



TOWN OF CHILMARK, MASSACHUSETTS

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To: Chilmark Board of Selectmen
From: Chilmark Cemetery Commission
Date: March 1, 2018
Re: Recommendation to Approve Amendments to Cemetery Regulations

The Chilmark Cemetery Commission met at a properly posted meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2018 and conducted a public hearing to consider Amendments to Cemetery Regulations. The Commission voted to approve the changes.

Please see the attached Regulations with the amendments shown in red.

Chilmark Cemetery Commission Regulations

- I. Eligibility to apply for a Cemetery Lot:
- A. A **Chilmark** taxpayer of record of a buildable lot.
 - B. Native born Chilmarkers who do not own a buildable lot in Chilmark but who are veterans of **or active duty members of** the U. S. Coast Guard or other U.S. Armed Services or who have been granted by Congress special Veteran's status as a result of wartime service may lease a ¼ Lot or ½ Lot as needed.
 - C. Owners of a Life-Estate in a habitable dwelling **in Chilmark** can lease a ¼ Lot or ½ Lot as needed.

For specific information see: "Policies Regarding the Ownership of Cemetery Lots..."

- II. Cemetery lots are leased by consecutive number.

III. Cremations, Casket Burials and Green Burials

- A. Green Burials: For the purpose of these Regulations a "Green Burial" is defined as a burial where the deceased has not been embalmed and has been buried in a shroud without a casket.
- B. The number of burials and gravestones or markers permitted on all Lots numbered from 1 through 292 is as follows:

| | Approx. Size | Number of Caskets or Green Burials | | Number of Urns | Number of Stones or Markers |
|-------------|--------------|--|----|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Full Lots | 11' X 22' | 4 | or | 8 | 5 |
| Half Lots | 11' X 11' | 2 | or | 6 | 3 |
| Quarter Lot | 11' X 5' | None | | 4 | 2 |

At the time of the adoption of these Rules no Quarter Lots were available.

Except under unusual circumstances, a casket burial or a "Green Burial" is not permitted on Quarter Lots.

- C. Burial sites in the so called "King Lot" measure 4'x4' and are suitable for two cremations and one stone. These Lots are reserved for special situations.
- D. Lots are restricted to one per family.
- E. Cement liners are required for all burials except Urn burials and Green Burials.

IV. Stones and Monuments

- A. All Stones and Monuments are subject to the approval of the Cemetery Commissioners who may authorize the Cemetery Superintendent to approve such markers.
- B. Guidelines for Stones and Markers
 - 1. Markers on lots should not exceed 3½ feet above ground level, width not to exceed the height with the exclusion of a bench, which shall be used as the marker.
 - 2. All markers shall be chosen at the owners' discretion, subject to the above approval.
 - 3. Although single monuments on each lot with multiple inscriptions are favored, a maximum of five stones on a Full Lot, three stones on a Half Lot and two stones on a Quarter Lot will be permitted. Where a single monument is used, individual flat markers not to exceed the number of burials permitted on the lot will be

allowed. Such flat markers shall be no larger than 12" by 24" and the surface of the flat markers must not extend above the surrounding ground level.

4. New markers in the "old section" of the Cemetery will be subject to the above guidelines, but in addition should generally be consistent with the style of the traditional markers in that section of the Cemetery.

V. Plantings

- A. Except for native red cedars, all trees or shrubs shall be dwarf varieties and shall not exceed eight feet in height at maturity. Plantings, other than cedars, that exceed eight feet in height or plantings that exceed the bounds of the lot may be trimmed or removed at the owner's expense. Owners of lot leases are asked to remove flowers, wreaths and other items after they have withered.

VI. Sale or Transfer of Cemetery Lot Leases (See also: "Policies Regarding Ownership...")

- A. Leases to Cemetery lots may be inherited by the heirs of the owner of the lease as provided under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- B. Leases to Cemetery lots may be given back to the Town or sold to the town for an amount equal to the price originally paid for the lot.
- C. All other transfers of ownership are prohibited.

VII. The Cemetery Superintendent shall be responsible for maintaining the Cemetery and is authorized to remove material from lots and markers to facilitate proper maintenance.

VIII. Lot sizes: In general lot sizes are as shown above: Full Lot: 11' x 22' and Half Lot: 11' x 11', The size of Quarter lots vary, but they will always accommodate four urns when available. Occasionally, the size of Full as well as Half Lots may also vary, but regardless of the actual dimensions Full Lots and Half Lots will still be suitable for a maximum of four and two caskets respectively.

Approved by the Chilmark Selectmen
April 18, 2017