

CEMETERY ORDINANCE
FOR THE
MUNICIPAL TOWN OF
OXFORD

Enacted
6/17/2006

Amended
October 12, 2006

OXFORD CEMETERY ORDINANCE
Town of Oxford
County of OXFORD
STATE OF MAINE

Chapter 1

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This Article shall be known and may be cited as the "Cemetery Ordinance of the Town of Oxford, Maine."

§ 1-2. Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to set fees for cemetery burial plots; establish regulations and procedures to govern burials, placement of monuments and decorations; ensure the safety of employees; and provide a beautiful and dignified resting place for deceased loved ones at all cemeteries operated by the Town of Oxford.

§ 1-3. Hours of Operation.

All cemeteries operated by the Town of Oxford shall be open to the public from dawn to dusk every day. ~~Any person found in a cemetery between dusk and dawn may be charged with trespassing.~~

§ 1-4 Restricted Activities.

No dogs or other domestic animals shall be allowed in cemeteries. Picnics, ~~horseplay~~ misbehavior, sports activities, or any gatherings not in keeping with the purpose and dignity of a cemetery are prohibited. “Domestic animal means an animal of a species of vertebrates that has been domesticated by humans so as to live and breed in a tame condition and depend on human kind for survival.”

§ 1-5. Cost of Burial Plots.

The cost for one standard gravesite shall be \$175 for a resident of the Town of Oxford and \$250 for a non-resident. The cost for a cremains site shall be the same as a standard gravesite. All purchasing of plots require a \$19.00 recording fee per plot. All proceeds from the sale of sites shall be deposited into the Cemetery Trust-Reserve Account.

§ 1-6. Remains in Plots.

All cremations shall be buried in a vault. Plastic bags or boxes are prohibited. Ashes may not be scattered in the cemetery. Up to six cremations may be buried in one 4' X 10' grave. The sexton shall oversee all burials. Only one body may be buried in a full body plot.

§ 1-7. Opening and Closing of Graves.

~~The Town of Oxford does not provide~~ It is the responsibility of the lot owner to provide excavation service for opening or closing graves. ~~and will not bear any associated costs.~~ Excavators and/or funeral directors must contact the Town of Oxford's Building and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor at least 48 hours prior to any grave opening, interment or disinterment to locate and mark the correct burial space. Immediately following an interment or disinterment, excavators shall be responsible for restoring and leveling the gravesite. No sites shall be mounded, except where consistent with existing practice. Excavators shall remove all excess material from the site, repair damage to any other plots, and shall repair any settling of the site for one year following any excavation, grave opening or closing.

§ 1-8. Placement of Headstones, foot stones, Lot Markers and Corner Markers.

Cornerstones are required on all new lots. All new graves must have an appropriate marker of some type. The location of headstones, foot stones, lot markers and corner markers shall be approved by the Town's Building and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor prior to placement. The supervisor shall be contacted at least 48 hours prior to placement of headstones, foot stones, lot markers or corner markers. All cornerstones, foot stones, lot markers, corner markers are reasonability of the plot owners. All cornerstones, foot stones, lot markers, corner markers should be leveled with ground.

§ 1-9. Adornment of Gravesites.

~~In order to ensure the safety of the Town's grounds crew,~~ Artificial flowers must be placed in containers. Glass containers are prohibited. The Town reserves the right to remove trees or shrubs planted on a gravesite which become dangerous, or detrimental to the adjacent grounds because of encroachment of roots or branches. Such trees or shrubs may be removed only after reasonable attempts have been made to contact the lot owner or other responsible party. No hedges, fencing, walls, curbing, railings, or similar structures or enclosures shall be erected around gravesites following adoption of this ordinance. Existing structures or enclosures may be maintained, but not expanded. All winter decorations shall be removed prior to mowing season. No mulch is allowed on gravesites.

§ 1-10. Authority for Removal of Items Placed On Gravesites.

The Town reserves the right to trim or remove any items which are contrary to this ordinance, or which have become unsightly and no longer contribute to the beauty and dignity of the cemetery. The Town is not responsible for any items removed.

§ 1-11. Administration, Enforcement and Appeal.

This Ordinance shall be administered and enforced by the Town Manager or his/her designee. Appeal of decisions made by the Town Manager's designee under the authority granted by this ordinance may be made in writing to the Town Manager. Appeal of decisions made by the Town Manager under the authority granted by this ordinance may be made in writing to the Town Selectmen. The Town Selectmen or Town Manager (whichever is appropriate) shall schedule a hearing as soon as possible and render a written decision on the appeal within fifteen (15) days.

§ 1-12. Penalties.

Any person, firm, corporation or other entity violating the provisions of this Ordinance commits a civil violation and ~~may be required to pay a~~ for which a civil penalty forfeiture of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$500.00 may be adjudged. ~~plus attorney's fees and costs. Civil penalties shall accrue to the Town of Oxford.~~ The Town may also seek injunctive relief for violations of this Ordinance.

§ 1-13 Veterans Graves.

Lot owners shall notify the Town of Oxford if a veteran has been buried in the plot.

§ 1-14 Perpetual Care.

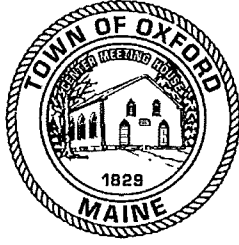
All lots have perpetual care (mowing, trimming, etc.) but all stones and upkeep is the responsibility of the owners. If there is extensive work required owners must have permission from the Town.

§ 1-15 Burial of Pets.

No pet can be buried unless it is with or at the same time as the pet owner.

§ 1-16 Effective Date.

The provisions of this ordinance shall take effect as of June 17, 2006.



Certification of Proposed Ordinances by the Municipal Officers

This certifies to the municipal clerk of the Town of Oxford that the within ordinance is a true copy of an ordinance entitled **Oxford Cemetery Ordinance** to be acted upon by the voters at a town meeting to be held on September 20th, 2018.

Dated: August 16, 2018

Municipal Officers of the Town of Oxford:



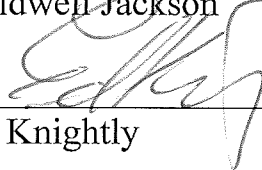
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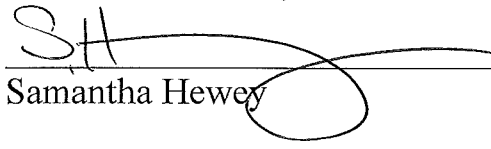
Scott Hunter



Caldwell Jackson



Ed Knightly



Samantha Hewey