

Norwich Cemetery Commission Rules and Regulations

Adopted: 29 Jan 2026

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1.) **List of Cemeteries:** See Attachment 1 for map, location and more details on each cemetery

Name	First Burial	Last Burial	Active	# graves
Hillside-Loveland	1827		Yes	2000
Union Village	1823		Yes	500
Beaver Meadow	1795	1966	No	250
Cook Homestead	1848	1853	No	3
Fairview	1772	1965	No	1000
Hogback	1826	1871	No	6
Meeting House Hill	1773	1890	No	250
New Boston	1794	1977	No	150
Parkhurst	1826	1873	No	21
Podunk-Newton	1849	1885	No	4
Rogers-Hartshorn	1840	1850	No	5
Waterman Hill	1770	1896	No	250

2.) **Definitions:**

- **Burial Rights:** The right to interment in a particular or specified lot within the Norwich Cemeteries.
- **Bases:** The foundation upon which a monument rests.
- **Cremation:** The process of reducing human remains to ashes.
- **Interment:** The act of placing human remains (casketed or cremated) in a grave.
- **Liability:** Rules regarding responsibility for damage or loss of property.
- **Lot:** A designated area within the cemetery sold to an individual or family for burials.
- **Markers:** Smaller markers placed at the head or foot of a grave.
- **Memorial/Monument:** A marker, headstone, or other structure placed to identify a burial site.
- **Natural Burial:** In its simplest form, a natural burial is a burial without a vault in a biodegradable casket, container, or shroud of an un-embalmed body. This might be called a traditional burial as it is how the dead have been buried for centuries.
- **Perpetual Care:** Provisions for maintaining the cemetery grounds and gravesites.
- **Vault:** A container, often made of concrete, used to encase a casket or urn before burial.

3.) **General Cemetery Rules/Conduct of Persons within the Cemetery:**

- All Norwich Cemeteries operate under the Laws and regulations of the State of Vermont as found at (<https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/18/121>).
- Cemetery Hours: Cemetery hours are from dawn to dusk. The cemetery is typically closed from Dec 1st to April 30th.
- Conduct: Cemetery grounds are to be treated with dignity and respect at all times. Visitors are expected to maintain respectful behavior, including refraining from partaking in alcohol, loud talking near services, and avoiding damage to monuments or vegetation.
- All proposed cleaning of headstones or maintenance of damaged headstones must first be approved by a member of the Commission. Headstone rubbing should only be done if there will be no damage to the headstone.
- Dog owners must have immediate control of their animals at all times and must clean up after their animals.
- Horseback riding is not allowed in any cemetery.
- Drivers must stay on designated roads and not exceed 5 MPH while in the cemetery.

4.) **Contractors and Other Workers:**

- All contractors and/or businesses working in any Norwich cemetery must carry current insurance presented to the Commission prior to any work started.
- Any damage done to any driveways, lawn areas, headstones, monuments and other cemetery property by any contractors, group or individuals shall be repaired by the contractor, group or individual at the expense of the contractor, group or individual.

5.) Purchase of Lots:

- All lots will be sold at the direction of the Commission. The only open lots for burial are Hillside Cemetery and Union Village Cemetery.
- Purchase of lots for current residents and non residents can be found in Attachment 2.
- One full body burial and one cremation burial or three maximum cremation burials are permitted in a single lot. Additional cremation burials may be considered at the discretion of the Commission.
- Four cornerstones to show the perimeter of the lots shall be purchased from the Commission when lots are sold. The sexton will be responsible for the placement of the cornerstones.
- No lot shall be assigned for burial unless payment has been made in full.
- Perpetual Care. The Commission will collect and manage funds for the long term care of the town's cemeteries. The perpetual care assumed by the Commission may involve the maintenance, repair, replacement of any memorials, foundations, or monuments placed or erected upon any lot.
- For the purposes of this section, a "resident" is defined as a person who has declared the Town of Norwich his/her legal residence on their most recent state and federal income tax forms.
- A resident may purchase up to two (2) burial lots.

6.) Procedures and Forms:

- Full payment to the Commission is required before any contract is executed between a party and the Commission.
- The Norwich Town Clerk will issue, at the set fee, a Certificate of Burial Rights to the owner of the lot. Fees will be determined by the Commission (A fee listing is found at Attachment 2).
- A Cremation Certificate must be presented prior to any cremated remains burial in Norwich Cemeteries.

7.) Interments and Burials:

- No burials shall take place without permission from the sexton and the completion of the death certificate, burial transit permit. The sexton shall inform the commission of all burials.
- The sexton will meet with the owner or Funeral Home at the cemetery to locate the lot for burial and mark the grave location, and will oversee/facilitate installation of headstone and corner markers.

8.) Natural Burials:

- Must comply with Vermont State law.
- Norwich Guidelines are as follows:
 - Materials for Internment - All containers, shrouds or materials used for interment must be 100% biodegradable, nontoxic, nonhazardous and plant-derived.
 - Decedent remains may not be embalmed.
 - Burial depth will meet state guidelines.
 - The Funeral Director/Funeral Home is responsible for lowering of the body into the grave Hillside cemetery is the only cemetery accepting natural burials.
- Natural Burial Ground Procedures: Natural burial lots are 5 feet x 10 feet each. Each natural burial lot is limited to the remains of a single (1) body. After interment, the row and number of the site will be entered into the cemetery records.
- The digging of the burial lot grave is at the discretion of the Sexton. Family members may not dig graves without the permission of the Sexton. Family members and friends may be permitted to fill in graves.
- The marker must be flat, not standing.

9.) Burial Rights:

- Burial rights refer to the right to interment in a particular or specified lot within the Norwich Cemeteries.
- Burial rights conveyed by the Commission shall be the sole and separate rights of the person or persons named in the deed. The burial rights may be conveyed, assigned or deeded to identified family members. Given in writing and on the decease of the deed holder(s), the descendants and/or heirs will have burial rights and upon approval of the interned partners. Any transfer or assignment of the use of any lot, or of any interest therein, will not be valid without the consent in writing for all parties interested in such lot, including the commissioners. Any transfer shall be recorded by the Town Clerk. These forms & procedures are at the Town Clerk's office.
- Lots that will not be used may be sold back or donated to the Commission. Cemetery lots must be sold back to the town, not to individuals. The town will pay the purchase price. If the cost is not known, the Commission shall set a fair price.

10.) Monuments and Markers:

- Any memorial contractor must have prior permission from the sexton before commencing any activity. No monument can be erected without prior approval of the sexton.
- Foundations will be dug at the discretion of the sexton.
- All monuments must be at the head of the lot.
- All monuments will be lined up with the rest in that row and will be set with an appropriate foundation based on the size of the monument, or on bedrock.
- All monuments shall fit within the footprint of the lot.
- All graves require a permanent marker within 12 months of burial.

11.) Landscaping and Decorating

- Decorations will only consist of organic plants (no plastic or metal objects allowed).
- Lot owners will be allowed to plant flowers (no shrubs or trees) and all plantings must be contained within the boundaries of the lot and must be maintained by the lot owner. No other decorations are permitted.
- The commission will not be liable for any articles left at the grave site
- No enclosures of lots by fencing, hedges, curbing or stone, gravel, or wood chip aprons around memorials, corner markers or lots are allowed.
- The cemetery commissioners or the designee's are authorized to remove any item not allowed in the rules and regulations.
- Cut flowers, and funeral arrangements may be placed on graves but will be removed when they become unsightly, or at the discretion of the sexton or commission as necessary.

Attachment 1: List of Cemeteries and Map

1. New Boston Cemetery:

- Cemetery ID: 2258812
- Memorials: 233
- Location: The cemetery is on a hill above at the intersection of New Boston Road and Norford Lake Road.across from Ladeau Rd. Norwich. (Coordinates: 43.78174, -72.29676)

2. Union Village Cemetery:

- Cemetery ID: 2258815
- Memorials: 774
- Location: Academy Rd, Norwich (on Thetford town line). (Coordinates: 43.78507, -72.25703).
- Notes: First Burial 1823. Still in use. 500+ graves. Very well kept. A number of Civil War Veterans. White marble and granite stones from the 19th century are distinctive and straight (for the most part). Very beautiful epitaphs and unique etchings. Stones carved by "Risley and McCallum, Piermont, NH"

3. Hogback Cemetery:

- Cemetery ID: 2260858
- Memorials: 6
- Location: A bridge over a stream has washed out that would lead from Campbell's Flats Road to Hogback Road. Located as shown on map but road not opened. Go in from west just north of the house, follow old road to field on top of hill; cemetery in grove of trees on left. It is adjacent to the Sargent Cemetery. (Coordinates: 43.77281, -72.24338)

4. Rogers - Hartshorn Cemetery:

- Cemetery ID: 2259714
- Memorials: 4
- Location: Coordinates: 43.77143, -72.33604
- Notes: A small family cemetery with about 6 graves. Abandoned. Difficult to find, especially in thick underbrush. Drive 3.8 miles from the start of Turnpike Road from Main Street Norwich. (1.2 miles after Upper Turnpike Road branches off). The cemetery is about 20 yards up an embankment to a flat area. No maintenance.

5. Beaver Meadow Chapel Cemetery:

- Cemetery ID: 2190772
- 231 memorials
- Location: 240 Chapel Hill Rd. Norwich. North side of Beaver Meadow Chapel on Beaver Meadow Rd Norwich, Vermont (Coordinates: 43.76460, -72.37450)

6. Waterman Hill Cemetery:

- Cemetery ID: 1151532
- Memorials: 186
- Location: Coordinates: 43.75408, -72.23206. Route 5, go up Hemlock Ridge, park and walk up the dirt road on the left.

7. Meeting House Hill Cemetery:

- Memorials: 233
- Location: Olcott Rd. Norwich (Coordinates: 43.73721, -72.30489)
- Notes: First burial 1773, last burial 1890. This cemetery contains 250+ graves.

8. Parkhurst Cemetery:

- Cemetery ID: 104179
- Memorials: 22
- Location: Off of Town HWY 51 and Burton Wood Rd. From I89 Underpass, go on Podunk Rd. 1.6 miles to the road junction, then approximately 1/10th of a mile turn right to another Y. Park car. Hike left branch of 4-wheel drive rd which is the Appalachian Trail (AT) marked with white paint. Follow trail about a mile to where the AT goes right off this 4-wheel drive road, go 100 feet along AT then 75 yards to left in the woods (Coordinates: 43.73020, -72.38071)
- Notes First Burial 1826, Last Burial 1873. 21 graves. This cemetery is abandoned.: Cemetery ID: 2260520

9. Fairview Cemetery: Cemetery:

- Cemetery ID: 104008
- 765 memorials
- Location: Beaver Meadow Rd, on right before Hopson Rd (Coordinates: 43.71610, -72.31030)

10. Hillside-Loveland Cemetery:

- Cemetery ID: 1988209
- Memorials: 1,925
- Location: Hopson Rd, Norwich (Coordinates: 43.71581, -72.31695)

11. Podunk - Newton Cemetery:

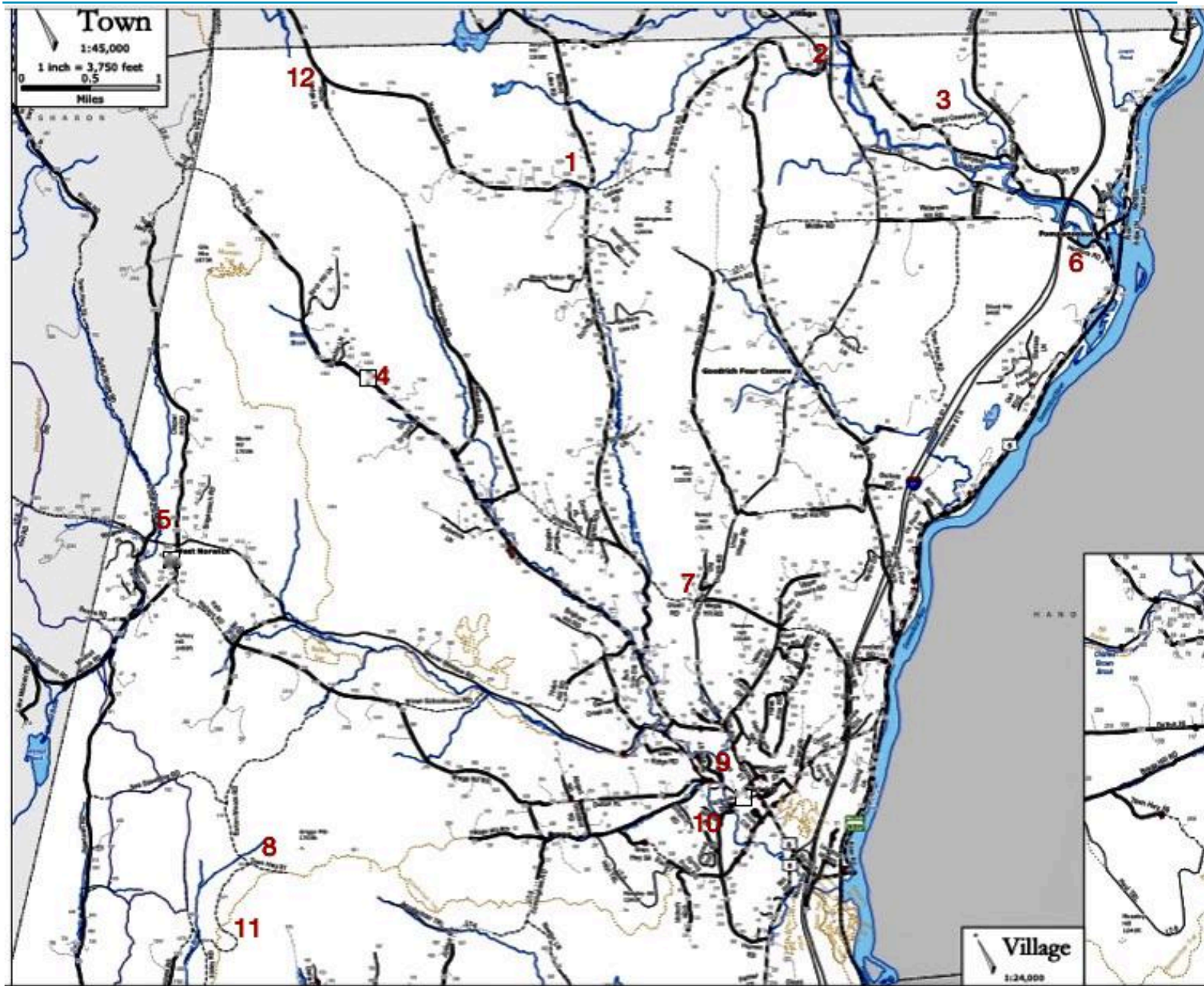
- Cemetery ID: 2260520
- Memorials: 4
- Location: Start the same as if you are going to the Parkhurst Cemetery and at the Y where you parked, walk approximately 350 yards up the right branch; the cemetery is 45 yards east (or left) of the road just north of a very small stream. This is about 50 yards before an old cellar hole to the left of the Rd.
- Another description is: from Podunk road, walk .3 miles down Illsey Rd (turns into Griggs Mountain Rd) - This is actually a trail. A small family cemetery with 4 interments. Abandoned. (Coordinates: 43.72100, -72.39198)

12. Cook Homestead Cemetery:

- Cemetery ID: 2693890
- Location: New Boston Road Norwich (Coordinates: 43.80603, -72.33060.)
- Notes: There are three graves on the Cook family Homestead that are located behind the old house foundation about 100 meters from the New Boston Road. No buildings remain standing. The three graves on this site are marked by legible headstones.

Map of Cemeteries

1. New Boston Cemetery
 2. Union Village Cemetery
 3. Hogback Cemetery:
 4. Rogers - Hartshorn Cemetery
 5. Beaver Meadow Chapel Cemetery
 6. Waterman Hill Cemetery
 7. Meeting House Hill Cemetery
 8. Parkhurst Cemetery
 9. Fairview Cemetery: Cemetery
 10. Hillside-Loveland Cemetery
 11. Podunk - Newton Cemetery
 12. Cook Homestead Cemetery
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Attachment 2: Cemetery Plot Prices as of 2/12/24

	Resident	Non-Resident	Corner Markers
Single (traditional)	\$500.00	\$2,500.00	\$220.00
Single (natural Burial)	\$500.00	\$ N/A	\$220.00
Double	\$700.00	\$3,500.00	\$220.00
Cremation	\$400.00	\$2,000.00	\$220.00