

Town of Westminster

Home, Private and Green Burial Ordinance December 9, 2015

Declaration of Purpose

The public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Westminster, Vermont require the State of Vermont's guidelines (Act 24) in regards to Home, Private and Green burials. The Town of Westminster will adopt the new Act 24 dated July 1st, 2015 as it pertains to these types of burials. This Act and the Statute 24 V.S.A. § 5319 will guide the citizens of Westminster to what will be assumed to be appropriate for a burial site.

Recording of Burial Site

No person shall create a burial site on his or her land without the consent from the Town's Health Officer and the Department of Health. All sites will be mapped, drawn and recorded in the land records of the Town Clerk's office.

Interment of any human body in the earth shall not be made unless:

- The distance from the bottom of the outside coffin or shroud shall be at least five feet below the natural surface of the ground and the natural ground water table is not apparent.
- The site will not be less than 200 feet up gradient of a drilled bedrock well or a drilled well in a confined aquifer that is part of an exempt or permitted potable water supply or a transient noncommunity water system source.
- The site will not be less than 500 feet up gradient from any other groundwater source that is part of an exempt or permitted potable water supply or a transient noncommunity water system source.
- The site will not be less than 150 feet cross or down gradient from any groundwater source that is part of an exempt or permitted potable water supply or a transient noncommunity water system source.
- The site will be located outside of any and all zone 1 or 2 protection areas for an existing or permitted community water system.
- The site is outside the source protection area for an existing of permitted nontransient, noncommunity public water system.
- The site is located outside of a river corridor as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 1422 and delineated by the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR).
- The site is located outside of a flood hazard area as defined in 10 V.S.A. § 752 and delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency of the National Flood Insurance Program.

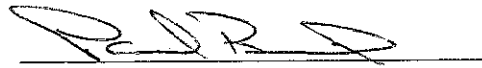
Effective Date

This ordinance shall become effective on the expiration of sixty (60) days from its adoption. Adopted by the Westminster Selectboard on this 9th day of December, 2015.

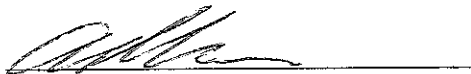
We, the Selectboard of Westminster Vermont, adopt the following ordinance.



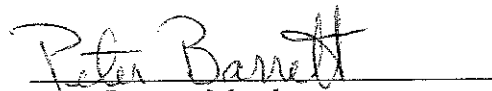
K. Sheldon Beebe, Chairman



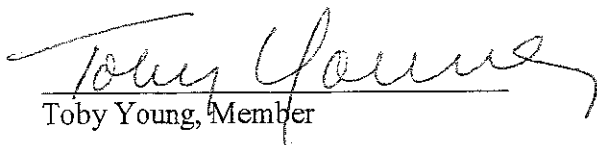
Paul Banik, Vice Chairman



Craig Allen, Clerk



Peter Barrett, Member



Toby Young, Member