

TEMPLE EMMANUEL CEMETERY RULES AND GUIDELINES, WAKEFIELD, MA

January 2024

Per the conditions of the deed for the Temple Emmanuel Cemetery acquired from Mishkan Tefila signed September 18, 1950; the land is to be used as and for the burial of the dead of Jewish Faith (Condition #1) the religious requirements governing the burial of the dead shall be observed in the spirit of the (*Conservative*) Jewish tradition as observed by Congregation Mishkan Tefila. (Condition #4).

The overriding principles of Jewish funerals are simplicity and unadorned alignment with the processes of nature.

The Temple Emmanuel Cemetery Committee has final authority in all matters pertaining to the Cemetery, and when necessary, may revise the cemetery rules, guidelines, and financial requirements with consultation from the Temple Emmanuel Board.

The Temple Emmanuel Cemetery Committee reserves the right to remove any inappropriate item(s) from the cemetery or grave that does not comply with these policies.

Donations to the Cemetery are always appreciated and funds received will be used to preserve and maintain the cemetery.

Placing a pebble or small stone on the grave/headstone is appropriate as a token that you visited a grave, is a tradition that can be found dating back to Biblical times.

RULES AND GUIDELINES

The following rules and guidelines are for Temple Emmanuel of Wakefield's Cemetery. The intention is to show respect to the deceased and comfort to the bereaved, in accordance with the traditions of the Jewish people and this community as required by the Cemetery Deed.

- Only people of the Jewish Faith are allowed to be buried in the Temple Emmanuel Cemetery.
- There should be no burials on Shabbat, Festivals or other Religious Holy Days on which burial is prohibited.
- Caskets should be simple, i.e. all wood and unadorned.
- All burials shall be in conformity with customs and traditions of the Congregation as interpreted by clergy. Only Jewish clergy or Jewish lay people may officiate at a burial service or any other religious service at the cemetery.

- Temple Emmanuel Cemetery Committee does not promote cremation per Jewish law and tradition in order to conform to the intentions of the cemetery Deed. Please discuss further with the Temple Emmanuel Cemetery Committee and Clergy.
- Temple Emmanuel has sacred books (i.e. old prayerbooks) that must be retired respectfully. The burial of sacred books with the body is allowed and encouraged. If you would like to perform a mitzvah and include/add sacred books during the burial, please inform the cemetery committee or clergy.
- Flowers should not be placed on graves.
- Permanent plantings on individual gravesites are not permitted.
- Placement of flags at gravesites requires the approval of the Cemetery Chairperson. The exception is Veteran's Day when flags may be placed at a veteran grave site for the month of November.
- There is no eating or smoking permitted at the cemetery.

HEADSTONE/MARKER RULES AND GUIDELINES

- Temple Emmanuel Cemetery Committee requires that all gravesites include headstones or markers, with upright headstones being preferred.
- All headstone/markers, designs, and their inscriptions **must be approved** by the cemetery committee in coordination with clergy prior to ordering.
- Headstones/markers should be erected within a year of burial.
- Headstone dimensions:

Single Plot:	Stone -24"	Base - 30"	Height - 36"
Double Plot:	Stone -36"- 42"	Base - 48"	Height - 36"

Marker dimension should conform to the above dimensions for Headstones.
- Headstones and all markers should be strictly free of any human imagery whether it be an outline or a laser-engraved picture. Non-Jewish religious icons are not permitted on headstones/markers or in any place in the cemetery.
- Headstones/Markers should be simple. Since it's believed that all people are equal at death, headstones/markers and inscriptions should be kept simple. Decorative inscriptions should be kept to a minimum and headstones and markers should be made of stone or granite.
- Inscriptions in Russian and other non-English/non-Hebrew languages are allowed but must also have an English inscription on the stone. No inscription shall include anything offensive, inappropriate, or contrary to the Jewish faith.

FINANCIAL RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Plot sales are restricted to members of Temple Emmanuel, Wakefield, MA at this time.
- 2) Members in good standing (hereinafter members) who have paid appropriate Annual Financial obligations/dues for the three (3) consecutive years immediately prior to the year of purchase may purchase a **single** burial gravesite/plot for their own use. It is assumed that such member is of the Jewish Faith.
- 3) The current member fee for a cemetery plot is \$1500 and must be paid in full. The Cemetery Committee and Board of Directors may alter this price at any time. **The cost of a plot does not include excavation of the gravesite, cost of grave liner, costs for preparation for headstone/marker placement. These fees are paid directly to the cemetery caretaker at the time the services are utilized. Temple Emmanuel Cemetery also has administrative fees associated with burial, stone placement and onsite engraving.**
- 4) Plot holders have the option to sell them back to the Temple Emmanuel Cemetery at the price they paid for it. Donation back to the Temple Cemetery of plots that are not needed is greatly appreciated. Per the plot deeds, profit from the sale of a plot is not allowed.
- 5) Donations to the Cemetery are always appreciated and funds received will be used to preserve and maintain the cemetery.