

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF
THE RUTLAND JEWISH CENTER CEMETERY, INC
August 25, 2024

The Rutland Jewish Cemetery in Clarendon, VT, is the private property of the Rutland Jewish Center, Inc. The cemetery is available primarily for the interment of its members. At the discretion of the Rutland Jewish Center Board of Trustees and/or the Cemetery Committee, consideration may be given to non-members.

The Board of Trustees and the Cemetery Committee must be able to amend Article XIV of the Rutland Jewish Center Bylaws as needed to ensure the proper administration of the cemetery funds in accordance with Vermont State Law and to operate the cemetery.

It is agreed that Article XIV of the Rutland Jewish Cemetery Bylaws be amended and revised to read as follows:

Article XIV Cemetery Committee

Section 1. The care and management of the Rutland Jewish Cemetery property on Airport Road, Clarendon, Vermont, is entrusted to the Cemetery Committee, which receives oversight and direction from the Rutland Jewish Center Board of Trustees. The rules and regulations governing burial rights in the Rutland Jewish Cemetery will follow Vermont State laws and Jewish practices.

Section 2. The Cemetery Committee will consist of the President of the Rutland Jewish Center, ex-officio, and one member of the community appointed by the President to serve as chair of the Cemetery Committee. In consultation with the Cemetery Chair, the President of the Rutland Jewish Center will appoint up to five additional members as needed.

Section 3. The Rutland Jewish Center Board of Trustees will have the power to approve, modify, or rescind the actions of the Cemetery Committee. The Cemetery Committee has the authority to act as needed as it deems necessary for its own governance, subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.

If the Cemetery Committee must act expediently in response to an event, the Cemetery Chair or the Cemetery Committee will have the power to act with the consultation and approval of the President of the Rutland Jewish Center. If the President is unavailable, another Executive Board Member will provide consultation and approval.

Section 4. The Cemetery Committee will meet regularly as needed but at least twice annually. The Committee will keep minutes or other permanent records of all committee meetings, forward them to the Rutland Jewish Center Office, and post them online in the Members-Only section of the Rutland Jewish Center website. At least two cemetery committee members must be present for business to be conducted at a meeting.

Section 5. The Cemetery Committee will consult with the Rutland Jewish Center Treasurer annually regarding a cemetery budget, which the Board of Trustees will approve.

Section 6. All funds of the Rutland Jewish Cemetery will be deposited in segregated funds administered by the Rutland Jewish Center Board of Trustees. The Treasurer of the Congregation will deposit all proceeds from the sale of burial plots and other cemetery receipts into a State or national depository in the name of “Rutland Jewish Cemetery Inc.” and keep the account books. The Treasurer will pay all invoices and vouchers that the Cemetery Chair or the Cemetery Committee approves. The Board of Trustees will set aside funds for the Cemetery to be held in trust as a General Care fund. The principal sum of that fund will be invested and expended only as provided by Title 18, Chapter 121 of the Vermont State Statutes.

Section 7. The Cemetery Committee will have and maintain a plot plan of the cemetery grounds as required by Title 18, Chapter 121, of Vermont State Statutes. The plan will show the cemetery sections in current use and the parts available for future cemetery use. The plot plan will show the land in sections, rows, plots, driveways, walkways, and paths. This plot plan will be filed for record in the Vermont Town Clerk of Clarendon’s office, and a copy will be filed in the office of the Rutland Jewish Center.

Section 8. The Cemetery includes Traditional and Non-Traditional burial sections. This allows the Rutland Jewish Community to remain open and welcoming to new definitions of Jewishness and meet the needs of our congregation membership.

The Traditional Section is offered to individuals who self-identify as Jewish by maternal descent and prefer burial in this section.

The Non-Traditional Sections are offered to individuals who self-identify as Jewish by maternal or paternal descent, by informal or formal identity, or who are not Jewish but partnered with a Jewish partner.

Section 9. The Board of Trustees, with the advice of the Cemetery Committee, will establish a schedule of fees for the purchase of plot(s) in the Cemetery. This schedule of fees will be subject to revision by and with the approval of the Board of Trustees and may be changed at any time without formal notice to the Congregation. The Cemetery Committee, with the Rutland Jewish Center Treasurer, will maintain an accurate record of plot purchases and fees collected. The Cemetery Chair or designee will issue official letters representing the purchase of burial plot rights upon full payment.

Section 10. The Rabbi is responsible for all Cemetery religious policies. No person other than the rabbi of the Rutland Jewish Center will officiate at a burial within the Rutland Jewish Cemetery unless approved by the Rabbi or the Rabbi’s designee in advance.

Section 11. All burials in the Rutland Jewish Cemetery require the consent of the Cemetery Committee. The Committee is authorized and empowered to require final arrangements and other matters that must be complied with before burial.

Section 12. Each member of the Congregation in good standing at the time of death is entitled to have purchased burial plot rights for themselves, their spouse/partner, and their children if prior arrangements were not made before death.

Section 13. The Cemetery Committee’s decision regarding the availability of plots and designations of plots and family plots will be final.

Section 14. The cemetery committee must give its written consent to change the plot designation. If such consent is obtained, a letter specifying the change in designation will be provided to the Board of Trustees and/or the Rutland Jewish Center Office and recorded in all Cemetery records.

Section 15. A monument, headstone, or other marker will only be permitted on a plot if the plot has been purchased and paid for in full. No memorial, other structure, or inscription will be placed in or upon any plot marker without the approval of the Cemetery Chair or designee. The Rabbi or designee must approve all Hebrew lettering inscriptions before placement. If markers are erected without authorization, the Cemetery reserves the right to remove the structure without penalty.

Section 16. The Rutland Jewish Center and the Cemetery Committee are not responsible for maintaining, replacing, or reconstructing any memorials, headstones, or other structures on a plot caused by vandalism, weather, or any other cause at the Cemetery.

Section 17. The Cemetery privileges in these Bylaws are subject to the conditions, provisions, and restrictions specified by these Bylaws.

Approved and adopted on August 25, 2024

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Felder".

Kathy Felder
President of the Rutland Jewish Center.