

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13 OF THE CARRBORO TOWN CODE TO
PERMIT GREEN OR NATURAL BURIALS IN THE OLD TOWN CEMETERY**

THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF CARRBORO ORDAINS:

Section 1. Chapter 13, Article I, Section 13-1 of the Carrboro Town Code is amended by inserting the following language as Section 13-1(7):

(7) Natural Burial: A method of internment with minimal environmental impact and which aids in the conservation of natural resources, reduction of carbon emissions, protection of worker health, and the restoration and preservation of natural habitats. This method of internment does not include embalming of bodies, does not require grave liners or vaults, encourages the use of biodegradable burial containers, and is intended to the natural decomposition of bodies. Graves used for Natural Burials shall be maintained such that the grave's appearance shall be kept as consistent as practical with the surrounding graves. This burial method may also be referred to as "Green Burial".

Section 2. Chapter 13, Article III, Section 13-11(a) of the Carrboro Town Code is amended such that it reads as follows:

(a) There shall be maintained in the town clerk's office an official cemetery map which shall depict, as accurately as possible, the boundaries of the town cemetery and the location and dimension of all lots and spaces within the cemetery. Natural Burial spaces shall be clearly marked on the cemetery map and the cemetery map shall be amended from time to time in order to ensure that adequate spacing is maintained between Natural Burial lots or spaces.

Section 3. Chapter 13, Article III, Section 13-12(c) of the Carrboro Town Code is amended such that it will read as follows:

(c) A Certificate of Burial Right shall be issued to the person who purchases a burial right. The certificate shall identify the purchaser, the specific lots or spaces to which the certificate applies, the names of the individuals intended to be buried in the spaces purchased, and whether the lots or spaces shall be used for traditional or natural burials. If spaces are intended to be reserved for unborn children or grandchildren of the purchaser, that fact shall be noted on the certificate and such offspring shall be deemed to have the same residency as their parents. If the cremated remains of more than one person are to be located on a single space, the names of all persons whose remains are intended to be located on the space shall be indicated on the certificate.

Section 4. Chapter 13, Article IV of the Carrboro Town Code is amended to include a new Section 13-21 such that it will read as follows:

Section 13-21 Monuments and Markers on Natural Burial Sites

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of Article IV, Monuments and Markers installed at graves used as Natural Burial sites shall be placed such that they will not be affected by natural sinking of topsoil resulting from the decomposition of the bodies.

Section 5. Chapter 13, Article V, Section 13-23(a) and (b) of the Carrboro Town Code is amended such that it will read as follows:

(a) All graves must be opened to a depth of at least five (5) feet to the bottom thereof. Notwithstanding the foregoing, graves intended for use for a Natural Burial shall be opened to a depth of three and a half (3.5) feet to the bottom thereof.

(b) All graves shall be level with the surrounding areas and no mounds shall be allowed. Notwithstanding the foregoing, graves intended for use for a Natural Burial may be covered with a mound and are not subject to the requirement that all graves shall be level with the surrounding areas, except to the extent that the grave's appearance shall be kept as consistent as practical with the surrounding graves.

Section 6. Chapter 13, Article V, Section 13-24 of the Carrboro Town Code is amended such that it will read as follows:

Section 13-24 Grave Liner or Vault Required

Grave liners or vaults, composed of concrete or a substance of equivalent strength and durability, shall be required for all graves within the town cemetery. No person may bury or cause to be buried the body of any deceased person unless the casket is properly placed within a grave liner or vault. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Natural Burials shall be permitted in the Old Carrboro Cemetery in conformance with this Chapter.

Section 7. All provisions of any town ordinance in conflict with this ordinance are repealed.

Section 8. This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

The foregoing ordinance, having been submitted to a vote, received the following vote and was duly adopted this ____ day of October, 2018.

Ayes: ____

Noes: ____

Absent or Excused: ____