

JCA Green Cemetery Guidelines

April 2017

The guidelines listed below for the JCA Green Burial area are to promote a legacy of care and respect for the earth as well as to allow the body to degrade naturally and rejoin the elements. In this process, we aim to perpetuate the natural cycle of life and death.

Location: 222 Leverett Rd. in Shutesbury, between Pratt Corner Rd and W. Pelham Rd.

Plots: Each grave plot will be 5 ft x 8 ft

We intend to follow guidelines for green burial and dig graves 3-4 feet deep (to the bottom of the coffin). Embalming and cosmetology are not allowed. Cremated remains may not be interred in the cemetery.

We will use sequential burial to be sensitive to the root systems because the green section is located in a pine forest. **If plots are desired next to each other, both need to be purchased at the same time. Upon the opening of the first grave, the second plot(s) also needs to be dug (with an excavation charge) and refilled, so that the location of the excavated grave can be marked.** This also means that individuals cannot request specific sites in the cemetery for burial. Rather, the most recent person who has died will be buried next to the last person buried in sequential fashion, as explained above.

Plan: We will roughly be following the attached map of the green section.

Grave Markers: There will be no standing markers or headstones, or statues, only markers set flush to the ground, no larger than about 1 foot by 2 feet (288 sq.in). Standing markers need cement foundations which *we are not using* in the Green cemetery. Markers are set dry, without a foundation. Markers may be inscribed or engraved. Markers may not be cut or polished. Our research tells us that softer stone will not wear well and is difficult to engrave upon. Therefore, we recommend using local grey granite, which can be purchased at Dorsey Monuments in Amherst or Negus & Taylor in Greenfield. The family makes arrangements for markers. The monument dealer, in consultation with the cemetery committee, will install the marker. Markers are, of course, optional.

Graves: Graves may take several years to settle back to the original ground level. Note that sometimes graves settle unevenly, even from one day to the next. Graves will be remounded periodically.

Burial containers: Burial vaults, grave liners and caskets containing any metal or other non-biodegradable materials are not permitted. Only burial in biodegradable shrouds is permitted. This includes cotton, wool, silk, or hemp. Two burial options are these: using either a natural burial trundle (a wooden tray with handles) for carrying and burying the shrouded body (the trundle is buried and cannot be reused), or a coffin made of readily biodegradable materials. Douglass Funeral Home has worked with the JCA Cemetery Committee to ensure that several certified green burial coffins are available.

Plantings: Permanent plantings are not allowed in the burial area. The JCA reserves the right to remove all flowers, wreaths and other natural decorations without notice as soon as they become unsightly. Flags, artificial flowers and other decorations may not be used in the green section.

Charges and Donations: Families will be responsible for all expenses of burial and other funeral arrangements. See Financial Regulations for cost of plots.

JCA Approval and Oversight

All burials at the JCA cemetery must have the approval of the JCA. Please call or have your funeral director contact the JCA office at [413-256-0160](tel:413-256-0160). Please note: no burial allowed on the Jewish Sabbath or on Jewish Festivals.

Financial Regulations:

- 1) Members in good standing (hereinafter members) who have paid in full all of their dues for the three (3) consecutive years immediately prior to the year of purchase (hereinafter the standard) may purchase a single burial gravesite, sometimes also called a plot.
- 2) The current fee is \$630 paid in full. The Board may alter this price at any time. The cost of a plot does not include excavation of the gravesite, or additional costs of excavation during the winter.
- 3) Members who do not meet the above standard may purchase a single burial gravesite at the then applicable member price ONLY by making an additional payment of the applicable full dues such that at the time of acquisition they will have met the applicable standard.

4) Members may purchase grave sites for their own use and also for others in their immediate family. (The immediate family is defined as “member(s) plus dependent children under the age of 25.”)

5) Members also may purchase single burial plots for extended family members. The cost for each of these plots with perpetual care included is currently \$2500. Extended family includes parents, children over the age of 25, spouses of said children, siblings, grandparents, and grandchildren. Extended family for this provision does not include cousins, aunts, uncles, or their spouses, or any other family relationship or close friend.

6) Non-members may purchase a single burial lot; the current fee for each lot is \$5000. Such purchase can be made before or after the time of death.

7) Leaving the Jewish Community of Amherst:

I. Members who have purchased a grave site and thereafter resigned from the JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST, INC. and relocated outside Franklin, Hampshire, or Hampden County may retain their gravesite. They shall not be entitled to any refund if they choose not to use the gravesite.

II. Member who resigned from the JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST, INC., and continued to reside in Franklin, Hampshire or Hampden County and who have been members less than ten years must either sell their gravesite back to the community at the same price they paid. Or, if they choose to retain their gravesite; they may do so only by paying the then applicable non-member cost for each plot, minus the amount they have already paid for the gravesite.

III. Members who resign from the JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST, INC. and continued to reside in Franklin, Hampshire or Hampden County and who have been members 10 years or more, have the option to keep their grave site or sell it back to the JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST, INC at the price they paid for it.

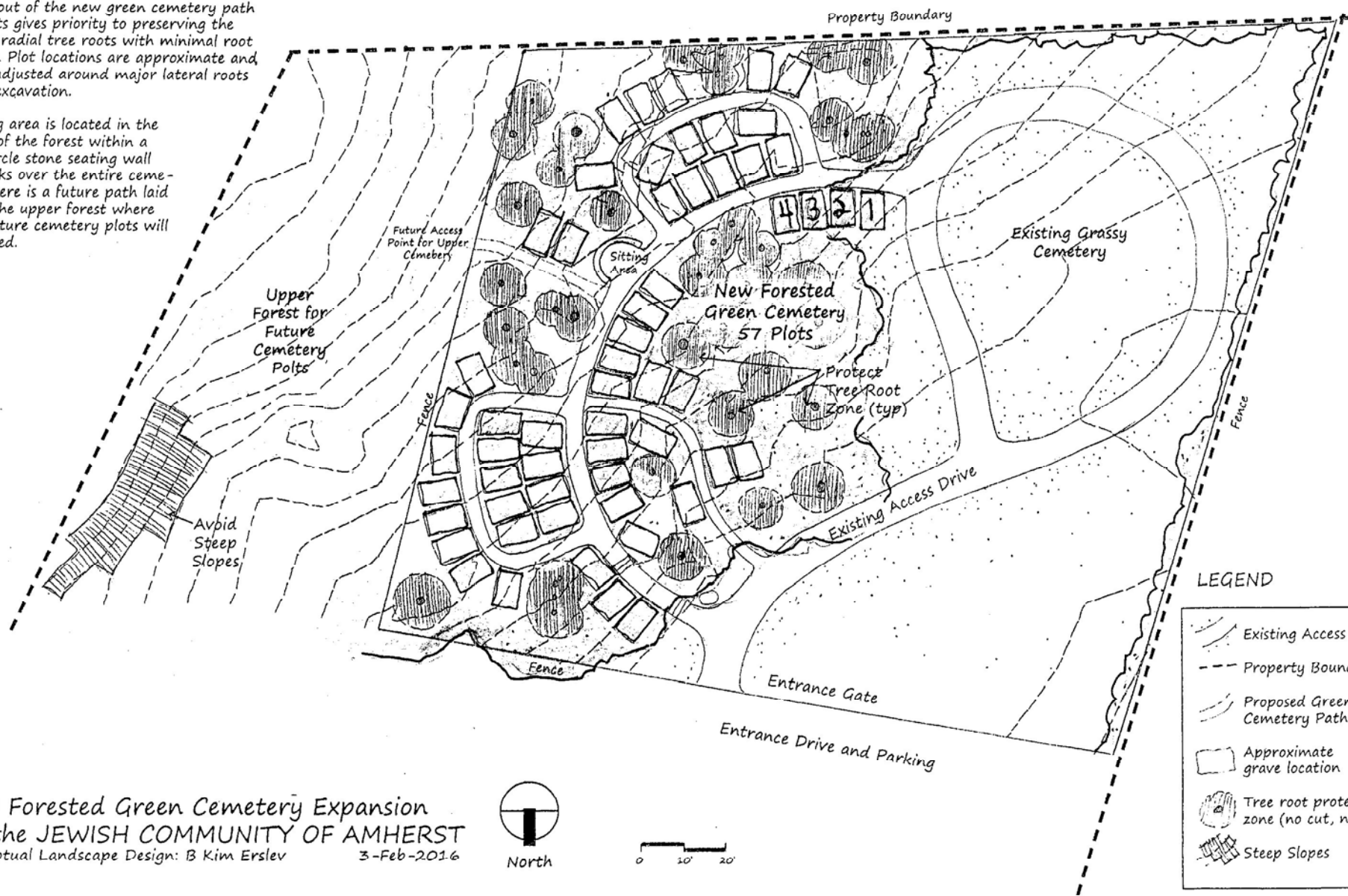
8) The Board may use its discretion in deviating from the above financial regulations

Cemetery records are maintained at the JCA office.

The JCA Board of Directors adopted these Guidelines on May 5, 2017.

This layout of the new green cemetery path and plots gives priority to preserving the existing radial tree roots with minimal root pruning. Plot locations are approximate and will be adjusted around major lateral roots during excavation.

A sitting area is located in the middle of the forest within a semi-circle stone seating wall that looks over the entire cemetery. There is a future path laid out to the upper forest where more future cemetery plots will be located.



New Forested Green Cemetery Expansion
 for the JEWISH COMMUNITY OF AMHERST
 Conceptual Landscape Design: B Kim Erslev 3-Feb-2016

