

GREEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MECOSTA COUNTY

CEMETERY ORDINANCE

GREEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 19-62012: AN ORDINANCE TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND GENERAL WELFARE BY ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE OPERATION, CONTROL, AND MANAGEMENT OF CEMETERIES OWNED BY THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GREEN, MECOSTA COUNTY, MICHIGAN; TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF SAID ORDINANCE; AND TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH.

GREEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP, COUNTY OF MECOSTA MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

TITLE: This ordinance shall be known and cited as the **GREEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP CEMETERY ORDINANCE**

ORDINANCE

ADOPTED: JUNE 12, 2012

EFFECTIVE: JULY 12, 2012

TOWNSHIP OF GREEN CHARTER COUNTY OF MECOSTA

“CEMETERY ORDINANCE” AMENDMENT No. 20-2014

EFFECTIVE: JULY 8, 2014

ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the **Green Charter Township Cemetery Ordinance.**

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS OF CEMETERY LOTS AND BURIAL SPACES

1. A “cemetery lot” shall consist of burial spaces sufficient to accommodate one burial space for one deceased person
2. A “burial space shall consist of land area four (4) feet wide and ten (10) feet in length. Exceptions may be made with Township permission to accommodate infant burial or burial of cremains.

SECTION 3. SALE OF LOTS OR BURIAL SPACES

1. Hereafter, cemetery lots or burial spaces shall be sold to only resident or property owner/taxpayers of the township for the purpose of the burial of such purchaser or his or her heirs at law or next of kin. No sale shall be made to funeral directors or other than as therefore set forth. The Township Clerk, however, is hereby 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. Any such decision by the Township Clerk either granting or denying such variance may be overturned by a vote of a majority of the members serving on the Township Board.
2. All such sales 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 lot or burial space sold. Such form shall be executed by the Township Clerk and shall constitute a permit when approved.
3. Burial rights may only be transferred to those persons eligible to be original purchasers of cemetery lots or burial spaces within the Township and may be effected only by endorsement of an assignment of such burial permit upon the original burial permit form issued by the Township Clerk, approved by said person, and entered upon the official records said person shall issue a new burial permit to the assignee and shall cancel and terminate upon such records, the original permit thus assigned.
4. Cemetery lots are non-transferable, but may be sold back for the original purchase price to the Township (for resale by the Township).
5. No burial rights shall be transferred from one owner to another for more than the original cost and the transfer must be recorded at the office of the Township Clerk.

6. No purchase of burial rights shall be made for speculation purposes.

SECTION 4. PURCHASE PRICE OF LOTS/ GRAVE SITES AND TRANSFER FEES

1. Each burial site shall cost the sum of \$60.00 for resident or property owner/taxpayer nonresident for \$120.00.
2. Any transfer of one or more burial spaces from an original purchaser to a qualified assignee shall cost the original price paid the township.
3. The foregoing charges shall be paid to **Green Charter Township** and shall be deposited in the township general fund.
4. The Township Board by resolution may periodically alter the foregoing fees to accommodate increased costs.
5. Cemetery lots must be paid for in full at time of purchase.
6. Purchasers of burial rights are subject to these rules and regulations and any charges, alterations, amendments or modifications thereof made and adopted by the Township Board.

ARTICLE I. GENERAL RULES

Section 1. CONDUCT - VEHICLES – HOURS

1. It is 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 a sacred place.
 - a. Loud or boisterous noise or talking.
 - b. Idling or loafing on the grounds or in any of the 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 or notices or advertisements of any kind within the cemetery.
 - f. Bringing dogs into the cemetery or any of its buildings.
 - g. Bringing firearms into the cemetery except by a military escort accompanying a veteran's funeral or attending memorial services.
2. The speed of cars and other vehicles driven in the cemetery shall not exceed 10 MPH. No vehicle shall be driven in the cemetery other than during 8:00 AM to dusk, road conditions permitting. Cars, other motorized vehicles and bicycles are to be operated on the roads only.
3. All trucks with monumental material shall be driven only on cemetery roads.
4. Persons driving in the cemetery are responsible for all damage caused by their operation. All vehicles shall use the road entrance, to the cemeteries.
5. Children shall not be permitted on cemetery grounds unless attended by an adult person who shall be responsible for their conduct. Mischievous behavior shall not be tolerated. The Cemetery shall not be used as a playground.
6. Prohibited activities: Sleigh riding, snowmobiling, skiing, or sledding downhill within the cemetery. The driving of motor cars or other vehicles through the cemetery at excessive speeds. Driving any motor car, vehicle or animal across or upon any grave, lot or lawn or parking or leaving the same thereon. Parking or leaving any motor car or vehicle on any road or driveway within the cemetery at such location or in such position as to prevent any other car or

vehicle from passing the same, and if so parked or left the management will remove the same.

7. Visitors: All persons interested in the cemetery should confine themselves to the walks and drives as much as possible. No one is permitted to walk upon or across lots or lawns unless it is necessary to do so to gain access to one's own lot. Vandalism and/or desecration of cemetery property is prohibited. The cemetery expressly disclaims liability for any injuries sustained by anyone violating this rule.
8. No alcoholic beverages are allowed.
9. No grounds maintenance work or activity shall be performed within the cemetery boundaries without expressed knowledge and consent of the authorized township official, township clerk.
10. The authorized township official has the authority to enforce these rules.

ARTICLE II. INTERMENT AND SERVICES

Section 1. COMPLETED BURIAL:

1. Transit permit must be furnished to the authorized township official or his/her designate before the remains are removed from the hearse or other conveyance.
2. All applications for burials shall be made to the authorized township official in time to allow twelve (12) working hours to prepare the grave for burial. Scheduling of storage burials is at the discretion of authorized township official.
3. Payment for any grave opening must accompany the burial transit permit.
4. Owners of cemetery lots shall not permit interments on the lots for remuneration. Cemetery-lots shall be used only for the burial of the human dead. No interment of two or more bodies shall be made in one grave except in the case of parent and infant(s) in one casket.
5. All interments must be made under the supervision and direction of the authorized township official. The funeral director shall provide adequate personnel to transfer the casket from the hearse or conveyance onto the lowering device.
6. No body interred shall be disinterred, except by permission of the Township Board, (plus any other permits requires).
7. Parties ordering disinterment must furnish a concrete or steel vault to receive the remains.
8. All funeral processions in the Cemetery shall be under the sole control of the authorized township official.
9. Charges for all services shall be available from the authorized township official in the office of the township clerk. Cemetery charges for services are subject to change or revision by action of the Township Board. Charges are for services not pertaining to the opening and closing of graves shall be due in advance, prior to completion of the service.

Section 2. CEMETERY BURIAL REQUIREMENTS

1. ALL BURIALS SHALL BE MADE IN A STEEL OR CEMENT VAULT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF INFANTS OR CREMAINS.
2. There shall be a maximum of FOUR (4) cremation burials per grave. A maximum of TWO (2) cremation burials is allowed on a previous burial on any given grave site.
3. Grave side services are normally allowed as weather permits. If road or ground conditions deemed unsafe by the authorized township official the procession is prohibited.
4. Burials on Sunday, Saturday or holidays need approval of the authorized township official and there will be an additional charge.

Section 3. SERVICES OFFERED BY THE TOWNSHIP

Charges for these services may vary for adults, infants & cremation. The cemeteries of Green Charter Township do not have a perpetual care program in place.

1. The opening and closing of graves.
2. Disinterment and re-interment in the same cemetery.
3. Grading or sodding the grave or lot.
4. Setting foundations for grave markers or memorials.
5. Cemetery vault rental (winter storage).
6. Snow removal at cost of removal.
7. Genealogy research assistance and copies of records.
8. Work requested by the lot owner is subject to current wage, equipment, and overhead charges. A work order describing the service to be performed must be filled out and signed by the person or entity accepting responsibility for payment.
9. No service will be performed without this being done and PAYMENT IN ADVANCE.

ARTICLE III. USE OF CEMETERY VAULT STORAGE

Section 1. WINTER STORAGE FACILITY USAGE REGULATIONS

1. The township has a winter storage (vault) facility for use. The Township Board may prohibit or restrict the use of the cemetery storage vault during the summer season. All bodies deposited therein must be removed forthwith when so ordered by the Township Board through the authorized township official. The body of a person who died from contagious disease will not be admitted to the receiving vault unless prepared by a licensed embalmer.
2. The Township Board authorizes the authorized township official to restrict or prohibit interments, grave side services, or processions depending on weather or other local conditions.

ATTICLE IV. FLOWERS, TREES, MONUMENTS, ETC.

Section 1. FLOWERS, TREES, CONTAINERS AND PLANTINGS

1. All persons are strictly prohibited from plucking any flowers, either wild or cultivated, breaking trees, shrubs or plants or writing upon or defacing any monument, fence or structure within the cemetery.
2. The use of glass jars or other items deemed inappropriate by the authorized township official for cut flowers or other display will be removed.
3. Placement of urns is to be within the 4 ft. width dimension of the gravesite at either end of the headstone.
4. No planting of trees or shrubs shall be allowed on any burial sites in the cemetery.
5. The growing of flowers should be in urns and is not included in the township's care and maintenance of the cemetery.

6. Vases, planting urns, or other property left in the cemetery are left at the risk of the owner thereof and neither the authorized township official nor the Township Board shall be responsible or liable for the loss, destruction or damage of said property.
7. Individual taste in ornamentation of cemetery lots is permitted and will be respected, but the right to remove or modify an improvement on any lot which the township official considers injurious to the general appearance or well-being of the cemetery, or the adjacent lot(s), is reserved to the township official and he/she shall be the sole judge when said improvement shall be removed or modified, either before or after interment.
8. No existing trees, shrubs or bushes growing on any lot shall be trimmed or removed without the consent of the authorized township official or the Township Board.
9. All planting in the cemetery shall be done in accordance with a definite plan of landscaping and under the authorized township official.
All flowers planted on any grave shall be planted directly in front of the headstone, monument or foot stone, or at the head of the grave if there is no marker and are grown at one's own risk.
10. The authorized township official or his/her agent shall remove all dead flowers, emblems or grave decorations when, in his/her judgment and discretion said flowers, emblems or grave decorations shall be unsightly. The authorized township official, his or her agent, or the Township Board shall not be liable or responsible for return of said removed objects to the lot owner.
11. Winter ornamentation shall be removed by April 1.
12. No gravel, crushed or pea stone, lava stone, edging materials, etc. shall be used in the cemetery.

ARTICLE V. MARKERS, MONUMENTS AND VAULTS

Section 1 – MARKERS, MONUMENTS, AND VAULTS PLACEMENT, MATERIAL & REPAIR

1. Only one monument will be permitted on any burial lot. Additional markers may be added for cremation burials, but must be flush to the ground.
2. No memorial shall be erected without a concrete foundation which shall be installed by the cemetery employees and under the direction and supervision of the authorized township official.
3. All materials used in the construction of vaults, monuments, headstones and permanent lot markers, where permitted, must be of recognized durable granite, marble or standard bronze. The use of sandstone, terra cotta, slate, artificial stone, wood, or iron in any form is not permitted where exposed to the elements.
4. No mausoleum , landmarks or cornerstones indicating boundaries, steps leading to lots, fences, curbing, cement or gravel covered graves above ground shall be permitted.
5. If any memorial falls in disrepair, it may be removed by order of the Township Board.

ARTICLE VI. CEMETERY LOT GRADING, RESTORATION & RESTRICTIONS

SECTION 1. LOT RESTORATION & RESTRICTIONS

1. Whenever, in the opinion of the Township Board, one or more cemetery lots need raising or lowering in order to beautify or improve the general appearance of the area where said lot or lots are located, the Township Board shall have full power and authority to do so without the consent of the lot owner. In all such cases the township shall restore the lot to as good a condition as before said raising or lowering, or as near thereto as possible and said raising or lowering shall be without expense to the lot owner, unless requested by the owner.
2. No mounds shall be erected on lots or graves which shall interfere with or impede the unrestricted use of lawn equipment.
3. The opening, refilling and trimming of graves, moving of bodies from one place to another in said Cemetery, the construction of foundations for head stones and tablets, and the constructing of graves shall be done solely by the authorized township official and the employees or contractors of the Township under his/her direction.
4. Grounds keeper caring for lots shall do so under the supervision and direction of the authorized township official.
5. The Township Board shall establish a grade of all lots, lawns and avenues and shall supervise all improvements within the Cemetery, before and after internment, and no lot shall be filled or raised above the established grade.

ARTICLE VII. ENFORCEMENT

SECTION 1.

1. It is the duty of the management to see that the Rules and Regulations are complied with and it is his/her duty to see that order is maintained and to protect and promote the best interest of the cemetery. To that end, he/she is authorized to make temporary additional rules which may be needed, from time to time, to meet emergencies which are not covered by these Rules and Regulations.
Such temporary rules are subject to review by the Township Board at their next regular scheduled meeting.
2. All person(s) disturbing the peace and quiet of the Cemetery or creating a disturbance, destruction or damage therein can be considered as a disorderly person and punished as provided under current Township, County, State and Federal ordinances and laws.
3. The authorized township official is hereby empowered to enforce all Rules and Regulations.
The authorized township official shall have charge of the grounds and buildings including the conduct of funerals, traffic, employees, lot owners and visitors and at all times shall have supervision and control of all persons in the cemetery.

ARTICLE VIII. CORRECTION OF ERRORS

SECTION 1.

1. The Township Board 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 property, either by canceling such conveyance and substituting and conveying in lieu thereof other interment property of equal value and similar location as near as possible, or by refunding the amount of money paid on account of purchase. In the event the error shall involve the interment of remains of any person in such property, the Township Board shall have the right to remove and reinter in such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed by the Township Board.

ARTICLE IX. DEFINITIONS

SECTION 1.

Authorized Township Official. The term authorized township official shall mean the person or persons appointed by the Township Board for the purpose of conducting and administering the cemetery.

Cemetery. The term cemetery is hereby defined to include a burial park for earth interments, a community mausoleum for vault or crypt interments, a crematory or crematorium and columbarium for cinerary interments, or a combination of one or more than one thereof.

Cemetery Lot Certificate. The term cemetery lot certificate shall apply to the original conveyance given by the township clerk to the original purchaser.

Cemetery Office. The term cemetery office shall mean the main township office maintained at 21431 Northland Drive, Paris, Michigan.

Funeral Director shall include all licensed morticians, their agents and employees.

Interment. The term interment shall mean the permanent disposition of the remains of a deceased person by cremation and inurnment, entombment, or burial.

Lot Marker. The term lot marker refers to any means used by the cemetery to locate corners of the lot or grave site.

Lot/plot. The term lot shall apply to a burial site of sufficient size to accommodate one adult interment approximately four by ten feet.

Memorial. The term memorial shall include a monument, marker, tablet, headstone, private mausoleum or tomb for family or individual use, tombstone coping, lot enclosure, urn and crypt and niche place.

ARTICLE X. SEVERABILITY

SECTION 1.

1. The provisions of the within ordinance are hereby declared to be severable and should any provisions, section or part thereof be declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court or 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 in full force and effect.

ARTICLE XI. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect on July 12, 2012. All ordinance or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

ARTICLE XII. CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GREEN CEMETERIES

CRAPO CEMETERY AND CRAPO RED PINE ADDITION

Ownership: Green Charter Township - Active
Section 3, Meceola Rd., Hersey, Mi 49639
Sexton: Township Clerk, Janet Clark
Grounds Supervisor: Trustee – Gary Todd 231/796-6012
Records, Lot sales: Green Charter Twp. Clerk, Janet Clark - 231 796-6201 office
Burial information, Township Clerk 231/796-5086 home
Foundation installations: Township Clerk – 231/796-6201

WEST CEMETERY AND WEST DALZIEL ADDITION

Ownership: Green Charter Township - Active
Section 34, 19 MILE ROAD, BIG RAPIDS 49307
Sexton: Township Clerk, Janet Clark
Grounds Supervisor: Trustee – Gary Todd 231/796-6012
Records, Lot sales: Green Charter Twp. Clerk, Janet Clark 231/796-6201 office
Burial information: Township Clerk 231/796-5086 home
Foundation installations: Township Clerk 231/796-6201

**PARKHILL CEMETERY AND PARKHILL SCHROEDER ADDITON
AND PARKHILL SCHROEDER CHARTER ADDITION**

Ownership: Green Charter Township - Active
Section 8, 22 Mile Road, Paris 49338
Sexton: Township Clerk, Janet Clark
Grounds Supervisor: Trustee – Gary Todd 231/796-6012
Records, Lot sales: Green Charter Twp. Clerk, Janet Clark 231/796-6201 office
Burial information: Township Clerk 231/796-5086 home
Foundation installations: Township clerk 231/796-6201

RATES FOR BURIALS ARE REVIEWED AND SET WITH EACH BUDGET YEAR BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD – WHICH STARTS ON APRIL 1 OF ANY GIVEN YEAR.

ARTICLE XIII. RATES FOR SERVICES

CEMETERIES OF GREEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

WEST, CRAPO, PARKHILL, (includes all the additions of these cemeteries)

PRICE for a single grave site by a resident /property owner - \$60.00

PRICE for a single grave site by a non-resident/non-property owner- \$120.00

PRICE for foundation installation - .35 per sq. inch

*Sunday and holiday burials shall be done at the discretion of the authorized Township officials and Township Board at a fee established by the authorizing agent.

GRAVE OPENING RATES 4/1/2022 - 3/31/2023

VAULT	\$435.00
VAULT WEEKEND & holidays	\$550.00
CREMATION	\$110.00
CREMATION WEEKEND & holidays	\$160.00
BABY	\$100.00
BABY WEEKEND	\$150.00
WINTER (additional)*	\$200.00
SNOW PLOWING (additional)*	\$125.00
REPAIR IN WINTER (additional)*	\$125.00
HOURLY (current twp. rate)	\$ 14.00
Foundation installation	.35 per sq. inch.

**Effective 7/1/2022 mileage will be charged at the rate of 62.5 cents per mile
Vault burial is 2 trips and cremation burial is 1 trip.**

Mileage Chase to Parkhill Cemt. & return 25.2 miles @62.5 = \$ 15.75

Mileage Chase to Crapo Cemt. & return 24.6 miles @62.5 = \$ 15.38

Mileage Chase to West Cemt. & return 33.80 miles @62.5 = \$21.13

This additional change was approved at the Green Charter Township Board meeting on June 14, 2022.

RATES FOR BURIALS ARE REVIEWED AND SET WITH EACH BUDGET YEAR BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD – WHICH STARTS ON APRIL 1 OF ANY GIVEN YEAR.

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2-13-2018 RATES UPDATED
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