

Proposed Green Burial Amendments to the Kensington Cemetery Bylaws

Amendments to existing sections:

Section III: Burial Procedures

1d. **With the exception of approved green burials as described in Section VII**, all burials must be made in a burial vault (outside containers) made of natural stone, metal or reinforced concrete; the latter being preferred. These vaults must be in place in the grave prior to the interment service, after which the casket or urn is placed in the vault.

New Section VII: Green Burials

1. The {TBD: to be determined} area of the Dearborn Annex cemetery is designated for green burials. For the purposes of these bylaws, “green burials” are defined as burials made without a vault and interred in a non-permanent, biodegradable container or casket. Embalming is not required. Residents wishing to be buried only in a shroud or blanket must have the assistance of a cemetery-approved funeral home that has stated its willingness to facilitate a shroud-only burial. As with regular Kensington cemetery burials, only Kensington residents may request a plot in this section of the yard.
2. Graves in this section must be dug deep enough for a minimum of three feet of earth to rest above the burial. An additional cost may apply to opening green burial graves, to be negotiated with a cemetery-approved grave opener. This surcharge is applied to the work and materials for filling in the burial site in the case of future subsidence.
3. Plots in this area of the cemetery will be 4’ wide for a single lot or 8’ wide for a double lot.
4. Burials in this section of the cemetery must have a permanent marker with the name of those interred. Both flat and standing headstones are permitted.
5. This section of the cemetery will be mowed and maintained in a similar manner to the rest of the yard.
6. Those wishing to arrange a green burial should note that the cemetery is closed for burials when the ground is frozen. The Town of Kensington does not have storage facilities for unembalmed bodies, and other storage arrangements should be made in case death occurs during the winter months.
7. As with all whole interments, a state burial permit must be filed with the town clerk before the burial can go forward. Potential green burials should note that in the case of a possible death by a contagious or potentially hazardous virus or disease, the New Hampshire Department of Health’s Center for Disease Control and/or the New Hampshire Chief Medical Examiner’s Office will review the case and may forbid natural burial if there is concern about possible infection or spread of disease.