**TOWNSHIP OF ORLEANS**

**CEMETERY REGULATIONS**

 The following are regulations for the Greene, Orleans and Higbee cemeteries located in Orleans Township, Ionia County, Michigan and approved by the Township Board of Directors on August 27th, 2024.

1. Planted trees or shrubs **are not permitted** in any Township cemeteries **without the express written permission of the Township Sexton and the Orleans Township Board of Directors**. The type of tree or shrub and location shall be directed by either the Sexton or the Board. If any tree, shrub or any planting becomes unsightly, dangerous or detrimental to the expeditious care of the cemetery or its environs, the township reserves the right to remove any such planting or portions thereof 10 days after the notification of the owner of record. **No plants, mulch, or rocks** shall be planted or placed without the written permission of the Township Sexton.

All items placed at a grave site must be in line with the headstone or grave marker. Items may not be placed in front or behind the grave marker. Any item that prohibits or impedes the maintenance or care of the cemetery will be removed.

1. Fresh cut flowers, potted plants or artificial flowers or plants shall be contained in urns.
2. All urns for flowers shall be placed in line with the headstone or as near to such as possible.
3. Wreaths or floral arrangements on wire stands shall only be allowed in the cemeteries from October 1st to March 31st of the following year. Artificial flowers fastened securely in urns so as not to blow out will be allowed year-round.
4. Placement of grass seed or sod in the cemetery shall be done by the Sexton of the cemetery.
5. All burials shall be required to be placed in a concrete box or concrete vault. Any waiver of this requirement must receive the approval by the Sexton and the Orleans Township Board. A suitable substitute container shall be determined as a condition of any waiver approval.
6. The cremains of any body that has been cremated and is to be buried in any Township cemetery shall be contained in a concrete, metal or other type of container approved and sold for such purpose. Burial of such cremains when properly contained shall be buried by the Sexton. Fee for such burial is determined in the Board approved fee schedule. The spreading of cremains on the ground in ANY Township cemetery is strictly prohibited.
7. Footings for all headstones or monuments shall be installed by the Sexton or under the supervision of the Sexton. Footings are to be constructed of concrete of sufficient size and depth so as to support said headstone or monument. Fees for said footings shall be described in the current, Board approved, rate schedule.
8. The cemetery grounds shall be the responsibility of the Sextons appointed by the Board and will have full authority to enforce the rules and regulations for the care and maintenance of the cemeteries.
9. The owners of a lot may, at any time, sell the lot back to the Township however, the sale of the lot to any other person or entity is strictly prohibited. The resale to the Township shall be at its original price so no speculative purchasing will be allowed. Transfer of lots from one individual to another must be approved by Sexton and the Board.
10. All wreaths and potted flowers in must be removed from the cemetery by no later than October 1st. Those in the cemetery after that date will be removed and discarded by the Sexton or his assigns.
11. All winter wreaths, flowers, grave blankets, hangers or tripods must be removed by April 1 of each year. Those in the cemetery after that date will be removed and discarded by the Sexton or his assigns.

Approved at a regular meeting of the Orleans Township Board held on August 27th, 2024.