



Town of Vinalhaven

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Cemetery Ordinance

Section 1. Purpose

In an ongoing effort to maintain and improve the beauty and sacredness of the Town of Vinalhaven's cemeteries, the Cemetery Committee periodically reviews all regulations regarding the town owned cemeteries.

Section 2. Authority

Vinalhaven cemetery properties owned by the town are covered by state law and custom which gives it the full right to establish, amend, and otherwise maintain rules for their use. The conveyance of burial plots to individuals is subject to state law and custom to these rules and regulations which from time to time have been changed and amended for the benefit of all.

Section 3. Definitions

Section 4. Cemetery Guidelines

1. Hours of Operation: The Vinalhaven owned cemeteries will be open seasonally from sunup to sundown, seven (7) days per week and will be closed during hours of darkness.
2. Seasonal Closure: Winter closure to all vehicles will be from the time of substantial frost and or snow accumulation through early spring mud season. This will be at the discretion of Vinalhaven Public Works to minimize the potential damage from vehicles. Pedestrians will be allowed in during this period.
3. Plantings: Graves shall not be obstructed by any planting except in the following manner:
 - a. Planting of flowers must be made in front of the monument only.
 - b. Such plantings shall not exceed 14 inches in width and cannot/shall not extend beyond the base of the monument.
 - c. No planting is allowed near or around any individual foot marker either flush or raised.
 - d. Evergreen trees and shrubs are not allowed on grave sites.
 - e. Existing evergreen trees and shrubs will be grandfathered until they create a problem with maintenance.
 - f. Flowering shrubs, trees, rose, and other thorn bushes are prohibited.
 - g. The Town of Vinalhaven reserves the right to remove or trim any tree, plant, or shrub within the cemetery in the interest of maintaining proper appearance and use of the cemetery.

4. **Urns and Flower Vases:** Placement of approved urns, vases, baskets, boxes, and potted plants if restricted to one on either end of the above ground monument. Above items may be placed in front of monument if no planting already exists. In the even there is no above ground monument on the lot, one of the items described above may be placed where the above ground monument would be located so as not to obstruct mowing. The Town of Vinalhaven reserves the right to remove and dispose of emblems, displays, or containers which become unsightly, a source of litter, or a hinderance to maintenance. No glass urns or vases allowed. The Town of Vinalhaven will do a cleanup of all cemeteries on October 15 of all artificial flowers and decorations, which will be removed so cemeteries can have their final mowing. Notice will be given in the local public newspaper (The Wind) for two (2) weeks prior to cleanup to give notice to plot owners of cleanup and give them time to remove items.
5. **Ornaments:** One per stone shall be allowed on grave sites only when they are off the ground and placed alongside the headstone. Statues shall be constructed of stone, ceramic, plaster, or metal and of sufficient weight to withstand toppling by wind or normal mowing operations. The cementing or anchoring of statues or makers into the ground is prohibited. The Town of Vinalhaven reserves the right to remove a statue or an ornament that is damaged or broken or is in an unsightly condition or that is in violation of these regulations or in the opinion of the Town of Vinalhaven is a hazard to its employees or equipment, contractors and their equipment, or injurious to the general appearance of the cemeteries after failed attempts to notify lot owners. The town of Vinalhaven is not responsible for the loss or damage to any statue or other ornament placed on the grave. Items which are considered illegal under Maine State laws shall not be allowed and may be removed without prior notice.
6. **Flags:** All flags must be placed next to the main above ground monument in a PVC conduit or metal holder. The Town of Vinalhaven will provide metal holders and flags for veterans. Veterans will have correct holders to match their war time service.
7. **Rubbish:** All trash should be placed in provided trash cans. The Town of Vinalhaven Public Works will be responsible for the emptying of the trash cans.
8. **Cornerstones:** All cornerstone markers must be flush with the ground.
9. **New Markers, Monuments, and Memorials:** Markers are installed flush to the ground and monument consists of a base surrounded by an upright. Large upright monuments must be located on a suitable foundation so as to keep the entire monument upright. The installation of a foundation for a marker, monument, or memorial is the responsibility of the owner of the lot.
10. **Perpetual Care:** Shall be done annually. It includes cutting of grass upon the lot at reasonable intervals, the raking and cleaning of the lot shall include the filling in of any sunken areas as well as any work necessary to keep the grave in neat condition and for the care and maintenance of the cemetery. It shall not include maintenance or repair of monuments, plantings or flowers, etc. upon any lot, nor repairs necessitated by any acts of vandalism.
11. **Vacant Lots:** Cemetery lots or burial spaces certified after the effective date of the ordinance which remain vacant for forty (40) years after the date of certificate

shall automatically revert to the Town of Vinalhaven. Notice of expiration of the forty (40)

Section 5. Administration and Enforcement

Section 6. Penalties

Section 7. Amendments

Section 8. Severability

Section 9. Effective Date

Approved:

Amended:



VINALHAVEN
PENOBSCOT BAY
MAINE

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1823

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