

Cemetery Standing Rules

Adopted May 18, 2010 Amended January 15, 2012; March 24, 2021

Sale of lots and requests for cemetery services shall normally be channeled through the Cemetery Superintendent.

Lots may only be purchased by, or for the use of, a resident or former resident of Berlin.

No more than 4 unused graves will be sold at a time. As graves are used, more can be purchased-up to 4 unused. (Exception: more than four unused graves may be sold if they constitute the unused remainder of a 10-grave lot in the South Cemetery.)

No graves will be sold without payment for perpetual care at the time of purchase.

Concrete footings for monument are required to a minimum depth of 3 feet below grade. Any such work shall be done under the supervision of the Superintendent. The Superintendent may require further specifications depending on the situation of a particular lot. Monuments and their foundations may not exceed the bounds of the lot.

No new monument shall exceed 54 inches in total height without the written permission of the Cemetery Commission. The Commission shall examine the size of the lot and the size of nearby monuments in considering such permission.

No machines may be used in the Cemetery without permission of the Superintendent.

Cremated remains must be placed in a durable container acceptable to the Superintendent.

The number of cremated remains to be placed in a regular grave is 4. Burying multiple cremated remains in a grave will cancel the right to a future full burial in that grave. There shall be no more than one upright monument per grave.

All costs incident to a burial must be paid. In winter these might include snow removal, cutting through frost in the ground, and surface repairs in the spring. Deferring burial until spring could save significant expense.

The Cemeteries are closed from dusk to dawn. Visit in daylight hours only.

No passing through a cemetery except on cemetery business. Mass. General Laws Ch. 114§42.

Whoever uses as a means of passage from one point to another, not being thereupon at the time for any other purpose, the premises of a cemetery or burial place, in any other part thereof than the defined ways, paths and walks, shall be punished by a fine of not more than twenty dollars.

The Commission reserves the right to close the cemeteries during winter weather conditions.

No recreational vehicles, horses, ponies or draft animals are allowed in the cemeteries, except in a funeral procession by prior arrangement.

Walking dogs is not allowed in the Cemeteries.

All flowers shall be planted or in containers within 12 inches of the monument, or if there is no vertical monument, flowers are to be placed together in one location on the lot. Veterans' flag holder or similar markers and other objects shall also be placed near the vertical monument on the lot.

No permanent planting is allowed without prior permission of the Superintendent.

No trees may be planted on any lots.

No shrubs may be planted in the front section of North Cemetery.

No plantings or decorations are allowed behind the stone in sections laid out in rows.

New plantings shall be limited to a height of 3 feet and a diameter of 2 feet. Any plantings that exceed these limits may be trimmed or removed at the discretion of the Cemetery Department. Plantings may not exceed the bounds of the lot.

Maintenance of shrubs is the responsibility of the lot owner or heirs.

Artificial flowers and decorations are not allowed during the mowing season (April-October). Any seasonal plants may be removed by the Cemetery Department after October 1st.

No pesticides or chemicals shall be spread, broadcast or used, unless by Cemetery personnel or a designated company or person.