

# *Pine Grove Cemetery*

## **WATERVILLE, MAINE**

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### **History**

The earliest place of burial in town was the high ground lying south of Western Avenue. The next cemetery was what is now known as Memorial Park

Pine Grove Cemetery had been purchased in 1842, but was not prepared for use and dedicated on June 1, 1851. In 1854, Samuel Appleton gave eight (8) acres of land as an addition to the cemetery. This has been increased by purchase and by gift until at present (1902) it includes thirty (30) acres.

This information was furnished from Mrs. Willard Arnold 1980.

### **Introduction**

For the mutual protection of lot owners and the Cemetery as a whole, the following rules and regulations have been adopted by the Board of Trustees of Public Cemeteries for the city of Waterville, Maine as the rules and regulations of Pine Grove Cemetery and all lot owners and visitors within the Cemetery, and all lots sold shall be subject to said rules and regulations. And, subject further to such other rules and regulations, amendments or alteration as shall be adopted by the Board of Trustees from time to time and the reference to these rules and regulations in the deed of ownership to a lot shall have the same force and effect as is set forth in full therein.

The Cemetery Management shall have the authority to enforce all rules and regulations and to expel all violators from the Cemetery.

### **Rules And Regulations Effective September 1, 2004**

The Cemetery will be open from Sunrise to Sunset. Anyone found in the Cemetery after Sunset, without the permission of the Cemetery Management will be considered a trespasser. Trespassers will be liable for prosecution. At certain times of the year, usually winter and spring months, the Cemetery will be chained off because of weather elements causing poor road conditions.

In respect for the dead and the property of others, children are prohibited from playing on lots or lawns and from climbing upon monuments and other memorials within the Cemetery grounds. Children are not admitted unless accompanied by an adult.

We welcome you're walking and enjoying the grounds of the cemetery, but out of respect to the deceased and lot owners, please have all dogs leashed and droppings have to be picked up.

No firearms allowed except at military funerals or by permission of the Cemetery Management.

The speed limit within the Cemetery is fifteen (15) miles per hour. Fast driving will not be permitted and vehicles must not turn or back up on roads, but must be driven around the nearest circuit. Vehicles must not pass a funeral procession or a lot where services are being held.

Drivers and chauffeurs must remain by their vehicles and no loud conversation will be allowed during the funeral services. Undertakers will be held responsible for the enforcement of this rule and for any improper conduct on the part of the drivers or chauffeurs while in the Cemetery.

Flowers may be brought into the grounds for decoration, but must not be carried out under any pretense whatever, except by permission of the Cemetery Management. Flowers, wreaths, etc. left on graves or lots may be removed as soon as possible after they fade or become unsightly. The Cemetery will not be held responsible for anything left on lots, and the Cemetery Management reserves the right to remove any unsightly flowers, wreaths, etc. left on graves.

Visitors must not park on the grass, pick flowers, or injure trees or shrubs and must, in all cases, observe the properties of the Cemetery.

Solicitation of business in the Cemetery is prohibited.

Any person disturbing the peace by noise, fast driving, or any improper conduct, or who shall violate any of the rules will be compelled to leave the grounds and will be reported to the Board of Trustees and also to the proper authorities.

Pine Grove Cemetery disclaims all responsibility for any and all damages or loss from causes, beyond its reasonable control and especially from damage caused by the elements, an act of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, strikers, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents, invasion, insurrections, riots, or order of any military or civil authority, whether the damage by direct or collateral.

The Cemetery will not be responsible for loss or damage to any floral pieces, potted plants or urns and their contents. However, the Cemetery Management will endeavor to protect the property of all lot owners to the best of their ability.

## **Burial Lots**

Persons desiring to purchase a burial lot should apply to the Cemetery Office, where a competent person will accompany the purchaser into the Cemetery where lots may be seen and a suitable selection made.

The price of these lots, including perpetual care, can be obtained upon application to the Cemetery Management. The price of lots will be determined periodically by Cemetery Management. All lots are sold with the restriction applicable to the particular section and location of the cemetery. This includes size of monuments, number of burials per space, etc. Cemetery Management will be glad to discuss these with perspective purchasers.

No enclosures, posts, or seats will be allowed on any lots. Raised mounds are not permitted. All lots sold are for burial purposes only, subject to the rules and regulations of the Board of Trustees and to the following conditions. The consent of the Board of Trustees, in writing, must be obtained before the owner of any lot may grade the same, and no tree, shrubbery or any other growth shall be planted or cut down or destroyed except with the consent and under the supervision of the Cemetery Management.

All orders for work shall be in writing and work must be done by the employees of the Cemetery or under the supervision of the Cemetery Management.

Pine Grove Cemetery is not liable for loss of grave space due to the placement of the monument, even though the monument was placed on the lot with the Cemetery Management's permission.

No conveyance or transfer of any lot, or interest therein shall be valid unless it shall have been approved in writing by the Board of Trustees through its agents and has been recorded in its books.

Lot ownership passes equally to blood descendants and legally adopted children of the original owner next in line unless designated by will. Burial rights may not be denied to blood descendants and legally adopted children of the original owner unless specifically denied by that owner. A cemetery lot can only be sold back to the Cemetery at the original purchase price paid for said lot

### **Interments**

No interment shall be made until the Cemetery Management has received the proper permits as may be required by law. Pine Grove Cemetery will not be responsible for the procurement of burial permits required by law not to the identity of the person being sought to be interred.

No interment will be made until the grave space which is to be used has been paid in full. Also, the fee for the interment must be paid prior to burial unless a local funeral director is willing to accept financial responsibility for it.

Orders should be given at the Cemetery at least 24 hours before the time of interment and it is important that the owner or representative of a lot should give personal attention to the location of the graves, and also an authorization for interment needs to be signed and given to Cemetery Management prior to interment. Unless prior notice is given to the Cemetery Management, it shall be understood that the licensed funeral director is duly authorized to make funeral arrangements as the agent of the family and/or the person having legal custody of the remains of the deceased and also the owner of the lot or interment space. No interment shall be made in any lot where unpaid charges are still owed on the lot.

Funerals on arrival at the Cemetery shall be under the charge of the Cemetery Management or person appointed. The cost of interments and disinterments can be obtained upon application to the Cemetery Management. An overtime charge will be made for all burials that cannot be completed within regular working hours.

To prevent settling of graves, concrete or steel vaults or cement liners are required for outside containers. Permanent containers are required to bury cremated remains.

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to correct any errors which may have occurred in making interments, disinterment, or removals.

Disinterment will not be made without signed authorization of next of kin and all proper permits required by law. All charges for disinterment must be prepaid in full. The utmost care will be made in making disinterment or removals, however the Pine Grove Cemetery, its officers and personnel, shall assume no liability if any casket, burial case or urn is damaged.

Winter burials will be made up to such time as excessive snow or frost might prevent such burial. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to make that decision. No interment of cremains, babies, stillborns, or infants shall be made from the time the ground freezes until the frost is completely gone.

## Memorials

Lot owners may wish to discuss memorial regulations with the Cemetery Management before selecting a memorial.

All lots, two grave spaces or larger are allowed one monument above grade per lot. Single graves are allowed one flush marker only. The exception to this rule is the sections behind the Chapel. Monument regulations need to be discussed with Cemetery Management before purchase. All monuments and markers in Pine Grove Cemetery must be constructed of granite only. Some exceptions may be made when trying to match existing markers in the older part of the Cemetery. Exceptions will be left to the discretion of the Cemetery Management.

The length of a monument shall not exceed sixty percent (60%) of the width of the lot and the base does not exceed eight percent (8%) of the area of the lot.

Curbing, corner posts, above grade, platforms, steps, buttresses, settees or vases, except flower holders, are not allowed.

Designs, locations and materials for all monuments and markers or other structures must be submitted to the Cemetery Management for approval. This should be done before contracts are signed or orders given. The Board of Trustees shall reserve the right to reject any plan or design for any memorial which by reason of size, design, inscription, finish or quality of stone is, in the opinion of the Board of Trustees, unsuitable.

A concrete foundation is required for any above grade memorial. Arrangements for foundation are to be made by the lot owners with a memorial company, as the Cemetery will no longer be responsible for setting foundations.

No above grade monument (memorial) shall be erected until the lot is paid in full.

No eternal flames or perpetual lights, or anything of this nature will be allowed in Pine Grove Cemetery. These lights only serve to attract vandals.

Should any monument become unsightly, dilapidated or a menace to visitors, or the Cemetery personnel, the Cemetery shall have the right to correct the condition or remove the same at the owner's expense, after proper notification is made, unless the owner cannot be located.

While Pine Grove Cemetery will exercise all possible care to protect monuments and markers from damage, it disclaims any liability for damage or injury.

## **Flower And Decorative Policy**

All plantings and decorations shall be subject to the general supervision of the Cemetery Management, and to such rules and regulations and conditions as the Cemetery Management may impose to insure the future welfare and appearance of the Cemetery.

Annual plantings are allowed directly in front of the monument. These plantings shall not exceed one foot in width or the length of the monument. No plantings shall be made at or near any flush markers. These plantings interfere with the mowing, trimming and the opening of graves and will be removed without notice. Artificial flowers are restricted to urns, baskets and vases. No artificial flowers shall be placed in the ground.

Any vase or urn which is deemed to be an obstacle to lawn mowing operations shall be moved or removed without notice. The use of jars, glass, china, or tin cans is strictly prohibited. These containers not only become unsightly, they are hazardous to Cemetery personnel. Also, the use of rocks, bricks or wires to hold down vases, are prohibited for the same reasons. The use of washed, colored or crushed stone is prohibited.

Pine Grove Cemetery reserves the right to remove any plantings, containers or decorations in violation of the above said rules and to charge the owner for any expenses incurred, including the repaid or sod. Beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, the Cemetery personnel will clean up for the coming winter season. All flowers, real and artificial, vases, baskets, etc. will be picked up and disposed of. Lot owners should remove any item they wish to keep before this date. Urns may be left on the lot, but should be emptied and turned over to avoid breakage. Winter decorations are permitted from November 1 to April 30. After April 30, any decorations not picked up by the owner will be discarded by Cemetery personnel.

### **Trees & Shrubs**

Pine Grove Cemetery maintains to the best of its ability all trees and shrubs planted by the Cemetery. However, it is not responsible for the care and trimming of any plantings on individual lots by the owner or his/her heirs. Any tree or shrub that is not maintained, becomes unsightly, encroaches on a neighboring lot or obstructs the normal operation of the Cemetery shall be removed at the expense of the owner.

The planting of evergreens, trees, and shrubs is strictly forbidden without the expressed permission of the Cemetery Management.

Pine Grove Management reserves the right to remove without notice any planting in violation of foregoing rules conditions, and limitations and to charge the owner for expenses incurred, including repair of the sod.

## Flags and Flag holders

Flag and flag holders may be placed on lots or graves by representatives or legion posts and like organizations, not to exceed one week before Memorial Day and must be removed within two days after Flag Day, June 14. Thereafter any remaining flags will be removed by Cemetery personnel. In no case will Pine Grove Cemetery be responsible for safekeeping of flags or flag holders.

## Perpetual Care

Perpetual Care shall include the mowing and trimming of grass at reasonable intervals, raking of fall leaves, and maintenance of graves. Perpetual Care shall not include filling or rising of sunken graves where permanent containers were not used. Within the past 30 years the price of lots has included Perpetual Care. It is the hope of the Pine Grove Cemetery that all old lots will eventually be covered by Perpetual Care rather than necessitating Annual Care billing. Perpetual Care is a one-time payment that will assure maintenance in the afore-mentioned manner, as long as the Cemetery exists. Prices for Perpetual Care are available at the Cemetery office. The general care assumed by Pine Grove Cemetery shall in no case or instance mean the maintenance, repair or replacement of any monument, memorial tomb, mausoleum or marker placed or erected in Cemetery lots. No work shall be done on any lot to which unpaid bills have accrued.

**The Board of Trustees of Public Cemeteries for the City of Waterville, Maine reserves the right to change, amend, alter, repeal, rescind or add to these rules and regulations as any thereof, or to adopt any new rule or regulation with respect to its Cemetery or anything pertaining thereto.**

**The Board of Trustees wishes all owners to know that all rules and regulations are made with the best interest of the Cemetery in mind. We sincerely appreciate the cooperation of our owners and are grateful for any suggestions to help Pine Grove Cemetery become more attractive.**

**As of May 1, 2009, the Board of Trustees have instructed that all interments, including scattering of ashes, are to be made by cemetery personnel.**