

Cemeteries and Natural Burial Grounds

Cemeteries (Definition): Land used or dedicated to the burial of the dead, which includes as accessory structures mausoleums, columbariums, and maintenance facilities, but specifically excludes crematoriums. An individual or family burial plot on private land, registered with the Hardwick Town Clerk in accordance with state law, is exempted from this definition.

Natural burial ground (Definition): a cemetery maintained using ecological land management practices and without the use of vaults for the burial of unembalmed human remains or human remains embalmed using nontoxic embalming fluids and that rest in either no burial container or in a nontoxic, nonhazardous, plant-derived burial container or shroud.

Cemeteries are currently allowed in the following districts:

Village Neighborhood
Highway Mixed Use
Compact Residential
Rural Residential

No mention is made in the Flood Hazard Area Overlay

Suggested changes:

- 1) Add Natural Burial Ground to the districts with cemetery (Conditional Use)
Village Neighborhood
Highway Mixed Use
Compact Residential
Rural Residential
- 2) Also make cemeteries and natural burial grounds prohibited in the Flood Hazard Area Overlay
- 3) Add Natural Burial Ground to the Forest Reserve district (Conditional Use)