FOREST HILL UNION CEMETERY

RULES AND REGULATIONS

8660 N. State Route 66 Piqua, OH 45356

Phone (937) 773-2614 Email fhc@bizwoh.rr.com Website foresthillpiqua.com

Forest Hill Cemetery operates in accordance with Chapter 759 of the Ohio Revised Code. A tax is levied for the care and maintenance of the cemetery. All pricing will be set by the Board of Trustees and is subject to change without notice except as required by law. These rules and regulations are made to establish a policy of fairness, of uniformity and to make it cost effective to maintain the cemetery. Forest Hill Cemetery reserves the right to suspend, waive or modify these rules and regulations. The cemetery may accept donations, legacies, or trust funds. Forest Hill Cemetery is dedicated to maintaining and preserving the sacred nature of its grounds.

Cemetery grounds are open to the public year round dawn until dusk. Posted hours are 7:00 A.M. to dusk. Any activities after dusk within the cemetery must have prior authorization by the cemetery superintendent.

**Sale of Cemetery Lots**

Persons desiring to purchase graves will make application to the cemetery superintendent, office business manager or by appointment via phone.

Grave spaces may be held for 30 days without deposit or obligation. Grave spaces not paid for within this time will be returned to inventory and sold.

A cemetery deed will be rendered for all grave purchases of two or more to the owner/purchaser and their heirs. The cemetery deed will be issued to the owner/purchaser and a duplicate permanently filed with the cemetery.

The owner of cemetery lots is purchasing the right of interment only. The lot owner does not have ownership of the property itself.

No interment of any other person than the grave space owner or their heirs may be made without a signed permission form. Grave space owners or their heirs may grant burial to any person. This permission must be in writing and signed by the owner or heirs and a notary public, with an original signed copy provided to the cemetery. It is recommended this transaction be coordinated with the cemetery superintendent, who may attest to the owners signing in lieu of notary public.

**Interments**

Interment charges may be obtained from the cemetery superintendent, office business manager, local funeral directors or cemetery website.

Interments are performed by cemetery personnel only.

No interments will be allowed until the grave space has been paid for.

Opening and closing grave charges are due by the interment date. If no payment or arrangements has been rendered, the interment will not be made.

The use of an outside burial container (vault) is required for all full burials and must meet current industry standards. All vaults must be professionally installed by qualified personnel. Only one full burial is permitted on a standard size grave space. One infant burial over an adult grave is permitted, provided the adult burial is of sufficient depth. One cremation is permitted over another burial. Two cremation burials will be permitted in a grave where there are no vault burials. There shall be no more than two (2) burials in any single grave. Should the urn burial precede the vault burial, the prevailing disinurnment fee shall apply at the time of the vault burial; see the business manager for further details.

Scattering of cremated remains is not permitted.

Indigent burials are provided in accordance to City of Piqua policy and in compliance to Ohio state law.

As a matter of practice the cemetery will not require proof of any outer interment container or vault already approved by the cemetery.

Burial of pets is not permitted.

**Disinterment**

Forest Hill Cemetery follows the guidelines set down in the **Ohio Revised Code 517.23** -Disinterment of body buried in cemetery as well as **Ohio Revised Code 517.24** - Form of application for disinterment.

Disinterment will only be allowed by request in writing from the parents of an unmarried deceased, or by court order.

Disinterment will be made Monday through Friday only. A double opening and closing will be charged if interred is moved to another space in the cemetery. A single opening and closing will be charged if moved elsewhere. All cemetery charges will be paid prior to disinterment.

The removal and handling of vault will be made by a professional vault company specializing in such and utilizing proper equipment. Arrangements for the vault company will be made for and paid by persons requesting disinterment.

All disinterment will be overseen by the cemetery superintendent.

The cemetery will exercise all reasonable precautions in making a removal, but will be under no liability to damage to casket or burial case in making the removal.

**Funeral Scheduling**

Funeral arrangements are made with the cemetery superintendent or business manager by phone. All service times must be confirmed by cemetery personnel, failure to do so will not guarantee service time will be available.

Order for interment must reach our office not less than 24 hours, excluding Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

Normally no interment is accepted after 3pm. Funerals arriving after 3pm will result in an additional charge Mon-Fri. No interment will be accepted after 1:30pm on Saturday. Funerals arriving after 1:30pm will result in additional charges. Call the business office for Sunday burials and charges.

No interment will be accepted for the following holidays: New Year’s Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

**Monuments**

It shall be the policy that Forest Hill Cemetery will not accept monuments from sources other than authorized monument dealers that deliver and set monuments as we do not have the equipment or adequate storage, nor will we take responsibility for any monument delivered to us, this includes internet orders.

Monuments, memorial stones, grave markers and saddles are not the property of the cemetery, their maintenance and repair are the responsibility of the lot owner and heirs. Monuments can be insured against damages by insurance policies taken out with the owner’s insurance company.

Foundations for headstones, markers, and monuments shall be built by the cemetery personnel.

Foundation prices may be obtained from the cemetery superintendent, business office.

Foundation shall have a minimal 4" margin.

All foundation orders are placed as weather and conditions allow.

All foundation orders should be mailed to Forest Hill Cemetery, 8660 St Rt. 66, Piqua, Ohio 45356.

No foundations will be poured without a written order. No monuments will be set without foundation paid in full.

Military plaques may be mounted on an existing monument. When used as an auxiliary, it will be set by cemetery personnel at the foot of the grave where possible. Foundations are required for ground installation of military plaques and are provided by the cemetery at an additional charge. Payment is required prior to installation.

Typically, monuments are set in designated stone rows (exception Section Q). Only one (1) above ground monument per grave is permitted. Any additional marker placed out of the stone row must be lawn level.

**General Guidelines**

No dogs or any other animal shall be allowed in the cemeteries or in any of the cemetery buildings with the exception of animals aiding the handicapped. The cemetery shall not be liable for any damage done by animals and does not assume the responsibility for keeping animals out of the cemetery. The owner or keeper of any animal which trespasses upon the cemetery grounds shall be liable for any damage done by said animal.

No persons shall be allowed to ride or drive on any part of the grounds except those used and maintained as avenues. A 15 mph speed limit must be observed.

It is unlawful for any person to operate a moped, snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle on cemetery grounds.

No planting of flowers, trees, vines, or shrubs will be allowed without permission of the cemetery superintendent.

No elevating of graves or enclosing of lots shall be permitted.

All graves will be seeded within one year after interment by the cemetery superintendent or under his supervision.

Baskets, glass, crockery, wire and metal, loose stone or gravel and shells are not permitted in the cemetery and will be promptly removed when found. Floral Easels are exempt from this.

The placing of boxes, shells, stones, boulders, metal designs ornaments, chairs, settees, glass, urns, fences, wood or metal cases, and similar articles upon lots or burial spaces shall not be permitted. Forest Hill Cemetery shall not be held liable for lost, misplaced or broken flower vases or for damage caused by the elements, thieves, vandals or by causes beyond its control. The cemetery reserves the right to regulate the method of decorating lots and the right to regulate decoration so that a uniform beauty may be maintained.

The cemetery will conduct two flower removals per year in March and October. At that time all artificial and live flowers, potted plants, wreaths, baskets will be removed. They will not be allowed back in the cemetery until the 16th of the respective month. Saddle type arrangements attached to the top of the monument are exempt from this procedure, but will be removed when considered unsightly.

The cemetery will not be responsible at any time for any type of grave site ornamentation.

Glass containers are not permitted and will be removed.

Christmas blankets and wreaths are allowed from December 1st through March 1st. But will be removed when they become unsightly.

The possession or consumption of alcohol or illegal substances within the cemetery is strictly prohibited as well as the use of fireworks of any kind.

Except for the lawful owner, no person shall remove any property such as flowers, ornamentation or markers from cemetery grounds. It is strictly forbidden to break, deface or otherwise damage memorials or grounds within the cemetery.

Other than law enforcement authorities, visitors may not possess or discharge firearms within the cemetery, except in connection with a guard of honor and the honor service.

Use of air or paint guns is prohibited within the cemetery.

Throwing rubbish on any part of the grounds or building except into designated receptacles is prohibited.

Any planting such as trees, bushes or flowers must be approved by the cemetery Superintendent before planting. No trees or benches shall be permitted on lots that contain a burial (No exceptions). The care and upkeep of all plantings are the responsibility of the lot owner. Arrangements can be made with the Superintendent for cemetery maintenance and charges. The Superintendent has the authority to remove any and all plantings, including shrubs and trees which are dead, have outgrown their usefulness or have spread beyond control. Regardless of the decoration, the cemetery Superintendent has final say so as to all plantings or placing of markers.

Decorations on graves shall not exceed one saddle and three ground decorations. Artificial flowers must be in a container and not placed directly in the ground, no ground level wire styrofoam or small wire ground decorations shall be permitted, (see examples in the business office), styrofoam saddles will be permitted with the exception of the Veterans Section. No decorations or plantings shall extend beyond one foot from the gravestone on the front side only. Decorative concrete edging shall be permitted (within the twelve (12) inch area, front side only) and must be the type allowed by the cemetery, (No Exceptions); sample edging is available in the cemetery office for review. All other types of edging in place prior to September 2007 shall be permitted to remain. The cemetery will not be responsible for any item broken or lost due to trimming or mowing. Items that interfere with maintenance such as mowing or trimming will be removed and discarded. Items placed on monuments or foundations must not extend beyond the foundation, and will be removed if they become unsightly or interfere with mowing. Shepherds hooks are acceptable but must not be facing out over the grave site.

The cemetery grounds are respectfully devoted to the interment of human remains. The provisions and penalties of law will be strictly enforced in all cases of intentional injury, disturbance or disregard of these rules and regulations.