

Cemetery Rules and Regulations



Cemetery Commission

June 15, 2021

There are seven (7) cemeteries in Princeton MA owned and operated by the Town of Princeton under the supervision of the Princeton Cemetery Commission (hereinafter referred to as the PCC):

Woodlawn, North, South, West, Parker I, Parker II, Meetinghouse

Lots are conveyed by a deed which gives the purchaser the sole and exclusive right of burial and to provide an approved memorial. Ownership of the land remains with the Town of Princeton and is subject to the rules and regulations of the Princeton Cemetery Department and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 114. *(Amended June 27, 2016)*

Glossary of terms *(Adopted June 27, 2016)*

Full Lot = 3'6" by 8' **Cremation Lot** = 3'6" by 4' **Plot**= Two or more contiguous full body lots

Monument = Vertical memorial **Markers**= Flat marker flush with the ground

Section I. General Regulations

1. The cemeteries are open for burials April 15th through November 15th. Weather permitting; burials may occur during the winter season at the discretion of the PCC. Additional fees will be charged.
2. Princeton cemeteries are open from dawn to dusk. No admittance at other times.
3. Sunday or holiday internments are not permitted. *(Amended November 18, 2013, Adopted March 19, 2012)*
4. Defacing or removal of gravestones is prohibited and punishable by law.
5. Disturbing and /or altering of gravesites is prohibited and punishable by law.
6. No loitering or unauthorized gatherings are allowed on cemetery property.
7. No vehicles are allowed on cemetery property during closed season as posted.
8. Only gravestone rubbings authorized by the PCC are permitted.
9. Only markers, monuments, or permanent personal property authorized by the PCC may be placed or erected in Princeton cemeteries as explained in Section IV of this document.
10. The PCC is not to be held liable for theft, vandalism and/or destruction of property on any Town Cemetery. *(Adopted June 27, 2016)*
11. Planting regulations:
 - a. Permission of the PCC is required before planting shrubs.
 - b. Shrubs must be maintained by the lot owner and may not exceed the height of the monument. Shrubs may be removed by the Cemetery Superintendent when they interfere with cemetery operations.

- c. Only one flower bed per lot is permitted on monument lots only. It should be located in front of the monument and may not be more than one (1) foot wide at the face of the monument.
- d. No in ground planting is allowed on flat markers. Flowers placed on or near flat markers shall be in proper containers above the ground to facilitate mowing.
- e. Artificial flowers and plantings are not allowed in any Princeton cemetery and will be removed by cemetery personnel.
- f. Seasonal evergreen and floral placements are allowed. All Christmas decorations, including wreaths and their temporary containers must be removed by April 1st. All summer plants must be removed by October 1st.
- g. Marble chips, other stone landscaping, or wood chips are not allowed. Approved mulch is available free of charge at Woodlawn cemetery. Concrete, brick, or other type of stone curbing or edging block is not allowed.
- h. The placing of boxes, shells, toys, solar lights, metal designs, ornaments, chairs, settees, vases, glass, wood, crockery, or iron cases upon lots shall not be permitted, and if so placed, the Cemetery Superintendent reserves the right to remove the same.
- i. The Cemetery Superintendent shall have the authority to remove all worn and tired displays or those that do not conform to these Rules and Regulations.

(Adopted Sections b, c, d, g, h and Amended section f June 27, 2016; Amended sections a and g October 15, 2018)

12. Pets are not allowed in the cemeteries. *(Adopted July 16, 2012)*

Section II. Purchase of Cemetery Lots

1. The purchase of cemetery lots is limited to persons whose principal residence is the Town of Princeton.
2. The total numbers of lots purchased by a resident may not exceed four. (This restriction is necessary to manage lot availability.)
3. Residents who wish to purchase lots must contact the Cemetery Superintendent or a PCC member.
4. A lot purchase is not final until the deed is signed by the Board of Selectmen and filed by the Town Clerk.
5. Any change in ownership or transfer of rights may be made only through the PCC. The Town of Princeton reserves the sole and exclusive authority over the use and/or exchange of lots.

6. The PCC may, at its discretion, agree to repurchase a lot or lots from the deed holder. The amount paid for the repurchase of a lot will be the original amount paid for the lot, but not less than \$100.00/lot. Recording fees are not refundable. *(Adopted March 19, 2012)*

Section III. Burials

1. All burial arrangements must be made with the Cemetery Superintendent. Funeral Directors are required to inform the Superintendent of burial date, time, cemetery in which burial is to take place, a lot#, and name of owner of lot PRIOR to any commitment to the deceased's family or public press release of the obituary. If the Superintendent is absent, a Cemetery Commission Member, starting with Chairman, must be informed in place of the Superintendent.
2. A representative of the deceased with decision making power must meet with the Superintendent at the burial site to mark the burial location OR agree to waive their rights in such decision-making, giving sole discretion to the Superintendent or Cemetery Commission Member.
3. Lot purchases are to be paid in full prior to internments.
4. All burials, including cremation burials, must be in a vault. Cremation vaults are provided by the Cemetery Superintendent. The price of the cremation vault is included in the burial fee. *(Adopted March 19, 2012)*

Section IV. Monuments

All monument placements and installations must have the permission of the Cemetery Superintendent before being installed, erected or placed.

1. All monuments must have footings:
 - a. The monument company is responsible to install footings.
 - b. All footings must be poured concrete, installed to a depth of three (3) feet below grade.
 - c. Monuments on single lots are limited to 20 inches in width.
 - d. Monuments shall not exceed 50% of the width of the lot.
 - e. The monument company must supply the Cemetery Superintendent with the monument's dimensions, date to be installed, type of monument and any other pertinent information at least one week prior to such installation.
 - f. Monument design must be approved by the Cemetery Superintendent prior to installation.
 - g. The length and width of all footings must be at least the length and width dimensions of the base of the monument to be erected upon it.

- h. See appendix A for pricing and billing information.
- i. Any existing monument as of June 2004 is the sole responsibility, financial or otherwise, of the lot owners and family of the lot on which it stands. If no owner or family can be located the PCC will take over responsibility of placing the monument back properly if disturbed.
- j. Any monument currently in any of the Town of Princeton owned and operated cemeteries, must adhere to the requirements outlined in this section or to an appropriate footing based on the type of stone or condition of the stone.

(Adopted sections c, d, , f June 27, 2016; deleted old section e October 15, 2018)

APPENDIX A

Fee Schedule

As of July 1,2021

Lot Sales:

- Full Lot \$ 800.00
- Cremation Lot \$ 500.00
- Recording fee per deed \$ 20.00

Grave Opening: (April 15th through November 15th) *

- Full Burial (Saturday) \$1000.00
- Full Burial (Monday through Friday) \$ 800.00
- Cremation Burial (Saturday) \$ 500.00**
- Cremation Burial (Monday through Friday) \$ 400.00**

*Burials in the winter season Nov. 15th – April 15th are done at the discretion of the Cemetery Superintendent. An additional fee may be assessed due to weather conditions.

** Vaults for Cremation burials are an extra \$100.00