

# THE CORINTH VERMONT BOARD OF CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS BYLAWS AND REGULATIONS

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## **1. DECLARATION OF POLICY:**

(A) The Corinth Board of Cemetery Commissioners, pursuant to 18 V.S.A. s5378, hereby adopts the following bylaws and regulations to govern the proper operation and use of all municipal cemeteries in the Town of Corinth, now or hereafter established.

(B) The Town intends to have municipal cemeteries maintained in the most economical manner possible and believes that these bylaws are necessary for the protection both of the Town and of the lot and grave owners.

## **2. APPLICATION OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

(A) The rules and regulations herein contained shall apply to the operation, management and use of all public cemeteries within the Town of Corinth now or hereafter established.

(B) The Cemetery Commissioners of the Town of Corinth, upon majority vote and for good cause shown, may, suspend, repeal, or amend the provisions of this ordinance in whole or in part at any time. It is the intent of the Cemetery Commissioners that if any provision of this ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions or parts thereof.

## **3. GENERAL REGULATIONS:**

The following shall be the general rules and regulations for use of municipal cemeteries:

### **CONDUCT IN CEMETERIES:**

No person shall:

(A) Enter a cemetery except through an established gate or entrance way.

(B) Pick or mutilate any flowers, either wild or domestic, or disturb any tree,

shrub, or other plant material other than on a lot owned by that person or with the express permission of the lot owner.

(C) Consume or possess alcoholic beverages in a cemetery.

(D) Discharge firearms in or adjacent to any cemetery.

This prohibition shall not apply to authorized volleys at burial services conducted by recognized military organizations or associations of the United States.

(E) Injure or deface any monument, stone, fence or other structure, or property within any cemetery.

(F) Allow any dog or domestic animal to run at large within any cemetery.

(G) Allow any child under the age of ten (10) years in any cemetery unless accompanied by an adult.

(H) Ride a horse within or through any cemetery. The Cemetery Commission may allow, limit or deny the use of horses for funeral services.

#### **4. TRAFFIC REGULATIONS:**

(A) No person shall operate or cause to operate any motorized vehicle within a cemetery except on roads designed for that purpose. No vehicle shall be driven in excess of ten (10) miles per hour upon any road within a cemetery.

(B) No person shall enter any cemetery with a loaded truck unless permission has been received from the Cemetery Commissioners.

(C) No person shall unload any stone, dirt or other material in any cemetery unless permission has been received from the Cemetery Commissioners.

(D) Any person operating a motorized vehicle within any cemetery shall be subject to all the traffic laws of the State of Vermont and the Town of Corinth applicable to motor vehicle operation.

(E) Snowmobiles, ATVs, motorcycles, or other recreational vehicles are not allowed within the boundaries of any cemetery except that same may be used by the Cemetery Commission for maintenance.



## **5. ESTABLISHMENT OF CEMETERIES:**

(A) The Town of Corinth, with direction from and the approval of the Cemetery Commission, shall have the final authority to locate and establish within the corporate limits of the township of Corinth, and shall, as need arises, set aside new ground areas for this purpose in accordance with 18 VSA sec. 5481 thru 5494 et seq. or any amendments thereto.

### **(B) Existing Cemeteries:**

The following named existing cemeteries shall be deemed to have been established as municipal cemeteries at their present locations:

1. Old Cemetery; East Corinth; 89 Short Street.
2. New Cemetery; East Corinth; 271 Village Rd.
3. Corinth Center Cemetery; 918 Center Rd.
4. Darling Cemetery; West Corinth; 4204 Cookeville Rd.
5. West Corinth Cemetery; West Corinth; 4537 Cookeville Rd.
6. Corinth Corners Cemetery; 386 Cemetery Rd.
7. McCrillis Cemetery; Pike Hill; 98 Locke Place.
8. Munn Cemetery; South Corinth; 1100 Camp Munn Rd.

Note: The Meadow Cemetery located at 1233 Chelsea Rd in Corinth is under the care of the Meadow Meeting House Association.

See Committees: Cemetery Commission - "Map of Corinth Town Maintained Cemeteries", and under Town Government Statistics and Maps.  
The Meadow Cemetery is on these maps as well.

### **(C) Plotting of Cemeteries:**

The cemetery commissioners will establish all lots. These lots will be conveyed in an orderly manner at the discretion of the Cemetery Commissioners.

## **6. PURCHASE AND CONVEYANCE OF LOTS:**

### **(A) Conditions of Lot Purchases:**

(a) Lots purchased in the laid out sections of cemeteries of the Town of Corinth, shall be conveyed by a special deed for human burial purposes only, and shall be subject at all times to the provisions of the Town of Corinth ordinances, these bylaws, and all applicable State Laws.

(b) All lots, with the exception of single & cremation lots, shall be laid out and marked by standard granite corner markers purchased and installed by the cemetery commissioners which shall indicate the lot number and initial of the family name.

(c) Granite corner markers are included in the price of full and half lots.

### **(B) Purchase Procedure:**

(a) It's in the best interest of all to have purchased a burial site before a death has occurred.

(b) Lots in the laid out cemeteries of the Town of Corinth shall be selected and purchased from and with the consent of the Cemetery Commissioners.

(c) The payments for lots shall be made to the Town of Corinth.

After payment is received, the Cemetery Commission shall submit a deed request to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk shall prepare the deeds that state the name of purchaser, the amount paid, name of cemetery, lot number and section in which located, and shall be presumptive evidence of ownership of the lot(s) described therein.

### **(C) Records:**

(a) The keeping of records of the cemeteries of the Town of Corinth shall be the responsibility of the Cemetery Commissioners.

(b) All the maps showing the laid out section of each cemetery and the records of lot ownership therein shall be kept by the Cemetery Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners shall also keep a record of every burial in any cemetery under the Town's control showing the date of burial and name of the person buried, when these particulars can be obtained, and the lot or part thereof, in which the burial was made. Copies of all the cemetery records and maps will be filed with the Corinth Town Clerk. Copies of all deeds conveyed for lot purchase shall also be recorded in the office of the Corinth Town Clerk.



(D) Transfer of Lots:

(a) No transfer, assignment, or other conveyance of any lot shall be made by any owner without the express approval of the Corinth Cemetery Commissioners, and all transfers shall be made upon an approved form through the Board of the Corinth Cemetery Commissioners and recorded in the office of the Corinth Town Clerk. This does not apply to lots transferred through inheritance. Upon notification to the commission by an owner of a lot that they are no longer interested in retaining ownership of the lot, arrangements will be made to transfer the lot back to the control of the Commission and the owner will be refunded the amount that was originally paid for the lot as reflected on the deed.

(E) Fee Schedule for Burial Lots:

The following prices are hereby established for Cemetery Lots.

Burial lots will be offered for sale at the discretion of the Commission and may be sold in a strategic manner to facilitate the maintenance of the grounds. Vacant, un-owned lots are not automatically available for purchase.

Effective	Effective	9/1/2020	9/1/2021
<b>Full Lot:</b> Measures ten (10) feet x twenty (20) feet. Fee includes corner markers.		\$900	\$1100
<b>Half Lot:</b> Measures ten (10) feet by ten (10) feet. Fee includes corner markers.		\$600	\$700
<b>Single Lot:</b> Measures 40" inches x ten (10) feet. No corner stone markers go with this size lot.		\$300	\$300
<b>Cremation Lot:</b> Measures 40" x 40" No corner markers go with a cremation lot.		\$125	\$125
Plus additional recording fees with the town clerk's office.			
Burial oversight fee: includes oversight of the grave, marker, or monument location and seeding of the sight.		\$50	\$50

Fee for a natural, no vault, burial with coffin.	\$250	\$250
Fee for a natural, no vault, burial in a shroud only.	\$150	\$150
Fee for family provided cremation burial.	\$100	\$100

These fees do not include opening a grave site or a cremation hole if done by the cemetery commission.

## 7. MEMORIAL MONUMENTS/MARKERS.

No monuments, headstones or markers shall be set up without the approval as to the location of the same by the Cemetery Commissioners. Memorials should be installed by the applicable contracting company to ensure a secure placement.

(A) "Marker" means a memorial that is flush with the ground.

(B) "Memorial" means an above ground monument, or headstone, including its below ground foundation. These may be limited in size.

(C) "Head stone" is a small memorial 22"w x 12"d X 18" high for single lots

(D) "Foundation" means the underground concrete structure that supports the base and memorial.

State law requires markers on non-natural graves 18 V.S.A. § 5323(a)(4). Markers and headstones in all town cemeteries shall be of such dimension and material as shall be approved by the Cemetery Commission. The minimum requirement for markers is as follows: name, birth date, and death date (if known.) Markers are not required for natural burials in cemeteries. The Cemetery Commission will, however, require markers for location purposes on all natural burials.

Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Cemetery Commission, stone markers may be a maximum of 36" long x 12" wide and a minimum of 4" in thickness.

Permanent markers other than stone may be permitted with approval of the Cemetery Commission. No raised lettering or carving is permitted on markers. Unless otherwise approved by the Cemetery Commission, all above ground memorials must be supported by a foundation. Foundations will be flush with the



ground, properly cured, and a minimum of three (3) feet deep, with the exception of headstones which only need to be set on a 4" thick base.

**Full lots** may have up to 6 individual grave sites with markers. Monuments will be allowed on full lots but depending on their size and resulting foundation, the number of individual grave sites may be reduced and replaced with cremation sites based on the judgment of the Commission. Each individual grave will be located with a markers.

**Half lots** may have up to 3 individual graves with markers. Monuments will be allowed on half lots but depending on their size and the resulting foundation, the number of individual grave sites may be reduced and replaced with cremation sites based on the judgment of the Commission. Each individual grave will be located with a marker.

**Single graves** must have a flat marker or a headstone that locates the graves.

**Cremation lots:** A single cremation site may be available and will measure 40" x 40". Cremation burials will also be allowed in full, half, and single lots at a rate of 3 per individual grave site. Each cremation must be located with a flat marker placed over the internment.

Markers should be installed within 90 days of burials.

## **8. BURIALS:**

### **A. Burial Vaults:**

Vaults are required for embalmed remains but are not required for non-embalmed remains, except in areas of the East Corinth Cemetery. All vaults shall be designed in accordance with industry standards and specifications. Vaults are not required for cremation burials in any areas of town cemeteries and there is no extra fee for not using one.

### **B. Natural Burials:**

(a) Natural Burial is a burial done without a vault and done in a sustainable way of caring for the dead that promotes decomposition of the body with minimal environmental impact. Its ecological aims are to conserve natural resources, reduce



carbon emissions, protect worker health, and to restore and preserve habitat.

(b) Natural burials are allowed in all Corinth cemeteries. In the East Corinth cemetery they will be allowed only in a designated area, when it becomes available, and in all other cemeteries they will be allowed in all sold and unsold full, half, and single lots as they become available. All other Corinth Cemetery policies and procedures apply to natural burial grounds, unless other policies and procedures are inconsistent with this Section or with the purpose and intent of natural burial, in which case this Section will apply.

#### C. Care and Maintenance.

(a) Mowing is at the discretion of the cemetery commission. There may be single grave sites available in the Corinth corner cemetery that are minimally maintained. Fertilization, irrigation, and pesticides are prohibited in all town cemeteries.

#### D. Materials for Interment.

(a) All containers, shrouds, or materials used for interment must be 100% biodegradable, nontoxic, nonhazardous, and plant-derived.

(b) Decedent remains shall not be embalmed.

(c) Decedent remains may be buried in shroud or a burial container or both.

(d) Grave markers are required. Stone Markers have a maximum size of 36" long x 12" wide x 4" thick. A headstone is also permitted in the actively maintained sections, at the discretion of the cemetery commission.

#### E. Natural Burial Ground Procedure.

(a) Natural burial lots shall be the same size as single lots. They will be allowed in all Corinth cemeteries as space allows. In the E. Corinth cemetery there will be a designated area for natural burials, but in the other cemeteries they will be allowed on all sold and unsold lots as they become available.

(b) The digging of the burial lot grave is the responsibility of the Sexton (the digger of graves), or whoever he designates. The Sexton and or the Sexton assistants are chosen by and voted in by the Board of Cemetery Commissions. Family members and friends may be permitted to help fill in graves with the approval of the Sexton.

(c) For interment, if the body is not placed in a solid burial container, the body must be placed on a 100% biodegradable, nontoxic, nonhazardous, solid wood board, which is at least 3/4 inch thick and the same length as the body.

(d) Natural burials shall not be made unless the distance from the bottom of the outside coffin or body shall be at least (3 ½) three and a half feet below the natural surface of the ground.

(e) It is suggested that the bottom of each gravesite be lined with a 2" to 3" thick layer of untreated wood chips, pine boughs, hay, or a combination of these materials prior to the placement of the Decedent or burial container. When closing the grave, it is suggested that the first layer of backfill be biomass consisting of grass cuttings, leaves, sticks, cut flowers, compost, or any other 100% biodegradable, nontoxic, nonhazardous, plant-derived material that is readily available and natural to the area. This is to aid in the decomposition process.

(f) There may be some minimally maintained areas in some of the town cemeteries, but in general most non- vault burials will be mowed and cared for to the same standard of the rest of the cemetery. The extra fee (\$250) is to cover the extra work involved with grading and maintenance of the site as it settles.

#### F. Conditions for Burial:

(a) No burial shall take place without a burial-transit permit having been obtained from the funeral director in charge of the burial. If no funeral director is involved then the town clerk where the body is can issue the burials-transit permit during regular office hours. If the town clerk's office is closed, then a delegate appointed by him/ her may issue a permit. The Town Clerk has appointed most local funeral directors as her delegate.

(b) Natural burial and cremated remains may be brought to a cemetery for burial by any person, with the prior consent of the Cemetery Commissioners and with a standard burial-transit permit. Vaults are not required for cremation remains, and there is no extra fee for not using vaults.

#### G. Preparation of Grave:

(a) The preparation of graves shall be arranged and attended to by the Cemetery Commissioners unless arrangements have been otherwise and pre-approved by the Board of Cemetery Commissioners.



(b) In the event that alternate grave preparation shall be pre-approved by the board, the \$50 oversight fee shall remain due and payable to the cemetery fund.

#### H. Winter Burials:

(a) All efforts will be made to accommodate winter burials. The cemeteries in the Town of Corinth will be closed to vehicular traffic from November 1 until April 15 or until dry enough to drive on the grounds.

(b) If a burial needs to be delayed temporary storage will be the responsibility of the party requesting the burial.

### **9. CEMETERY MAINTENANCE:**

#### (A) Responsibility of the Cemetery Commissioners of the Town of Corinth:

(a) The general maintenance of the cemeteries and grounds shall be the responsibility of the Cemetery Commissioners.

(b) The Commissioners shall determine what acts are necessary to improve and maintain the appearance and condition of the cemeteries within their jurisdiction.

(c) Such acts include but are not limited to: the upkeep of drives, buildings and fences; spring and fall clean up; raking of leaves; and, mowing of grass.

#### (B) Planting Trees or Shrubs:

(a) No trees or shrubs shall be planted in any lot in any of the Town of Corinth Cemeteries by any person or persons. Existing trees and shrubs may be removed by the cemetery Commission deemed in the best interest of the cemetery, adjoining lots, or the care and maintenance of lots. All natural flowers and plants shall be potted in containers readily movable for maintenance.

#### (C) Grading and Caring of Lots:

(a) All grading of lots shall be done by the Cemetery Commissioners. No member of the public shall do any grading causing the surface of the ground to be raised above the existing height of the surrounding area.

(b) No person shall discharge any chemical or organic fertilizer, herbicide or other substance on any lot without prior written authorization from the cemetery commissioners.

(c) In the fall or spring of each year, the cemetery commissioners, at their sole discretion, may remove any non-permanent decorations, markers, flowers or like materials.

**(D) Curbs and Fencing:**

(a) No curbs or fences or other similar barriers shall be permitted around any individual lot or group of lots.

**10. LIABILITIES:**

(A) Neither the Town, the Cemetery Commissioners, nor their agents shall be responsible for errors in location of graves, monuments, markers, and headstones on lots resulting from persons making the arrangements. In all cases, orders for grave opening, monuments, markers, and headstones shall be communicated to the Cemetery Commissioners who shall keep records thereof.

(B) The Cemetery Commissioners and their agents and the Town of Corinth, shall not be responsible for any damages that may occur should any Funeral Director leave the cemetery prior to the vault cover being placed, or should of a monument company place a monument or marker in the wrong place.

(C) Any Town cemetery in which all lots have been sold and for which the Town retains monies for its upkeep, f shall be under the control of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners.

**(D) Discontinuance:**

Whenever there is a public necessity for the discontinuance of any public cemetery and the removal of the remains of the persons buried in such cemetery, the same may be discontinued by a majority vote of the legal voters



present and voting at any annual or special town meeting held for the purpose.

(E) Re-internment:

The Selectmen may, at the expense of the town, disinter the remains of the persons buried in such cemetery and re-inter the remains in an unoccupied part of some public cemetery within the town, such re-internment to be in a place agreed upon by the nearest surviving relatives of the deceased person and the cemetery commissioners. This re-internment shall be done prudently and with proper care and attention.

## **11. FUNDS**

(A) The town treasurer may take and hold funds from the sale of lots and other funds payable to the Cemetery Commission. These funds and the income thereof will be used for the maintenance and upkeep of Corinth's cemeteries as determined by the cemetery commissioners.

(B) Donated monies to the Cemetery Commission will be accepted with whatever conditions the donor wishes. It will be kept in a separate account, if necessary and spent as directed.

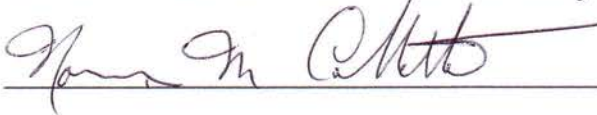
(C) Reports of these funds shall be filed with the town as required by law.

**ADOPTED ON 9/22/2020 BY  
THE CORINTH VERMONT BOARD OF CEMETERY  
COMMISSIONERS.**

Commissioner Raymond Moulton Chair 439-5465 Term Expires March 2022

  
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Commissioner Norm Collette Secretary 685-3812 Term Expires March 2023

 9/22/2020  
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Commissioner Geoffrey Hoots 439-6222 Term Expires March 2021

  
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