

LIMESTONE TOWNSHIP, ALGER COUNTY, MICHIGAN

LIMESTONE CEMETERY POLICY

ADOPTED June 21, 2017

1. DEFINITIONS OF CEMETERY LOTS

- A cemetery lot shall consist of burial spaces sufficient to accommodate from one to four burial spaces. A lot shall consist of an area twelve feet wide and sixteen feet long.
- A burial space within a lot, shall consist of an area four feet long and twelve feet wide.

2. SALE OF LOTS OR BURIAL SPACES

- A cemetery lot or burial space shall be sold only to residents or taxpayers of the township for the purpose of the burial of such purchasers; his or her heirs at law; or next of kin. The Cemetery Manager or Township Board, however, is granted the authority to vary the aforesaid restriction on sales where the purchaser discloses sufficient personal reason for burial within the township through previous residence in the township or relationship to persons interred therein. No sale shall be made to funeral directors or others than are heretofore set forth.
- All sales shall be recorded on a form approved by the Township Board, which grants a right of burial only and does not convey any other title to the lot or burial space sold. The Cemetery Manager or Township Board shall execute such form.
- All purchasers of cemetery lots or burial spaces shall be issued a deed specifying the location of the parcel purchased. Deeds will only be issued upon payment in full.
- The Township shall have the right to correct any errors that may be made concerning interments, dis-interments, or in the description, transfer or conveyance of any cemetery plot, either by cancelling the permit for a particular vacant cemetery plot or plots and substituting and conveying in lieu thereof another vacant cemetery plot or plots in a similar location within the cemetery at issue or by refunding the money paid for the cemetery plot to the purchaser or the successor of the purchaser. In the event that an error involves the interment of the remains of any person, the Township shall have the right to remove and transfer the remains so interred to another cemetery plot in a similar location in the same Township cemetery in accordance with law.

3. PURCHASE PRICE

- The purchase price of cemetery lots and burial spaces shall be at a cost to be determined from time to time, by resolution of the Township Board.

4. GRAVE OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS

- The opening and closing of any burial space, prior to and following a burial therein, and including the interment of ashes, shall be a cost to be determined from time to time by the sexton and payable to the cemetery sexton.
- No burial spaces shall be opened and closed except under the direction and control of the Cemetery Manager or Township Board. This provision shall not apply for proceedings for the removal and re-interment of bodies and remains, which matters are under the supervision of the local health department.

5. MARKERS, MEMORIALS OR MONUMENTS

- Markers/memorials/ monuments must be all of stone or equally durable composition.

- Any above-ground monuments must be located upon a suitable foundation to maintain the monument in an erect position. The top of the foundation must be no higher than ground level.
- Only one above-ground marker or memorial shall be permitted per burial space. Foot stones must be at ground level and must be located within the burial space.
- Footings/foundation for markers or memorials must be constructed of concrete and installed by a professional with the approval of the Cemetery Manager or Township Board. The Cemetery Manager will mark the site. The cost will be borne by the burial space owner.
- Any non-traditional monuments must be approved by the Cemetery Manager or Township Board before installation.

6. INTERMENT REGULATIONS

- No cremation burials over full burials. Up to three (3) cremation burials are allowed in one burial space (although only ONE headstone is permitted per space.) These burials will be at a location to be designated by the Cemetery Manager.
- Not less than three (3) days notice shall be given in advance for the opening of the burial spaces for cremations or full burials. Dimensions of the burial urn shall be provided to the Cemetery Manager before the opening of the burial site. The Cemetery Manager shall mark the burial site and the opening of the site shall be performed by Township-designated personnel. The minimum depth for burial of cremation urns shall be two feet (2) from the top of the urn.
- The family is NOT allowed to perform cremation burials without approval of the Cemetery Manager or Township Board.
- The appropriate permit for the burial space involved, shall be presented to the Cemetery Manager, prior to interment.
- All graves shall be maintained in an orderly and neat appearing manner within the confines of the burial space involved.
- Only one full burial shall be allowed per burial space except for an infant and mother.

7. VAULT

- All full burials shall be within a standard concrete vault installed in each burial space before interment. Cremation ashes shall be in an unbreakable, non-biodegradable solid container and must not be buried loose or broadcast over the ground.

8. GROUND MAINTENANCE

- No grading, leveling or excavating upon a burial space shall be allowed without the permission of the Cemetery Manager or Township Board.
- No shrubs, trees or vines shall be planted on grave sites. Planting of perennial herbaceous plants and annual flowers will be allowed. Any of the foregoing items planted without such approval shall be removed by the Cemetery Manager and the cost may be borne by the owner of the cemetery lot.
- The Cemetery Manager or Township Board reserves the right to remove or trim any trees, shrubs or plants located within the cemetery in the interest of maintaining proper appearance and the use of the cemetery.
- Mounds or structures, trees, shrubs, etc. which hinder the free use of a lawn mower or other gardening apparatus are prohibited.
- No fencing of any type is permitted in the cemetery.
- The Cemetery Manager or Township Board shall have the right and authority to remove and dispose of any and all growth, emblems, displays or containers

therefore, that through decay, deterioration, damage or otherwise become unsightly, a source of litter or a maintenance problem.

- Surfaces other than sod are prohibited.
- Flowers can be planted no farther than twelve inches (12") from either side or front of memorial. Vases can be set no farther than twelve inches (12") from memorial.
- Only township employees are authorized to mow grass in the cemetery.
- All displays, decorations, flowers, etc. shall be removed from the graves by October 1st of each year. The Cemetery Manager shall have the right to remove any of the said items after October 1st.

9. REPURCHASE OF LOTS OR BURIAL SPACES

- The Township may re-purchase a cemetery lot or burial space from the owner, for the original price paid the Township, upon written request of said owner or their legal heirs or representatives, and submitting proof of ownership. If no price can be verified, the re-purchase price shall be set by the Township Board by Resolution.

10. RECORDS

- The Cemetery Manager shall maintain records concerning all burials and cemetery matters and the same shall be open to public inspection by appointment.

11. PROHIBITED USES

- No disinterment or grave openings unless approved by the Cemetery Manager or Township Board.
- No recreational use of motorcycles, snowmobiles, four-wheelers, off-road motorized vehicles or the like are permitted in the cemetery.
- No destruction of cemetery property
- No destruction, defacing, cutting, etc. of any tree or plant within the cemetery.
- No disturbing the peace or engaging in any loud or boisterous conduct.
- No music, playing of any radio, or the use of any amplification device or similar item, except pursuant to a military ceremony.
- No digging
- No driving of any automobile, truck or any motorized vehicle on any portion of the cemetery except on the designated roads.
- No solicitation.
- No Littering.
- No unlawful interference with or disruption of a lawful funeral or funeral procession.
- No private signs, moving displays or changeable copy on a sign.
- No fires, lit candles or open flames.

12. SEVERABILITY

- The provisions of the within Cemetery Policy are hereby declared to be severable and should any provision, section or part thereof be declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall only affect the particular provision, section or part thereof involved in such decision and shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of such Cemetery Policy which shall continue in full force and effect.

This Policy was adopted at the Regular Meeting of the Limestone Township Board on the June 21, 2017. For questions regarding this policy or to receive a copy, contact the Clerk at 906-439-5448.

Danita L. Rask, Clerk