

**COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP CEMETERY**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**THE COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP BOARD  
KALKASKA COUNTY  
MANCELONA, MI**

**PRINTED IN 1984  
REVISED 2007**

The Township of Coldsprings, State of Michigan, through its Township Board, administers the affairs of Coldsprings Township Cemetery. It reserves the right to refuse admission to the cemetery and to refuse the use of any of the cemetery facilities at any time to any person or persons whom the Board may deem objectionable to the best interest of the cemetery. It is the Boards purpose to provide the public with (1) a modern cemetery, (2) burial space at a reasonable cost and (3) perpetual care.

## **COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP RULES**

The purpose of the Rules is to ensure that the facilities and grounds of the Cemetery remain a quiet, respectful place for the remains of those interred and for those who visit and enjoy the serenity. It is the desire of the Township to maintain a cemetery that is respectful, aesthetically attractive and a community asset. At the same time, it is expected that operations will be undertaken to maintain this asset in a fiscally responsible and safe manner.

## **LOTS AND LOT OWNERS**

1. Cemetery sections, lots, subdivisions, walkways and roads are established by plat. This provides proper access for the public for efficient cemetery operation and grounds maintenance, as well as insuring that proper records may be kept. The grade-lines of all lots and subdivisions are established before lots or graves are sold and will not be changed. No walkways or roads shown in the original plat will be abandoned or sold to a private lot owner. No easement or right of interment is granted to any lot owner in any road, drive, alley or walk within the cemetery; but, such road, alley, drive or walk may be used as a means of access to the cemetery or buildings, as long as the Township Board devotes it to that purpose.

2. The right to enlarge, reduce, replat or change the boundaries of grading of the cemetery, or a section or sections, from time to time, including the right to modify or change the locations of or remove or re-grade roads, drives walks or any part thereof is hereby reserved. The right to lay, maintain and operate or alter or change pipe lines or gutters for sprinkling systems, drainage, etc., is also expressly reserved as well as is the right to use cemetery property not sold to individual lot owners for cemetery purposes, including interment of the dead or for anything necessary, incidental or convenient thereto. The Township Board reserves to itself and to those lawfully entitled thereto, a perpetual right of ingress and egress over plots for the purpose of passing to and from other plots.

3. Persons desiring to purchase lots should visit the Cemetery where the Township Clerk will aid them in making a selection. The Township Clerk, who upon receipt of the purchase price, will issue the proper deed.

(a) Cemetery lots and/or graves may only be re-sold to the Cemetery Committee

(Coldsprings Township Board) - at the price originally paid.

4. Lot sizes shall be of the dimensions prescribed by the Cemetery plat, and will accommodate a maximum of 4 burials. Half or quarter lots for 2 or 1 burial, respectively, may be purchased in designated sections.

(a) A maximum of two canisters of cremated remains will be allowed in one grave (if within immediate family) - only one marker or two flat headstones will be allowed for the two (2) burials.

5. The Township Board will take all reasonable precautions to protect lot owners, and property rights, within the Cemetery from loss or damage; but the Board distinctly disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond its reasonable control, an act of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, strikes, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents, invasions, insurrections, riots or order of any military or civil authority, whether the damage be direct or collateral, other than as herein provided.

6. The Township will recognize as a lot or grave owner only those persons whose name appear on the cemetery record or legal heirs. Ownership may be transferred upon written permission filed with the Township Clerk. Heir-ship to cemetery property follows bloodlines unless otherwise provided by will or legal transfer. The Township refuses any responsibilities for disagreement arising from or as a result of partnership or divided ownership.

### **GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND DECORATIONS**

1. Perpetual Care: The general care of the Cemetery is assumed by the Township Board. Perpetual care shall consist of mowing of the grass at reasonable intervals and the raking and cleaning of the grounds.

2. Trees and Shrubbery Maintenance: The Township will undertake to maintain as may be practical, the planting of trees and shrubs and to preserve and maintain landscape features. While the Township does not allow individual plantings, those in place are considered to be “grandfathered.” The Township does not maintain nor is it responsible for these grandfathered plantings.

3. Containers Permitted: No more than two small containers of flowers are allowed per grave and must be located at the head of the grave or at either side of the marker. Artificial flowers placed in the cemetery must be in containers or they will be removed.

Shepherd hooks with a hanging basket are also permitted. One single shepherd hook will be permitted per marked gravesite except for double headstone sites, and then two may be allowed. The hooks shall be located on either side of the marker and must be flush to the marker with the basket hanging directly over the marker.

Either the two small containers of flowers or the shepherd hooks are allowed on each grave. But not both.

Containers or hooks not used by June 15 of each year shall be tagged and removed. If not claimed by the owner within six (6) months, the containers or hooks shall be considered abandoned and may be disposed of by the Township.

Flags will be placed on all Veterans graves by the Township prior to Memorial Day and removed by the Township prior to winter.

4. Flowers and Winter Wreaths: Flowers, natural, dried or artificial are permitted. Winter wreaths are also permitted and should be placed on a tripod when possible. In keeping with the desire to have as natural setting as possible, environmental concerns and effective grounds maintenance, the use of natural or dried flowers and all natural winter wreaths is encouraged and appreciated. Floral arrangements not in containers or on shepherd hooks will be removed.

5. Statues and Lawn Ornaments: No statues or lawn ornaments are allowed on the gravesite unless it can be incorporated into the marker.

6. Curbing: Concrete, metal or plastic curbing around the perimeter of any lot or burial space is prohibited.

7. Decorations Beyond Burial Day: The Township shall not be responsible for floral pieces, baskets or frames in which, or to which, such floral pieces are attached beyond the day of the burial. Cemetery staff or their agents will remove funeral designs and floral pieces as soon as they become unsightly, and they assume no responsibility for their return.

8. Removal of Articles: (a) In order for the Township to complete fall and spring maintenance, all articles placed on plots are to be removed by October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and no placement of articles may be made prior to May 7<sup>th</sup> of each year. Winter wreaths will be permitted beginning October 15<sup>th</sup> and must be removed by the following April 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year. If there are special circumstances, which call for the placing of winter wreaths earlier, please check with the Township for arrangements. (b) The Township may remove articles, including artificial floral designs, cultivated flowers, weeds, trees, shrubs, plants or herbage that do not conform to these Rules.

The general care assumed by the Township shall in no case mean the maintenance, repair or replacement of any memorial, tomb, or mausoleum placed or erected upon lots; nor the doing of any special or unusual work in the cemetery including work caused by the impoverishment of the soil, nor does it mean the reconstruction of any marble or granite work on any section or lot or any portion thereof in the cemetery, caused by the elements, an act of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, strikers, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents, invasion, insurrections, riots, or by the order of any military or civil authority, whether the damage be direct or collateral, or as herein

provided.

## **INTERMENTS**

1. There will be no winter burials when snow has to be plowed.
2. Burial permits or Certificate of Cremation **must** be filed with the Township Clerk immediately following the burial.
3. All graves will be opened and closed by an authorized Cemetery employee except where disinterment is being made at the direction of the medical examiner or for other medical-legal reasons under court jurisdiction.
4. No interment of two or more bodies shall be made in one grave except:
  - (a) In the case of mother and child or two infants buried in one casket.
  - (b) A maximum of two canisters of cremated remains will be allowed in one grave (if within immediate family) - only one marker or two flat headstones will be allowed for the two (2) burials.
5. No lot shall be used for any other purpose than for the burial of the human dead.
6. Burial boxes over four (4) feet in length will be classified as adult size.
7. In order to maintain a high standard of care and to eliminate sunken graves caused by the collapse of wooden boxes, it is required that all adult burials (over 4 feet in casket length) must be made in outside containers made of natural stone, metal or reinforced concrete.
8. Storage is provided in the Township Mausoleum as necessary beginning November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
9. Besides being subject to these Rules and Regulations, all interments, disinterment and removals are made subject to the laws of the State of Michigan.
10. All upright monuments and markers shall be placed on concrete foundations. Flush markers shall be placed with the tops flush with the ground.
11. All material used in the construction of monuments, markers and permanent lot markers must be of recognized durable granite, marble or standard bronze. All other grades of slate, artificial stone, terra cotta, wood, iron or glass in any form will not be permitted and may be removed by the Sexton without notice to the owner. This does not prohibit the use of temporary metal markers, which may be used until a permanent memorial is erected. All memorials must be installed in a workmanlike manner. The base of the memorial must not exceed 50% of the superficial lot size.

12. Surface or building type Mausoleums may be erected with the permission of the Township Board provided the owner has sufficient cemetery property, it is erected of a durable granite or marble and construction is made in a workmanlike manner.

## **GENERAL RULES**

1. Persons visiting the cemetery or attending funerals are strictly prohibited from picking flowers, wild or cultivated, breaking or injuring any tree, shrub or plant or from writing upon, defacing or injuring any memorials, fence or other structure within the cemetery.

2. Vehicles: The use of recreational vehicles shall not be allowed in the Cemetery. This includes, but is not limited to, off-road vehicles, three and four wheeled and other all-terrain vehicles, mopeds, mini-bikes, motor scooters, off-road motorcycles and snowmobiles.

3. Prohibited Activities: Certain recreational activities disruptive or disrespectful in nature to the intended purpose of the Cemetery are not permitted. This includes, but is not limited to, roller-blading, skateboarding, skiing, snowshoeing, golfing, flying a kite, jogging, bicycling or playing in the Cemetery.

4. Throwing of rubbish on the drives and paths, or on any part of the grounds, or in the buildings, is prohibited.

5. It is of the utmost importance that there should be strict observance of the proprieties in the cemetery. Hence, all persons within the cemetery should avoid conduct unbecoming to a sacred place.

- (a) Loud or boisterous talking
- (b) Idling or loafing on the grounds or in buildings
- (c) Bringing lunches or refreshments into the cemetery or consuming them on the Grounds
- (d) Peddling or soliciting the sale of any commodity within the cemetery
- (e) Placing of signs, notices or advertising within the cemetery
- (f) Bringing dogs into the cemetery or its buildings
- (g) Bringing firearms into the cemetery except by a military escort accompanying a veteran's funeral or attending memorial services.

6. The cemetery, although under Township jurisdiction, will not be considered as public land in the sense that it is common property and subject to the whims of the public, but is to be considered as Holy Ground dedicated to the peace and repose of the departed and subject to the consideration and respect of all who visit or own lots in the cemetery.

7. Hours: No person shall be in the Coldsprings Township Cemetery after sunset and before sunrise.

**Additional Rules:** The Township Board hereby expressly reserves the right to adopt additional Rules and Regulations or to amend, alter or repeal any rule, regulation, article section, paragraph or sentence in these Rules or Regulations, at any time, and without notice.

**Correction of Errors:** The cemetery reserves, and shall have, the right to correct any errors that may be made by it either in making interments, disinterment or removals, or in the description, transfer or conveyance of any interment property, either by canceling such conveyance and substituting in lieu thereof other interment property of equal value and similar location as far as possible, or as may be selected by the Township Board, or, in the sole discretion of the Township Board, by refunding the amount of money paid on account of said purchase. In the event such error shall involve the interment of the remains of any person in such property, the Cemetery reserves and shall have the right to remove or transfer such remains so interred to such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof.

**Appeals:** Any party objecting to the decision of the Sexton regarding cemetery or private landscaping, plantings, removal of floral designs, trees, shrubs, lawn ornaments, or any other matter in which these rules and regulations grant him discretionary authority, may appeal his decision in writing to the Township Board. After ascertaining the facts involved, the Township Board shall render a decision. Such decision will be considered binding and final.

**Schedule of Fees:** The Township Board shall adopt a schedule of fees covering lot costs, perpetual care, storage fees, grave opening and closing costs, etc. This schedule will be periodically reviewed and updated in keeping with the needs of the cemetery. The schedule of fees will be available to all interested parties.

Dated July 9, 2007

Replaces former Order of Rules and Regulations printed in 1984