. No trees are allowed to be planted and/or replaced on any interment site except those which are planted by the Town.
2. Any bushes, shrubs, or plants that are not maintained or interfere with the maintenance of the cemeteries will be removed.
3. The Town shall not be responsible for the replacement of any shrub, tree, or bush planted in a Town cemetery-

**ARTICLE XI General Rules**

1. The Cemetery Sexton or Trustees reserve the right to remove any article from any interment site that is noted in the Cemetery Clean up Policy.
2. American Flags will be permitted. The flag is to be placed next to the existing monument or flat stone marker.

3. Potted flowers, cut flowers, and artificial flowers may be placed on sites. The Cemetery Sexton or Trustees shall have the authority to remove all floral designs, cut flowers, artificial flowers, weeds, trees, shrubs, or herbage of any kind, from the cemeteries, as soon as, in the judgment of the Cemetery Sexton or Trustees, they become unsightly, dangerous, detrimental, or diseased.
4. No roping, hedge, fence, railing, mulch, stone chips, or enclosure of any kind may be placed on the boundaries of any interment site. Edgings may be installed in front of or around a monument to protect flowers and items.
5. Mounds over graves are prohibited.
6. Lot owners will be permitted to do general maintenance on their lots in the Town Cemeteries. Any other work will require permission from the Cemetery Sexton or their designee.
7. Cars, bicycles, and motorcycles shall be permitted in the cemeteries but must remain on paved areas only. For those with mobility issues, exceptions will be made for the sections of Old Pine Grove Cemetery without paved roads. In no case will vehicles be allowed to drive over cemetery plots. Off-road recreational vehicles are not permitted unless part of a funeral procession.
8. Winter arrangements of natural materials may be placed on interment sites. Flowers or winter arrangements must not exceed the width of the monument and not exceed one (1) foot out from the front of the monument base. No flowers or winter arrangements are allowed behind a monument base, except on 6 and 12 grave interment sites which have space behind the monument and has been approved by the Cemetery Sexton or Trustees.
9. If no monument is on the interment site, a one (1) foot by two (2) foot section for flowers or winter arrangements will be allowed in line with the monuments of the other interment sites of that range. Shepherd hooks, crosses, and not more than 2 external lights will be allowed as long as they are placed beside or in front of monuments.
10. Semi- annual cleanups are typically performed in the fall and spring in accordance with the Cemetery Clean up Policy. Weather or staffing may shift the exact date. Cleanup of the Cemeteries will also be performed by the Sexton on a regular basis.
11. The Town shall not be liable or responsible to any person for damage done to monuments, trees, shrubs, or plants except for that damage arising directly from its negligence, and the Town shall not be responsible for personal injuries received or property damage caused, except that which arises directly from its own negligence.
12. The cemetery is open from dawn to dusk.
13. The water in the cemetery shall be turned on or about April 15<sup>th</sup> and turned off on October 15<sup>th</sup>. See Cemetery Water Policy for more details.

14. The Cemeteries will be closed to vehicle traffic and interments will not be permitted during the winter months as determined by the Cemetery Trustees on the recommendation of the Sexton. The Cemetery roads are not plowed during the winter months.
15. Trash or debris, including flowerpots, arrangements, cuttings, or limbs shall be discarded in the appropriate location at the rear of the New Pine Grove Cemetery and not at the perimeter banks of the cemeteries.

**ARTICLE XII                      Pets**

1. No pet animals of any kind may be buried in a Town Cemetery.
2. Dogs on leashes are permitted and must be under the control of their handler at all times. It is the responsibility of the person handling the dog to clean up any pet waste.

**ARTICLE XIII                      Town of Raymond Lot**

1. Per NH RSA 165, any person in a town or city who is poor and unable to support himself shall be known as a town or city assisted person and shall be relieved and maintained at the expense of the town or city of residence.
2. In accordance with NH RSA 165:3-I If an assisted person shall die in any town or city the overseers of public welfare shall cause such person to be decently buried or cremated at the expense of the town or city and may be interred in the “Town of Raymond” lot.

**ARTICLE XIV                      Amendments or changes to the Rules and Regulations**

1. The Cemetery Trustees hereby expressly reserve the right to adopt additional rules and regulations and/or to amend, alter or repeal any rule, regulation, article, section, paragraph or sentence in these Rules and Regulations at any time and without notice.
2. Per RSA 289:8 Enforcement. – Any other person who violates this chapter or any regulation established under the authority of this chapter shall be guilty of a violation.

These rules & regulations shall become effective upon the approval of the Raymond Cemetery Trustees. A record of these regulations shall be kept on file with the Town Clerk and posted on the Town of Raymond website.

Raymond Cemetery Trustees Dated: 4/23/2026

Kevin Woods

Joan Page

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