

# Town of Bolton

## Cemetery Rules and Regulations



The following rules and regulations, adopted by the Town of Bolton Cemetery Committee on February 15, 2022, shall govern the operation and management of all Town Cemeteries, as provided for under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 114.

Amended July 26, 2022; increase of burial fees.

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## 1. Town Cemeteries

The Bolton Cemetery Committee and the Department of Public Works are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Town's four cemeteries and one historic burying ground.

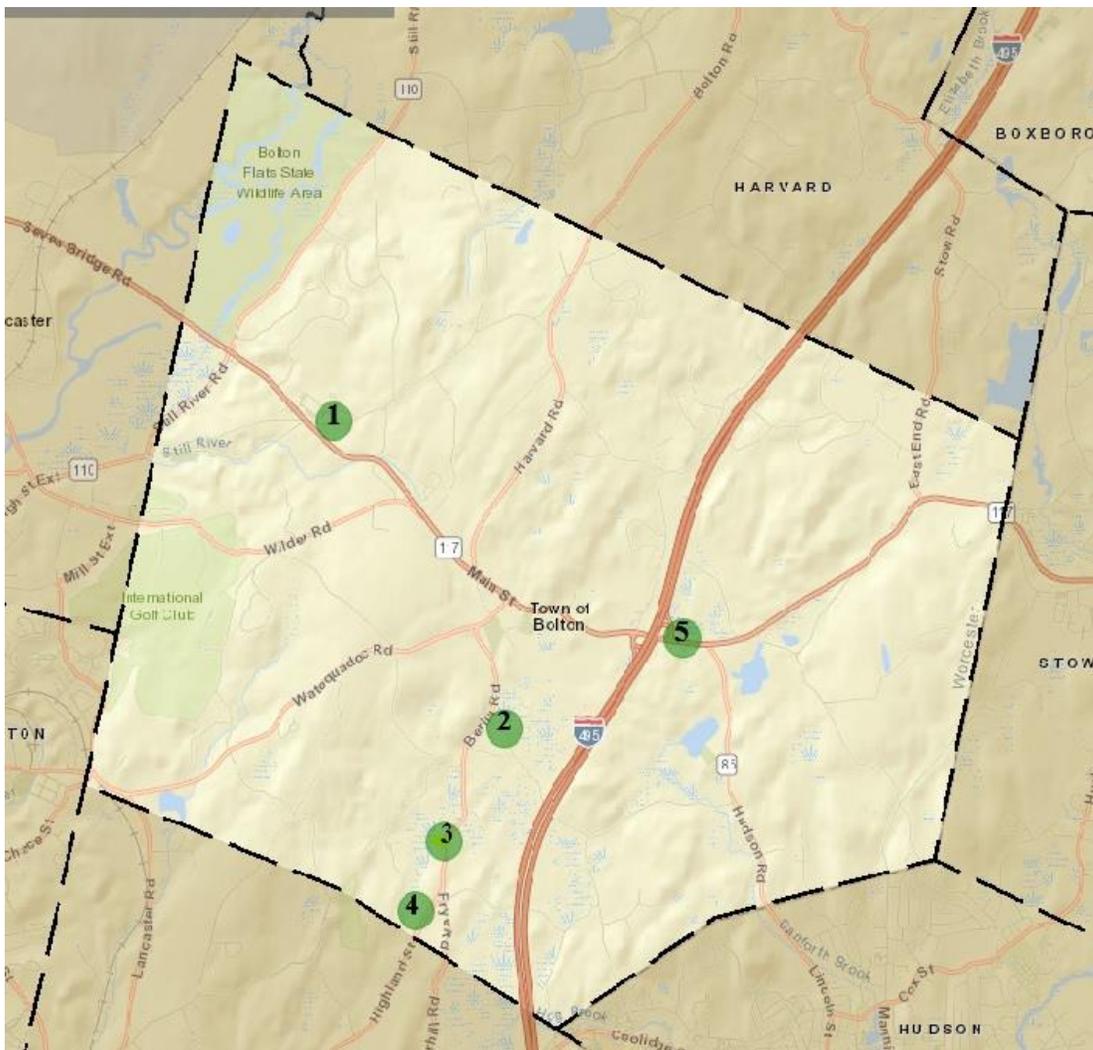
West Cemetery -- Green Road-#1

Old South Cemetery -- South Bolton Road #2

Society of Friends Cemetery – 299 Berlin Road #3

Old Fry Burying Ground –off of Berlin Road #4

Pan Cemetery –477 Main Street #5



## 2. Definitions

“Green Burial” or “Natural Burial” is understood to be a burial method with fewer environmental impacts than a traditional burial. The body is not embalmed, caskets or burial shrouds are made of biodegradable material, and no concrete grave liner or vault is used. The body is placed directly in the soil to biodegrade naturally. The gravesite may have a natural stone marker or no marker at all.

## 3. Lots

Lots in the cemeteries shall be free to residents of the Town of Bolton. The assignment of lots shall convey only the right of burial. The title to all lots shall be vested in the Town.

To choose a lot, please contact the administrative office of Department of Public Works office at 978-779-6402.

## 4. Interments

- a. All burials shall be under the personal supervision of a Cemetery Committee member or the Committee’s designate.
- b. No interment will be made until all fees provided for in the then-current fee schedule adopted by the Committee has been paid. Any outstanding obligations due the Town, such as special service charges, must be paid before a grave is opened.
- c. All non-cremated burials shall be made in a concrete box of one-piece construction, together with a one- or two-piece cover of sufficient strength to permanently support the weight above it. *See items f-m below for exceptions for Green Burial.*
- d. All non-cremated burials shall be at a depth of approximately six feet, unless otherwise approved by the Committee or their designate.
- e. All cremation burials shall be at a depth of approximately eighteen inches. The location will be recorded on lot record cards.
- f. Green Burials will be permitted in the designated areas of West and Pan Cemetery.
- g. Green Burial containers may include caskets or shrouds, and must be made of natural, biodegradable and non-toxic/non-hazardous materials (e.g., untreated softwoods, wicker, bamboo, cardboard, wool, fiber, cloth, seagrass).

- h. No embalming fluids may be used in the preparation of the body. Removable medical devices are to be removed prior to burial. Any items buried with the body must be biodegradable.
- i. Shrouded bodies must be entirely wrapped and must be supported by a solid softwood board, such as pine, which stays in the grave. Plywood and particle board are not acceptable.
- j. Graves are dug to a depth of 4 feet. Graves will be mounded and mulched and allowed to return to their natural state. Cut flowers may be placed on top of a recent burial; otherwise, no decorations are allowed in the Green Burial section.
- k. Grave markers are permitted, but not required. Flat, natural fieldstone or granite markers should be no larger than 1' x 2". The stone may be engraved, but not polished. The top should be flush with the ground.
- l. Vaults and grave liners are not permitted in the Green Burial section.
- m. The Green Burial area will be maintained to preserve the natural environment.

## **5. Fees & Perpetual Care**

Standard Burial - \$600

Cremation - \$200

Saturday/Sunday - \$650

Holiday - \$1000

Winter burial shall be at the discretion of the Cemetery Committee and if done with extra equipment (i.e., compressor, plowing, sanding) shall be paid for by the deceased's account.

Donations may be made to the Perpetual Care Account at any time. Checks should be made out to the Town of Bolton – itemized for Perpetual Care. See by-law 126-1 for more on Perpetual Care donations.

## **6. Monuments and Markers**

Monuments may be upright or flush with the ground. Appropriate foundations will be installed by the monument company. Monuments or memorial benches should not exceed the lot width.

The Cemetery Committee, or the Committee's delegate will coordinate correct lot location with the monument company

## **7. General Rules**

Town of Bolton cemeteries are open dawn to dusk.

No lots shall be graded, nor shrubbery or trees planted, nor monuments erected, in any cemetery, except with the approval of the Cemetery Committee.

Dogs should be kept on leash when in the cemeteries.

Parking at cemeteries should be on the designated driveways.

**8. Chapter 126 – Cemetery Bylaws**

**§ 126-1 Funds for care of lots.**

The Town of Bolton will accept from any person any sum of money not less than \$100, the interest whereof shall be applied to the care and repair of such lot or lots in the public burial ground of the Town as the person depositing the money shall designate, in accordance with MGL c. 114, § 25.

- A. All such money shall be deposited by the Town Treasurer to the credit of the burial fund. The Treasurer shall keep the account of the burial lot fund in a book showing the date of each deposit, the amount deposited, the name of the depositor, the name of the cemetery containing the lot and the number of the lot.
- B. The Treasurer shall give the depositor a receipt in the following form:

**Date**

**This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ has deposited with me the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars, the interest of which is to be forever applied in accordance with the provisions of Section 25, Chapter 114, Massachusetts General Laws, for the care of lot number \_\_\_\_\_ on the plan of the \_\_\_\_\_ Cemetery.**

Treasurer, Town of Bolton

- C. The Cemetery Committee shall not be required to expend the interest on each deposit annually but may, at its discretion, allow it to accumulate in order to do more satisfactory work.

**§ 126-2 Lots.**

- A. Lots in the cemeteries shall be free to inhabitants of the Town of Bolton.  
*[Amended 3-4-1974 ATM by Art. 22; 5-2-1983 ATM by Art. 10]*
- B. The assignment of lots shall convey only the right of burial. The title to all lots shall be vested in the Town.
- C. No lots shall be graded, nor shrubbery or trees planted, nor monuments erected, in any cemetery, except with the approval of the Cemetery Committee.

**§ 126-3 Burial procedures; fees.**

*[Amended 3-4-1974 ATM by Art. 24; 5-2-1983 ATM by Art. 10; 5-7-1990 ATM by Art. 11]*

- A. Any grave opened in Bolton cemeteries shall be paid for at the rates set by the Cemetery Committee. Rates may differ between regular hours, overtime, weekends, and holidays.
- B. Winter burial shall be at the discretion of the Cemetery Committee and if done with extra equipment (i.e., compressor, plowing, sanding) shall be paid for by the deceased's account.
- C. This money shall revert to the Town treasury and shall be used in accordance with MGL c. 114, §§ 15 and 25.

**§ 126-4 Grave markers.**

[Amended 3-4-1974 ATM by Art. 23]

Within 30 days after the closing of a grave, a flush marker shall be placed on such grave under the direction of the Cemetery Committee.