

Contract for use of HOPE Cemetery

This agreement made this _____ day of _____, 20__ between _____ and the Town of Georgia is for the purchase of _____ burial plot(s) numbered _____ in Hope Cemetery located on Highbridge Road in Georgia, Vermont.

Cemetery Upkeep: The Town of Georgia shall arrange for regular grounds care, including, but not limited to, grass mowing, tree trimming, and shrub and tree removal.

Plot Fees: Plot fees are set at..... Payment of a plot fee only grants the use of particular plot, it does not in any way convey title to property, establish a lease agreement or in any way deprive, release or impair the Town of Georgia from exercising their due authority and responsibilities for the cemetery property. Furthermore, if and when a payee fails to adhere to these guidelines and procedures, the Town of Georgia reserves the right to cancel any and all agreements.

No one may sell or transfer their rights to any other individual.

Refunds: Payments for cemetery plots shall be refunded should the member decide not to use the plot. The member shall notify the Cemetery Chair in writing. Refunds shall be made, without interest, upon written notification that the entitlement guidelines can no longer be met.

Procedure: A person or persons desiring burial in the cemetery shall contact the Town of Georgia for plot selection and assignment. All plot fees shall be paid in full at the time of plot assignment.

Markers: Following the interment of plots, the plot shall be marked with an appropriate permanent marker denoting family name. The cost of the marker is included in the cost of the cemetery plot. All markers will be placed in line with other markers in the same row. A Town of Georgia employee must be present when grave markers are set in place. The town will not be responsible for vandalism or damage to grave markers and flower vases. It is the expectation of the Town of Georgia that no offensive language or images will be depicted on the grave marker. The Town of Georgia reserves the right to remove any marker deemed offensive to this sacred burial ground.

Flowers: The Town of Georgia is authorized to remove and dispose of all live flowers from the cemetery grounds thirty (30) days following the day of the funeral. Periodically all old and faded artificial arrangements will be removed and disposed of away from the cemetery grounds.

It is further noted that flower arrangements shall be placed close to the grave markers and headstones so as not to interfere with the care and maintenance of the cemetery. All seasonal adornments will be removed after two months.

Funeral Arrangements: Permission to open graves and allow interments of disinterment's must be granted through the town before any grave is opened. A state approved vault, grave liner, or receptacle shall be required for all interments. When a grave is closed, all dirt will be tamped as the grave is refilled. All excess dirt shall be placed where directed by the Town Chair. The Town of Georgia does not provide caskets, burials vaults, or the labor and equipment to open a plot.

The Town of Georgia must be presented with a burial permit in accordance with local and state laws before interment is completed. The Town will not be liable for the burial permit or responsible for the accuracy of the data it contains or the identity of the person to be interred.

Records: Two (2) copies of this contract shall be signed by the person electing a plot and paying the plot fees. One copy shall be given to the purchaser and the other copy will be retained for the cemetery records.

I have read and understand the guidelines within this document

Date: _____

By: _____

Purchaser's Signature

Town Administrator

East Georgia Plains Cemetery

Maintenance –

- Spring clean-up prior to first mowing, Remove sticks, limbs etc.
- Mowing as needed with top priority for Memorial Day, July 4th , and Veterans day.
- Periodic removal of rubbish etc.
- Trimming of trees/brush along fence and excess tree plant growth within the burial sites.

Burials-

- Funeral Homes responsible for burials including grave excavation. Assistance provided to determine correct plot. Families determine grave locations within plots.
- Headstones are the responsibility of the plot owners and must be located within the plot and inline with other stones for mowing purposes.
- Burial permits provided by the Funeral home and filed by the Town Clerk.
- Cremation remains are allowed on lots and can be buried by owners.
- Bodies cannot be moved without court direction.
- Winter burials are not recommended due to damage to driveway and other areas. (Exceptions can be made based on weather and condition of grounds.)

Lot sales-

- Lots are sold as requested, provided space is available.
- Location is determined by measuring from existing lots and stone markers are installed at the corners of each lot. The payment for the markers is required in addition to the lot cost. The markers are installed by the town and completed by local headstone suppliers with a letter engraved identifying owner.

- Current lot prices are as follows:
 - 10' x 5' typically for 1 grave or multiple cremations \$320 includes 4 markers
 - 10' X 10' 2 graves or multiple cremations \$520 includes 4 markers.
 - 10' X 20' 4-5 graves or multiple cremations \$870 includes 4 markers.

Note: the number of burials on each lot is dependent on placement of graves in each plot and is determined by the owner.

- All lot purchases are recorded, and site map maintained by the town.
- A receipt and copy of site map are provided to plot buyer.
- Each buyer should be informed that artificial flowers are not allowed and fences/obstructions interfering with mowing are prohibited. Plantings should not exceed the width of the stones and not extending more than 1 foot into neighboring plots.
- The Town is not responsible for stone damage.
- Cleaning and repairing of older stones are at the discretion of the town.
- Flags honoring Veterans are placed on grave sites by local Veterans groups and are not the responsibility of the town.