



TOWN OF BILLERICA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
365 Boston Road
Billerica, Massachusetts 01821
(978) 671-0946

NEVILLE RIVET
Supt. Cemetery, Parks, Trees

BILLERICA CEMETERIES

North Cemetery Salem Rd. between Floyd St. and Pollard St.

Fox Hill Cemetery 130 Andover Rd.

Job Hill Cemetery corner Nashua Rd. and Dudley Rd.

Old Corner Burial Ground corner Pollard St. and Floyd St.

South Cemetery Concord Rd.

The following regulations have been adopted by the Board of Cemetery Commissioners for the governance of all Public Cemeteries in the Town of Billerica, control of which is entrusted to the said Board of Cemetery Commissioners, and enforced by the Superintendent.

OWNERSHIP

The right to be granted to the owner of any lot or grave is a sole and exclusive right of burial and the erection of monuments or markers subject to the terms, conditions, and regulations of the Billerica Cemetery Commission. The premises in which such rights are granted shall be used only for the purposes of a place of burial for the dead.

The proprietors of rights of burial in the cemeteries, or their heirs, shall not grant, sell, alienate or convey the said executive right of burial to a person or persons, without having obtained the written approval and consent of the Commissioners, but it shall be optional with the Commissioners to grant or withhold such approval and consent. Any owner of a right of burial, who wishes to sell a lot, shall so advise the Commissioners who may repurchase the lot for the same sum that was paid by the owner when the lot was purchased, provided there are no interments in said lot, and minus monies given to perpetual care from the original sale of said plot(s).

All burials shall be under the personal charge of the Superintendent of cemeteries. No interments shall be made until the Superintendent shall have been furnished with a permit such as may be required by the laws of the Commonwealth; also with an order from the owner of the right of burial in the lot in which the interment is to be made, or from a legal representative. No interment shall be made until the fees provided for in the schedule adopted by the Commissioners shall have been paid in full.

Any outstanding obligation due the Town, such as perpetual care or annual care, must be paid before any grave is opened.

The Cemetery Department shall not be held responsible for any order given, nor mistake occurring, due to the lack of precise and proper information, nor instructions as to the particular space, size, and location in a plot where an interment or disinterment is desired.

The Cemetery Department reserves the right to correct any errors that made be made by it, either in making internments, disinterment, or removals, and shall not be held liable due to the failure of any devices to operate normally nor conditions beyond our control which may develop without our knowledge.

All internments shall be made in a concrete box or concrete vault sufficient to permanently support the weight above it. All cremations must be placed in urns before internment.

No grave shall be opened for internment by any person not in the employ of the Cemetery Department.

PERPETUAL CARE

The proprietor of a right of burial must create a permanent fund in accordance with the schedule adopted by the Commissioners which is to be used exclusively for the care of said lot

MONUMENTS

No monuments shall be erected without the approval of the Superintendent and in accordance with the specifications adopted by the Commissioners for said lot.

Specifications for monuments are as follows:

Upright Monument Privileges

2 graves side by side 3 graves side by side

42" wide 54" wide

14" thick 14" thick

36" high – overall height 36" high – overall height

These are MAXIMUM SIZES, INCLUDING BASE

No Monument Privileges

Single grave flat marker Double grave flat marker

24" x 12" x 4" maximum size 30" x 12" x 4" maximum size

1 marker allowed on each grave

Only one memorial allowed on a family lot and in the space provided for it.

On all single graves, only markers flush with the ground are allowed.

All foundations for monuments must be installed by employees of the Cemetery.

The proprietor of any lot must provide for perpetual care before he can erect any memorial or monument upon said lot.

If any monument, effigy, enclosure, structure, or inscription is, or may be, placed in or upon any lot which shall be determined by the Commission to be offensive or improper, or injurious to the appearance of the surrounding lots or grounds, they shall have the right, and it shall be their duty, to enter upon such lot and remove the said offensive or improper object.

When any memorial is to be removed or any inscription is to be made thereon, or is to be cleaned or repaired, permission must be obtained from the Superintendent, giving the owner's address as well as the name and address of the person who is to perform the work.

RESTRICTIONS AND GENERAL CARE

No dogs are allowed within cemetery grounds.

No person other than the proprietor, with the exception of the Superintendent or his employees, shall be allowed to perform any work on a lot or grave without permission from the Superintendent, and under control of the Superintendent.

Urns and memorial candles are allowed only if they are permanently affixed to the headstone foundation.

No memorials of a permanent or temporary nature shall be placed around the headstone or flat markers including boxes, markers, boxed wreaths, fences, solar lights, windmills, wind chimes, lawn decorations, plant hangers, shepherd hooks, decorative flags (with the exception of military, police, fire, and American) decorative stones, glass items, balloons, stuffed toys, etc. If there is a question please speak with the Cemetery Department.

Since 1991, no shrubs, trees, or bushes are allowed to be planted in the Town of Billerica's cemeteries. No existing plantings are allowed to be over 3 feet high. If any tree or shrub situated upon any lot or grave shall become detrimental, or prove inconvenient to properly perform work on said lot, it shall be the duty of the Commissioners, and they shall have the right to enter upon said grave or lot and remove said tree, shrub, or bush that they have deemed either detrimental, dangerous, inconvenient, encroaching on another grave or unsightly. This can be done without prior notice to said owner.

Only Town of Billerica Cemetery temporary markers will be allowed on the gravesite until permanent headstone or flat marker is installed. These temporary markers will be installed immediately upon interment. No wooden or metal crosses are allowed.

Flowers must not be brought into a cemetery except for decoration, and they must not be carried out of a cemetery except by permission of the Cemetery Superintendent. Plastic flowers will not be allowed to be placed in the ground around the memorial.

You are allowed to edge up to 8 inches around the headstone and place mulch only in this area. Due to the danger surrounding maintenance procedures, rocks or pebbles placed around the headstone will be immediately removed. No plastic, rubber, wooden, etc. edging will be allowed around the headstone.

The Cemetery Department is not responsible for any flowers or other decorations placed on graves or lots by the owners.

No person shall gather any flowers, either wild or cultivated in a cemetery; nor shall they remove, cut, break, or mar any tree, shrub, or plant; nor shall they mark, or deface any monument, building, or equipment within the cemeteries.

No person shall discard any refuse, glass, or cans within the Cemeteries.

No person shall rest upon lots or graves which do not belong to them, nor walk across lots or graves except to gain access to their own lots or graves.

Children are not allowed in the Cemeteries except when accompanied by their parents or an adult having charge of them.

No signs of any kind are allowed unless erected by the Superintendent.

No firearms of any kind are allowed within the Cemeteries except for use in military or public service salutes.

The Superintendent shall have direct charge of the Cemeteries under his care, and is empowered, authorized, and required with or without the intervention of the Cemetery Commissioners, to enforce these rules and regulations.

Graves may be decorated 2 weeks before and will be removed 2 weeks after Memorial Day, Thanksgiving, Veterans Day, Mothers Day, Fathers Day, and major religious holidays.