

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP  
CEMETERY ORDINANCE**

Ordinance # 45

An ordinance to protect the public health, safety and general welfare by establishing rules and regulations relating to the operation, control, and management of cemeteries owned by Williamstown Township, Ingham County, State of Michigan; for the mutual protection of holders of rights of burial and the Township; to provide penalties for the violation of said ordinance, and to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict therewith.

Williamstown Township, County of Ingham, State of Michigan Ordains:

**Section 1: Title**

This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the Williamstown Township Cemetery Ordinance.

**Section 2: Purpose**

The Williamstown Township cemetery grounds are intended to be used by the living as a place of respectful meditation and quiet visitation by family members and friends of the deceased. Traditional uses include the installation of flowers, flags and related items at the grave site in the Traditional Section but does not include installation of any items on the columbaria walls, on the columbarium patio or landscaped area, and in the Natural Burial Section of the Summit Cemetery.

**Section 3: Applicability**

This Ordinance shall only apply to cemeteries owned by Williamstown Township. Private cemeteries are excluded from the provisions of this Ordinance.

**Section 4: Cemetery Board**

The Cemetery Board recommends policy for the Williamstown Township cemeteries to the Williamstown Township Board. This involves developing recommendations for the Cemetery Ordinance, cemetery procedures, maintenance, improvement and expansion of the cemetery resources, annual budgets and other areas specified by the Township Board.

The voting members of the Cemetery Board shall include a representative from the City of Williamston, a representative from the Williamstown Township Board and two residents of Williamstown Township appointed by the Williamstown Township Board. Currently the City of Williamston provides fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00) annually for the support of the cemeteries. As long as the city annually provides the monetary support recommended by the

Cemetery Board and approved by the Williamstown Township Board, the City will be allowed one representative. If the City's contribution to the Cemetery is less than the amount approved by the Williamstown Township Board, the City of Williamston representative will be immediately replaced on the Cemetery Board with a Williamstown Township resident by the Williamstown Township Board.

The staggered terms for the residents will be for four years. Initially one resident will be appointed for four years and the other for two years. Their terms may be renewed for four years. If a vacancy occurs a resident will be appointed by the Williamstown Township Board to complete the term.

The Cemetery Board will meet at least four times a year. More meetings may be held as needed.

## **Section 5: Definitions**

A **holder** or **space holder** is a person holding a right of burial in a particular space or columbarium niche.

A **burial space** shall consist of land area forty- eight inches (48") wide and eight or ten feet (8' or 10') in length intended for the interment of human remains. Some older grave sites may vary in size. This does not include any walkways.

A **cremation or alkaline hydrolysis burial** is the interment of reduced human or animal (pet) remains.

A **green burial** is a natural burial where the full body is returned to the earth in an ecologically sustainable manner without toxic embalming chemicals resulting in natural decomposition. Green burials are generally allowed in the Natural Burial Section of the cemetery where the burial grounds are perpetually maintained in as natural and ecologically friendly a state as possible.

The **Traditional Burial Section** of Summit Cemetery allows traditionally embalmed bodies as well as cremated, alkaline hydrolysis remains and natural burials.

The **Natural Burial Section** allows cremated and alkaline hydrolysis remains as well as natural burials, but not traditionally embalmed bodies. Spaces are also available on top of the root zone underneath trees.

The **Scattering Garden** is a designated place within Summit Cemetery for placing human and pet cremains and alkaline hydrolysis remains in the soil without a container.

The **Sexton** is a person employed by the Township and designated by the Township Board as the chief caretaker for the Township cemeteries. The Sexton is responsible for grounds maintenance, burial-related activities, and other assigned tasks.

## **Section 6: Sale, Transfer and Repurchase of Burial Rights**

Sale of burial rights shall be made on a form approved by the Township Board, which grants a right of burial only and does not convey any other title to the space. Said form shall be executed by the Sexton or Township Supervisor or his/her designee.

A space holder shall notify the Sexton and/or Township Supervisor, in writing, of any changes of address or sale, transfer, conveyance, or assignment of burial rights to another party. No such changes shall be effective unless acknowledged in writing by the Sexton or Township Supervisor and recorded in the official township records.

The township may, but shall not be obligated to, repurchase burial rights from a holder who desires to sell at 100% or less of the original purchase price.

The Township may, but shall not be obligated to, exchange burial rights for a space and/or niche for burial rights for another space and/or niche. If the value of the burial rights to a space and/or niche offered in exchange is equal to or more than the value of the burial rights for the requested space and/or niche, the exchange may be made by the Township with no further compensation to the burial rights holder. If the value of the burial rights to the requested space and/or niche exceeds the value of the burial rights for the space and/or niche offered in exchange, the purchaser must pay the difference. The value of burial rights for a space and/or niche offered in exchange and the burial rights for the requested space and/or niche will be determined by the price list in effect at the time of the exchange as passed by the Williamstown Township Board.

Each grave site in the Natural Burial Section may be resold by the Township thirty (30) years after a green burial, provided that the family owning the space is first given an opportunity to repurchase the space.

#### **Section 7: Forfeiture of Vacant Cemetery Spaces or Burial Spaces Sold After Effective Date of this Ordinance**

After the effective date of this Ordinance, all rights of burial in cemetery burial spaces or columbarium niches that remain vacant for forty (40) years from the date of the sale shall automatically revert to the township upon occurrence of the following events:

When forty (40) years have lapsed from the date of the purchase, notice shall be sent by the Township Clerk by certified letter with return receipt to the last known address of the last holder of record informing them of the 40-year period and that all rights with respect to said spaces shall be forfeited if the holder or their heirs or legal representative does not affirmatively indicate in writing to the Township Clerk within sixty (60) days from the date of mailing of the notice from the Township, their desire to retain said burial rights for an additional 40 years.

If no written response to said notice is received by the Township Clerk from the last holder of record of said spaces, or their heirs or legal representative, within sixty (60) days from the date of mailing of said notice, all rights of burial in the space(s) will revert back to the Township. The Township may then sell the rights of burial.

If an owner of rights of burial deems that forfeiture was improper, the owner can appeal the decision to the Township Board.

#### **Section 8: Forfeiture of Vacant Cemetery Spaces or Burial Spaces Sold Before the Effective Date of this Ordinance**

All rights of burial sold before the effective date of this Ordinance of March 25, 2009, shall not be subject to the forty (40) year forfeiture provision of this Ordinance.

## **Section 9: Forfeiture for Neglect or Abandonment**

Pursuant to the Public Cemeteries Act, Act 46 of 1931 at MCL 128.11 *et. seq.*, if the owner of rights of burial in the Williamstown public cemeteries fails and/or neglects for a period of seven (7) years or more to care for and maintain the burial space in accordance with state laws and the provisions of this Ordinance and other Township ordinances and regulations, the Williamstown Township Board may institute proceedings for the termination and forfeiture of the owner's rights and interest in the burial space.

Pursuant to the procedures set forth in MCL 128.12, if the cemetery board determines that the owner of the burial rights has failed or neglected to care and maintain the burial space, the cemetery board shall adopt a resolution reciting this determination. A certified copy of the resolution shall be served on the owner personally by a competent person or shall be sent by first class mail to the owner's last known address.

If within thirty (30) days after the sending of the resolution the owner does not comply or make provisions for complying with the laws, rules, and regulations, the Williamstown Township Board may cause a petition to be filed in the circuit court for the county in which the cemetery is located. The petition shall set forth the facts relating to the sale and ownership of the burial space, the owner's failure and neglect to comply with the laws, rules, and regulations for the care and maintenance of the burial space and shall ask for the termination and forfeiture of the owner's rights to the burial space. The petition shall be noticed for a hearing, on a date not less than forty (40) days from the date of filing. Within fifteen (15) days after filing, a copy of the petition with the hearing notice shall be personally served on the owner or copies of the petition shall be sent by first class mail to the last known address of the owner. Notice of the hearing shall be published once each week for three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the cemetery is located. The first notice shall be published not less than thirty (30) days before the date of hearing.

After the petition and notice have been served or sent, it is the owner's duty to appear and answer to the allegations of the petition. If the owner fails to appear and answer on the day noticed for hearing, the owner's default may be entered in the manner provided for by law.

Pursuant to MCL 128.13, if the court finds that the owner has failed and neglected for a period of seven (7) years preceding the filing of the petition to comply with the rules and regulations relating to the maintenance and the care of the burial space or spaces, an order shall be entered accordingly, forfeiting and terminating the rights and interest of the owner in and to the burial space or spaces, subject to the provisions of state law and Township ordinances and regulations, and shall further provide that Williamstown Township, through and by its proper board or other officials shall have the right to re-sell such spaces and to use the proceeds derived from the sale as the cemetery board deems necessary for the future maintenance, care, and upkeep of the cemetery pursuant to state and local laws, rules, ordinances, and regulations.

A duly certified copy of the court order shall, within a period of ten (10) days after the entering thereof, be personally served on the owner or shall be sent by registered mail to the owner's last known place of address.

Following the entering of the order, the owner shall have a period of sixty (60) days in

which to redeem the right or interest in and to such spaces by paying the costs incurred in the proceeding, not exceeding \$15.00 and by complying with the rules and regulations provided for the care and maintenance thereof, or by making provision for such compliance. If it shall be made to appear to the court at any time before the expiration of the sixty (60) day period that the owner has so redeemed, the right or interest, an order shall be made and entered, setting aside the previous order of termination and forfeiture.

Further, pursuant to MCL 128.15, if at any time during a period of two years from the entering of the order of termination and forfeiture, the owner of the right of burial in any Williamstown public cemetery shall be entitled to reconveyance to him by the Williamstown Township Board or their designee on the payment of the costs and expenses incurred in the termination proceeding, not exceeding \$15.00, and by providing care and maintenance of such spaces. After two years, the Williamstown Township Board or their designee is authorized to re-sell the space and use the proceeds derived from the sale as the Williamstown Township Board or their designee deems necessary for the future maintenance, care, and upkeep of the cemetery pursuant to state and local laws, rules, ordinances, and regulations.

### **Section 10: Records**

The Township Clerk shall maintain records concerning all burials, issuance of burial permits, and perpetual care funds. Records of other revenue and expenditures generated by cemetery operations shall remain separate and apart from any other records of the Township and shall be open to public inspection during regular business hours.

### **Section 11: Correction of Errors**

The Township Board or their designee shall have the right to correct any errors which may be made, either in making interments or disinterment, or in the description, transfer or conveyance of any spaces; either by canceling such conveyance and substituting and conveying in lieu thereof other spaces of equal value and similar location as near as possible, or by refunding the amount of money paid on account of that purchase. In the event the error shall involve the reinterment of remains of any person, the Williamstown Township Board shall have the right to remove and reinter in such other spaces as may be substituted by the Board.

### **Section 12: Space Locations**

Locations of all burial spaces shall be in accordance with the Cemetery Map, which shall be kept on file in the Township Clerk's office. Locations of individual scattering of cremains and alkaline hydrolysis remains in the Scattering Garden will not be mapped.

The Township Board or its designee reserves the rights to enlarge, reduce, replot or change the boundaries or grading of the cemetery or spaces therein. The Williamstown Township Board reserves to itself and to its employees and contractors the rights of ingress and egress over spaces for the purpose of maintenance or of passing to and from other spaces.

The Cemetery Space Certificate or Rights of Burial (Formerly the Deed) issued by the

Sexton or his/her designee and a copy of these rules and regulations shall constitute the agreement between the Board and the space holder. Holders of a Cemetery Space Certificate or Rights of Burial for the Natural Burial Section are not guaranteed a particular physical space unless the Space Certificate or Rights of Burial is for a burial under a tree.

### **Section 13: Purchase Price, Transfer Fees and Fees for Services**

Purchase prices, transfer fees, and fees for services shall be set by resolution of the Township Board. The Township Board may periodically alter by resolution the fees to accommodate increased costs and needed reserve funds for the cemetery maintenance and acquisition.

### **Section 14: Grave Opening/Closing Charges and Regulations**

The opening and closing of any niche in the columbarium or of any burial space, including the interment of ashes of a cremated body, a green burial, or a scattering of cremains in the Scattering Garden shall be at a cost determined by resolution of the Township Board, payable to Williamstown Township for the Cemetery Fund.

No burial spaces and niches shall be opened or closed except under the direction and control of the Sexton or his/her designee. This provision shall not apply to proceedings for the removal and reinterment of bodies and remains, which are under the supervision of the local health department.

Funeral directors making arrangements and collecting fees for interment shall be responsible for all interment charges. If the funeral directors do not collect fees for interment, the space holder or space holder's agent is responsible for all interment charges. Fees must be paid before interment.

When extreme weather conditions prevail, interment may be delayed, at the sole discretion of the Sexton or his/her designee. Due to the tight timeframe for green burial and the many potential complications that come with Michigan winters, Williamstown Township cannot guarantee grave openings and closings in a timely manner. Burial space owners and their families should work closely with their funeral director to make clear plans that allow for contingency measures when delays are encountered such as green embalming, freezing or other methods of non-toxic preservation until burial is possible.

### **Section 15: Markers or Monuments**

All markers or monuments shall be of stone, concrete or other equally durable composition. Coping, fences, curbs, benches, steps, structures of wood or other perishable material are prohibited. The materials used, and manner of erecting monuments, headstones, and markers shall be subject to the approval of the Williamstown Township Supervisor or his/her designee or the Sexton. Faceplate markers for the Columbarium must be obtained through the Sexton or Township Supervisor or his/her designee.

Any monument shall be located upon a suitable foundation to maintain the same in an erect

position. The Township Sexton or his/her designee, at the expense of the holder of the burial rights or the monument company, shall construct the footing or foundation upon which any marker or monument shall be placed.

Should any monument, marker or urn with cremated human remains become unsightly, dilapidated or dangerous, or increase the difficulty of care required from the caretaking staff, or damage other cemetery foundations, monuments, markers, or urns with cremated human remains, the Township shall have the right, at the expense of the holder, to correct the condition or remove the same after giving thirty (30) days written notice to the last holder of record.

Only one (1) monument shall be permitted per burial space, with the exception of veteran markers. Only one monument shall be permitted on a family burial space. The marker cannot exceed the width of the burial space.

In the Natural Burial Section, markers are not allowed except for a designated pathway space. A marker along the pathway may only be an organic rock. Markers along the pathway will not be maintained by the Cemetery staff and may eventually be covered by soil, vegetation and other organic matter; however, families are permitted to maintain them for as long as they wish. Families may designate the type of natural plantings to be planted on the space after burial. The selection must be from native species designated by the Cemetery Board. A rock within the Shepherd's wall may be purchased as a marker for a burial within the Natural Burial Section. Cost of engraving will be at the expense of the deed holder or family of deceased. Controlled burns may take place periodically to restore the native prairie plantings in the Natural Burial Section.

Markers and monuments are not allowed in the Scattering Garden.

The Township Board reserves the right to make all final determinations on the appropriateness and conformity of individual monuments or markers.

## **Section 16: Interment Regulations**

Not more than one casket, or body, shall be buried in a burial space except for an adult casket and an infant casket, or body, when buried at the same time and approved by the Sexton or Supervisor or his/her designee, or in the case of cremation/alkaline hydrolysis burials. Cremated pets that are equal to no more than one standard-sized human urn may also be buried with their owners at the time of their owner's burial space opening. Larger cremated pets or un-cremated pets require their own burial space, with determination to be made by the Sexton, Township Supervisor or his/her designee.

In interments involving a traditionally embalmed body that is not green-embalmed, the casket shall be enclosed in a permanent outside container. The following are considered permanent outside containers: concrete, copper or steel burial vaults or concrete boxes. Only approved niches shall be installed in columbaria walls.

Not less than forty-eight (48) hours' notice shall be given in advance of any funeral to allow for the opening of the burial space(s). The Sexton or Supervisor or his/her designee may allow an opening and closing with less than forty-eight (48) hours' notice in extenuating circumstances.

All burials shall be arranged through the Sexton and/or Township Supervisor or his/her

designee. The appropriate permit for the burial space involved, together with appropriate identification of the person to be buried therein, where necessary, shall be presented to either the Sexton or the Township Supervisor or his/her designee, prior to interment, as provided by State law. Where such permit has been lost or destroyed, no interment shall be commenced until the Township Supervisor or his/her designee is satisfied, from his or her records, that the person to be buried in the burial space is authorized and appropriate. Burial in any Township cemetery is restricted to the holder with right of burial, unless written authorization is obtained from such holder or his/her heirs, personal representatives or authorized agent. A new Right of Burial will be issued. The Township reserves the right to refuse burial for good cause.

The Township assumes no responsibility for errors in opening graves when such errors are caused from improper instruction of a holder of the rights of burial or his/her designee. The Township may accept orders from funeral directors as orders from the holders. Under no circumstance shall the Township assume responsibility for error in opening when orders are given by telephone. No graves shall be opened except by the Township.

The Township reserves the right to remove funeral designs and floral pieces as soon as they become unsightly.

No space shall be used for any other purpose than the burial remains and the placing of appropriate memorials.

The following procedures will apply to green burials:

1. Grave depth will be a range of three (3) to four (4) feet, respecting the desire for natural burials to be no deeper than necessary.
2. Only Cemetery staff or approved contractors will be permitted to dig graves and will use a backhoe and/or other machinery as needed, though every effort will be made to minimize the use of carbon-powered machinery.
3. Open burial spaces will be “natural” in appearance at the time of burial with soil piled openly. Pathways and areas surrounding the space may be uneven, wet, or muddy and water may pool in the burial space.
4. Because the Natural Burial Section pathways are unpaved and inaccessible to hearses and ordinary passenger vehicles, delivery of burials to graveside will require capable pallbearers and/or alternative vehicles. Families and funeral directors are also responsible for addressing any/all accessibility needs of attendees.
5. Burials employing shrouds or insufficiently sturdy containers will require strapping the body to a trundle board for interment. Funeral directors are responsible for providing trundle boards and assuring that they are of appropriate size and strength and will easily fit into the standard burial space. Trundle boards will remain in the grave at burial unless they can be easily and respectfully removed.
6. Interment of all burials into spaces will be conducted by cemetery staff. Exceptions may be permitted by the Sexton only when funeral directors or other organizations have trained personnel and proven competency for interring natural or vault less burials.
7. Graves may be filled in by hand by attendees. Funeral directors are responsible for making sure that attendees are properly equipped.

The following regulations will apply to the scattering of cremains:



- a. Scattering of cremains will be allowed in the Scattering Garden and not in any other portions of Summit Cemetery.
- b. Scattering can only be scheduled when another burial or scattering is not taking place.
- c. Cremains will be lightly raked into the soil to prevent migration of the cremains.
- d. A memorial in the Shepherd's wall for human cremains may be purchased.

### **Section 17: Cremation or Alkaline Hydrolysis Burial in the Traditional Burial Area or Columbarium**

A maximum of four (4) reduced remains burials shall be allowed to be placed in one cemetery burial space. A maximum of two (2) reduced remains burials shall be allowed on a space containing a previous full burial. All reduced remains burials shall contain a large metal washer or metal object so the container can be found, if needed, by a metal detector. In the columbaria walls, a maximum of two urns shall be interred in each niche and each urn in a niche shall contain only the ashes of one cremated human remains, except when there are simultaneous interments. When there is simultaneous interment of two reduced human remains, the ashes may be commingled in the two urns or in a double urn. The columbarium urns and faceplate markers shall be obtained through the Sexton or Township Supervisor or his/her designee.

### **Section 18: Green Burial Preparations, Materials and Procedures**

Because green or natural burial is significantly different from conventional burial and requires much tighter time and material constraints, it is essential that burial space owners plan ahead with their funeral director and fully communicate the rules for burial preparation and materials to their family and friends. The following rules shall apply:

1. In the Natural Burial Section, lots are generally intended for non-embalmed bodies, alkaline hydrolysis or cremains, but bodies embalmed with certified green/non-toxic/biodegradable fluids are permitted.
2. It is understood that some green burials will include non-biodegradable medical implants. Except where removal is required by law, the choice of inclusion or removal of internal, non-natural non-biodegradable medical components is at the discretion of the lot owner and his/her family.
3. No vaults or grave liners of any kind are permitted.
4. Sturdy containers for burials (untreated wood coffins, wicker or grass baskets, bamboo or cardboard boxes, etc.) must be made of biodegradable non-toxic materials. To minimize settling/sinking of graves, it is recommended that they be appropriately sized for the body with minimal empty space inside.
5. Any clothing must be made of biodegradable non-toxic materials such as organic cotton, linen or silk.
6. Shroud burials using wrappings such as cloth, blankets, or quilts are permitted when made of biodegradable non-toxic materials such as organic cotton or linen.
7. Conventionally embalmed bodies are not permitted in the Natural Burial Section. However, at the discretion of the Sexton, an exception may be made to this rule only when all of the

following four criteria apply:

- a. The deceased already owned a lot in the Natural Burial Section and had filed plans with his/her funeral director detailing clear intentions for a natural burial.
- b. The deceased has a life partner or spouse who is already interred in an adjacent lot and the intention was to be buried alongside one another.
- c. The body of the deceased was cremated or conventionally embalmed outside of the control of the deceased, his/her family, or representatives.
- d. The cremation or conventional embalming of the body is not the result of elective changes in burial plans by the lot owner or his/her family, lack of prior planning, or other controllable circumstances.

Furthermore:

1. All other natural burial rules apply, such as all biodegradable non-toxic materials and no vaults.
2. If permission is denied by the Sexton, the lot in the Natural Burial Section may be exchanged for a lot in the Traditional Section of the cemetery.
3. Denials by the Sexton can be appealed to the Township Board for final determination.

### **Section 19: Ground Maintenance/Grave Decoration**

The general care of the cemetery is assumed by the Township and includes the seeding, top-dressing, cutting of grass at reasonable intervals, the raking and/or cleaning of the grounds and the pruning shrubs and trees. It shall also include the upkeep of drives, buildings and fences. Cemetery care shall not include the maintenance of memorial markers or monuments or private plantings. Contractors and their workers engaged within the cemetery on any class of work whatsoever shall be responsible for any damage done by them to any cemetery properties. The Township shall not be responsible for any kinds of individual planting damaged by the elements, vandals, thieves, or other causes beyond its control.

No grading, leveling, or excavating upon burial space shall be allowed without the permission of the Sexton or the Township Supervisor. Except for the Natural Burial Section, no elevated mounds shall be built over graves and no space shall be filled above the grade.

No trees, shrubs, hedges, vines or other growing things shall be placed upon any space except by approval of the Sexton, Township Supervisor or Township Board or those specified for planting within the Natural Burial Section of the Cemetery. Only trees specifically designed for placement in a cemetery shall be allowed. Except for the Natural Burial Section of the Cemetery, other plantings shall not exceed thirty-six (36) inches in height and may not encroach on other burial sites. Thorn bearing plants are prohibited. Plantings/items placed without permission may be removed without notice. Only plantings determined to be appropriate by the Cemetery Board and approved by the Township Board are allowed in the Natural Burial Section of the Cemetery.

The Township assumes no responsibility for damages incurred to any marker, urn, shrub or plant that is unintentionally chipped, marred, marked, cut or damaged in the course of normal space care or opening/closing of a grave.

Restrictions on alterations, plantings and adornment of gravesites by persons not employed by the Township are specified in the Cemetery Rules and Regulations pamphlet in force as of the

date this ordinance is passed, and as the pamphlet is amended.

The Township reserves the right to remove or trim any tree, plant, shrub or ornamentation located within the cemetery in the interest of maintaining safety, proper appearance and the use of the cemetery.

The Township Board, Sexton or caretaker or their designee shall have the right and authority to remove and dispose of any and all growth, emblems, displays or containers therefore that through decay, deterioration, neglect and damage or otherwise become unsightly, dangerous, neglected, detrimental, diseased, a source of litter or a maintenance problem, or when they do not conform to the standards maintained.

### **Section 20: Flags for Veterans**

The Township shall furnish a suitable flag holder and the United States flag for the grave of each veteran who served in the armed forces of the United States and who is buried within the limits of a cemetery belonging to the Township. The flag holder and the United States flag shall be placed on the grave of each veteran for the purpose of marking and designating the grave for memorial purposes. Flags in the Natural Burial area will be placed in the area of the Shepherd's wall.

### **Section 21: Cemetery Hours and General Regulations**

The cemetery shall be open to the general public from sunrise to sunset each day.

No person shall be permitted in the Township cemeteries at any time other than the foregoing hours, except upon permission of the Sexton or caretaker of the cemetery or the Supervisor or his/her designee.

No vehicles shall be driven on other than established drives except for maintenance purposes.

No person shall possess or use any alcoholic beverage, or illegal controlled substance, in the Township cemeteries.

No person shall possess or use any firearm on cemetery property except in the cases of military funerals or ceremonies by official Veteran's organizations.

No person shall use any form of advertising on cemetery premises.

No unleashed dog or other domestic animal is permitted in the cemetery. Owners shall clean up after their animals.

### **Section 22: Intentional Damage; Penalties**

No person shall intentionally damage or deface any marker, monument, vegetation or other ornamentation within any cemetery owned by the Township. Any person, firm or corporation who violates any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 or the actual cost of damages whichever is greater and/or imprisonment for up to 90 days in jail and all costs of prosecution. Any criminal prosecutions hereunder shall not prevent civil proceedings for abatement and termination of the activity complained of. The

impositions of any fees and costs shall not exempt the offense from compliance with the requirement of this ordinance.

### **Section 23: Civil Penalties**

Any person, firm or corporation who violates any of the provisions of this Ordinance other than Section 21 or who erects, causes, maintains, or having a responsibility to correct, allows to continue any monument, planting, structure or condition in violation of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a municipal civil infraction and shall be subject to a civil fine of up to \$500 and all costs of prosecution. Each day that a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense. The imposition of any fees and cost shall not exempt the offense from compliance with the requirement of this Ordinance.

### **Section 24: Perpetual Care Fund**

A perpetual care fund shall be established by Williamstown Township Board. A portion of the sale price of the grave spaces and services may be allocated to the perpetual care fund as recommended by the Cemetery Board and designated by resolution of the Township.

The interest earned by the fund shall be used for maintenance or capital improvement.

### **Section 25: Severability**

The provisions of the within Ordinance 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 Ordinance which shall continue to full force and effect.

### **Section 26: Repealer**

All Ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

### **Section 27: Effective Date**

Adopted in original form by the Township Board on March 25, 2009.

Revised ordinance adopted by the Township Board on November 11, 2020.

Amended ordinance shall take effect on December 11, 2020.

Revised ordinance adopted by the Township Board on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

Amended ordinance shall take effect on \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.