

Green/Natural Burials

In its' simplest form, a green 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. Although the cemeteries in Waitsfield cannot accommodate a green burial, the Cemetery Commission has approved a 'Natural Burial' as an alternative.

The following are our guidelines for those interested in Natural Burials:

1. An un-embalmed body may be buried in any of the four Waitsfield cemeteries only if the body has been stored in refrigeration until interment occurs.
2. Although no vault is required for a natural burial, such burials require that the body be in a wooden box.
3. Burial depth will be at no shallower than 4 feet.
4. A marker is required for all lots.
5. The lot will be maintained as all others are in the cemetery having a top covering of grass which will be mown and maintained in the manner of the cemetery in general. Any tree or shrub must be pre-approved by the Cemetery Commission prior to planting.
6. Lowering of the body into the grave must be coordinated by the family as neither the cemetery's grave preparer nor the Cemetery Commission will be involved with that process.
7. Cemeteries are open May 1st through November 1st. Any burials outside of those dates are at the discretion of the Cemetery Sexton.