

# **SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006  
Updated February 18, 2021*

**SHARON TOWNSHIP**  
**Washtenaw County, Michigan**

*This Page Purposefully Blank*

## **TABLE of CONTENTS**

### **General**

<b><u>Article</u></b>		<b><u>Page</u></b>
Article 1:	Title and Purpose	1-1
Article 2:	Interpretation, Severability, Vested Right, Repeal, and Effective Date	2-1
Article 3:	General Administration, Enforcement, and Penalties	3-1
Article 4:	Procedures for Plot Plan and Site Plan Review	4-1
Article 5:	Special Land Use Procedures and Standards	5-1
Article 6:	Zoning Board of Appeals	6-1
Article 7:	Procedures for Amendments	7-1
Article 8:	Reserved for Future Use	8-1
Article 9:	Zoning Districts, Regulations and Map	9-1
Article 10:	Open Space Community (OSC)	10-1
Article 11:	Planned Unit Development (PUD) District	11-1
Article 12:	Reserved for Future Use	12-1
Article 13:	Reserved for Future Use	13-1
Article 14:	Nonconforming Lots, Structures, and Uses	14-1
Article 15:	Signs	15-1
Article 16:	Off-Street Parking and Loading	16-1
Article 17:	Landscaping and Screening	17-1
Article 18:	Environmental Protection	18-1
Article 19:	Access Provisions	19-1
Article 20:	General Provisions	20-1
Article 21:	Definitions	21-1

### **Outline**

<b><u>Article and Section</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
<b><u>PREAMBLE</u></b>	<b><u>1-1</u></b>
<b><u>ARTICLE 1: TITLE and PURPOSE</u></b>	<b><u>1-1</u></b>
Section 1.01 Title	1-1
Section 1.02 Purpose	1-1
<b><u>ARTICLE 2: INTERPRETATION, SEVERABILITY, VESTED RIGHT, REPEAL, and EFFECTIVE DATE</u></b>	<b><u>2-1</u></b>
Section 2.01 Interpretation	2-1
Section 2.02 Severance Clause	2-1
Section 2.03 Vested Right	2-1
Section 2.04 Repeal	2-1
Section 2.05 Effective Date	2-1
<b><u>ARTICLE 3: ADMINISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT, and PENALTIES</u></b>	<b><u>3-1</u></b>
Section 3.01 Purpose	3-1
Section 3.02 Responsibility for Administration	3-1
Section 3.03 Duties of the Zoning Administrator	3-1
Section 3.04 General Permit Procedures and Regulations	3-1
Section 3.05 Violation and Enforcement Procedures	3-2
Section 3.06 Penalties and Remedies	3-3
Section 3.07 Performance Guarantees for Compliance	3-3
Section 3.08 Professional and Outside Agency Review of Applications	3-4

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

<b>ARTICLE 4: PROCEDURES for PLOT PLAN and SITE PLAN REVIEW</b>		<b>4-1</b>
Section 4.01	Purpose	4-1
Section 4.02	Approval of Site Plan or Plot Plan Required	4-1
Section 4.03	Plot Plan Review Procedures	4-1
Section 4.04	Site Plan Review Procedures	4-2
Section 4.05	Plot Plan and Site Plan Approval Standards	4-5
Section 4.06	Conformity to Approved Plot Plan and Site Plan	4-6
Section 4.07	Changes to Approved Plot Plans and Site Plan	4-6
Section 4.08	As-Built Drawings	4-7
<b>ARTICLE 5: SPECIAL LAND USE PROCEDURES and STANDARDS</b>		<b>5-1</b>
Section 5.01	Purpose	5-1
Section 5.02	Procedures	5-1
Section 5.03	Appeal to Circuit Court	5-2
Section 5.04	Reapplication	5-2
Section 5.05	Changes	5-2
Section 5.06	General Approval Standards	5-2
Section 5.07	Bed And Breakfast	5-3
Section 5.08	Commercial Stables	5-3
Section 5.09	Vehicle/Car Wash Establishments	5-3
Section 5.10	Vehicle Repair Shops and Service Stations	5-4
Section 5.11	Shooting Ranges	5-4
Section 5.12	Extraction Operation, Soil Removal and Mining Operations (eff. 2/18/2021)	5-4
Section 5.13	Day Care Facility, Group Home	5-14
Section 5.14	Drive-In and Drive-Through Facilities	5-14
Section 5.15	Seasonal Agriculture Labor Housing	5-14
Section 5.16	Junkyards	5-15
Section 5.17	Kennels	5-15
Section 5.18	Mini Storage Facilities	5-16
Section 5.19	Private Landing Strips	5-16
Section 5.20	Campgrounds	5-16
Section 5.21	Home Occupations, Class 2	5-17
Section 5.22	Adult Entertainment Businesses	5-17
Section 5.23	Golf Courses, Country Clubs, and Driving Ranges	5-18
Section 5.24	Communication Towers, Class 1	5-19
Section 5.25	Recreational Facilities	5-23
Section 5.26	Open Space Communities	5-23
Section 5.27	Wind Energy Conversion Systems (eff. 12/13/08)	5-23
Section 5.28	Small Distiller, micro brewer, small wine maker (eff. 12/27/18)	5-27
Section 5.29	Agricultural Commercial Kitchen (eff. 12/27/2018)	5-28
Section 5.30	Agricultural Processing and Food Storage (eff. 12/27/2018)	5-29
Section 5.31	Large Solar Energy Systems (eff 12/27/2018)	5-29
<b>ARTICLE 6: ZONING BOARD of APPEALS (ZBA)</b>		<b>6-1</b>
Section 6.01	Purpose	6-1
Section 6.02	Creation and Membership	6-1
Section 6.03	Organization	6-1
Section 6.04	Jurisdiction	6-2
Section 6.05	Authorized Appeals and Standards	6-2
Section 6.06	Appeal Procedures	6-3
Section 6.07	Stay	6-4
<b>ARTICLE 7: PROCEDURES for AMENDMENTS</b>		<b>7-1</b>
Section 7.01	Purpose	7-1
Section 7.02	Initiation of Amendments	7-1
Section 7.03	Filing Fee	7-1
Section 7.04	Procedures	7-1
Section 7.05	Reapplication	7-3
Section 7.06	Comprehensive Review of Zoning Ordinance	7-3
Section 7.07	Court Decree	7-3
<b>ARTICLE 8: RESERVED for FUTURE USE</b>		<b>8-1</b>

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

<b>ARTICLE 9: ZONING DISTRICTS, REGULATIONS, and MAP</b>		<b>9-1</b>
Section 9.01	Establishment of Districts	9-1
Section 9.02	Purposes of Zoning Districts	9-1
Section 9.03	Zoning District Map	9-1
Section 9.04	Interpretation of District Boundaries	9-2
Section 9.05	Compliance with Regulations	9-2
Section 9.06	Use Regulations of Zoning Districts	9-2
Section 9.07	Site Development Requirements of Zoning Districts	9-3
Section 9.08	Special Provisions for Specified Districts	9-3
<b>ARTICLE 10: OPEN SPACE COMMUNITY (OSC)</b>		<b>10-1</b>
Section 10.01	Purpose	10-1
Section 10.02	Special Land Use	10-1
Section 10.03	Procedures for Open Space Communities	10-1
Section 10.04	Approval Standards	10-2
Section 10.05	OSC Design Standards	10-2
Section 10.06	Waiver of Standards	10-4
<b>ARTICLE 11: PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) DISTRICT</b>		<b>11-1</b>
Section 11.01	Purpose	11-1
Section 11.02	PUD is a Separate District	11-1
Section 11.03	Minimum Eligibility Criteria	11-1
Section 11.04	Project Design Standards	11-1
Section 11.05	Approval Standards	11-2
Section 11.06	Procedures for Review and Approval	11-2
Section 11.07	Phasing	11-3
<b>ARTICLE 12: RESERVED for FUTURE USE</b>		<b>12-1</b>
<b>ARTICLE 13: RESERVED for FUTURE USE</b>		<b>13-1</b>
<b>ARTICLE 14: NONCONFORMING LOTS, USES and STRUCTURES</b>		<b>14-1</b>
Section 14.01	Purpose	14-1
Section 14.02	District Changes	14-1
Section 14.03	Nonconforming Lots	14-1
Section 14.04	Nonconforming Uses of Land	14-1
Section 14.05	Nonconforming Structures	14-2
Section 14.06	Repairs and Maintenance	14-2
Section 14.07	Hardship Cases	14-2
<b>ARTICLE 15: SIGNS</b>		<b>15-1</b>
Section 15.01	Purpose	15-1
Section 15.02	Definitions	15-1
Section 15.03	General Standards	15-2
Section 15.04	Signs Permitted in All Districts	15-3
Section 15.05	Signs in Commercial and Industrial Districts	15-6
Section 15.06	Signs in A-1 and RC Districts	15-7
Section 15.07	Signs Prohibited	15-8
Section 15.08	Off-Premises Signs	15-8
Section 15.09	Nonconforming Signs	15-9
Section 15.10	Signs Requiring Permits	15-9
Section 15.11	Political Sign	15-9
<b>ARTICLE 16: OFF-STREET PARKING and LOADING</b>		<b>16-1</b>
Section 16.01	Purpose	16-1
Section 16.02	General Requirements	16-1
Section 16.03	Site Development Requirements	16-2
Section 16.04	Parking Space Requirements	16-2
Section 16.05	Loading and Unloading Space Requirements	16-4
<b>ARTICLE 17: LANDSCAPING and SCREENING</b>		<b>17-1</b>
Section 17.01	Purpose	17-1
Section 17.02	Application	17-1
Section 17.03	Landscape Plan Required	17-1
Section 17.04	Buffer Areas	17-1
Section 17.05	Parking Lot Landscaping and Screening	17-2
Section 17.06	Minimum Standards of Landscape Elements	17-2
Section 17.07	Installation, Maintenance and Completion	17-2
Section 17.08	Fencing and Walls Construction	17-3

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

Section 17.09	Waivers and Modifications	17-3
<b>ARTICLE 18: ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS</b>		<b>18-1</b>
Section 18.01	Purpose	18-1
Section 18.02	Natural Resources	18-1
Section 18.03	Potable Water and Sewage Disposal	18-2
Section 18.04	Lighting	18-2
Section 18.05	Noise and Vibration (eff. 12/27/2018)	18-3
Section 18.06	Glare and Heat	18-6
<b>ARTICLE 19: ACCESS PROVISIONS</b>		<b>19-1</b>
Section 19.01	Purpose	19-1
Section 19.03	Lots to Have Access	19-1
Section 19.02	Driveways	19-1
Section 19.04	Shared Driveways	19-1
Section 19.05	Private Roads	19-2
Section 19.06	Clear Vision Zone	19-4
<b>ARTICLE 20: GENERAL PROVISIONS</b>		<b>20-1</b>
Section 20.01	Purpose	20-1
Section 20.02	Conditional Approvals	20-1
Section 20.03	Essential Services	20-1
Section 20.04	Temporary Dwellings	20-1
Section 20.05	One Single Family Dwelling to a Lot	20-2
Section 20.06	Moving Buildings	20-2
Section 20.07	Height Requirement Exceptions	20-2
Section 20.08	Earth Sheltered Homes	20-2
Section 20.09	Fences	20-3
Section 20.10	Home Occupations	20-3
Section 20.11	Condominium Subdivisions	20-3
Section 20.12	Single Family Dwelling Standards	20-5
Section 20.13	Outdoor Storage	20-5
Section 20.14	Limitations on Vehicles in A-1, RC and Residential Districts	20-6
Section 20.15	Temporary Uses	20-6
Section 20.16	Keeping of Animals	20-7
Section 20.17	Accessory Uses, Buildings, and Structures	20-10
Section 20.18	Vicinity Maps, General Requirements	20-10
Section 20.19	Communications Towers: Class 3, Receive-Only Antennae/Towers (effective 11/25/2020)	20-11
<b>ARTICLE 21: DEFINITIONS</b>		<b>21-1</b>
Section 21.01	Construction of Language	21-1
Section 21.02	Definitions	21-1

***End of Table of Contents***

## PREAMBLE

An Ordinance enacted by the Township under Public Act 184 of 1943, as amended, to provide for the establishment of zoning districts within which the proper use of land and natural resources may be encouraged or regulated by Ordinance, and within which district provisions are adopted designating the location of, the size of, the uses that may be made of, the minimum open spaces, sanitary, safety, and protective measures that shall be required for, and the maximum number of families that may be housed in dwellings, buildings, and structures; to provide for administration and amendments of said Ordinance; to provide for appeals and for the organization and procedures to be followed by the Zoning Board of Appeals; and to provide for penalties for the violation of said Ordinance.

### Article 1 TITLE and PURPOSE

#### **Section 1.01 Title**

This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance.

#### **Section 1.02 Purpose**

It is the purpose of this Zoning Ordinance to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of the inhabitants of Sharon Township by encouraging the use of lands and natural resources in accordance with their character, adaptability and suitability for particular purposes; to enhance social and economic stability; to prevent excessive concentration of population; to reduce hazards due to flooding; to conserve and stabilize the value of property; to provide adequate open space for light and air; to prevent fire and facilitate the fighting of fires; to allow for a variety of residential housing types and commercial and industrial land uses; to lessen congestion on the public streets and highways; to facilitate adequate and economical provision of transportation, sewerage and drainage, water supply and distribution, education, recreation and other public services and facilities; to assure adequate provision of the state's citizens for food, fiber, energy and other natural resources, including the preservation of farmland resources; to ensure appropriate locations and relationships for uses of land; and to facilitate the expenditure of funds for adequate public facilities and services to conform with the most advantageous uses of land, resources, and property, and any other purpose permitted by the Township Zoning Act.

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

***End of Article 1***



**Article 2**  
**INTERPRETATION, SEVERABILITY, VESTED RIGHT,  
REPEAL, and EFFECTIVE DATE**

**Section 2.01 Interpretation**

**A.** In interpreting and applying the provisions of this Ordinance, they shall be held to the minimum requirements adopted for the promotion of the public health, safety, prosperity and general welfare. Unless specifically provided for, it is not intended by this Ordinance to repeal, abrogate, annul or in any way to impair or interfere with the existing and unrepealed provision of law or ordinance or any rules, regulations or permits previously adopted or issued pursuant to law relating to the use of building or land, provided, however, that where this Ordinance imposes a greater restriction upon the use of buildings or structures or land than are imposed or required by such existing provisions of law or ordinance or by such rules, regulations or permits, the provisions of this Ordinance shall control.

**B.** This Ordinance is not intended to abrogate or annul any easement, covenant or other private agreement provided that where any provision of this Ordinance is more restrictive or imposes a higher standard or requirement than such easement, covenant, or other private agreement, the provision of this Ordinance shall govern.

**Section 2.02 Severance Clause**

Sections of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be severable and should any section, paragraph, or provision thereof be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, such holdings shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any other part thereof, other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid. Further, if any court shall declare invalid the application of any provision of this Ordinance to a particular parcel, lot use, building or structure, such ruling shall not affect the application of said provision to any other parcel, lot use building or structure not specifically included in said ruling.

**Section 2.03 Vested Right**

Nothing in this Ordinance should be interpreted or construed to give rise to any permanent vested rights in the continuation of any particular use, district, zoning classification or any permissible activities therein; and, they are hereby declared to be subject to subsequent amendment, change or modification as may be necessary to the preservation or protection of public health, safety, and welfare.

**Section 2.04 Repeal**

All ordinances and amendments thereto enacted and/or adopted by the Township by virtue of Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943, as amended, are hereby repealed as of the effective date of this Ordinance. This repeal does not affect or impair any act done, offense committed or right accrued or acquired, or liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment incurred prior to the time it was enforced, prosecuted or inflicted.

**Section 2.05 Effective Date**

This Ordinance shall take effect seven (7) days following adoption and upon publication of a notice of adoption in accordance with the provisions and procedures of the Township Zoning Act, PA 184 of 1943, as amended. Made and passed by the Township Board of the Township of Sharon, Washtenaw County, Michigan on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2006.

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

***End of Article 2***

**Article 3**  
**ADMINISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT, and PENALTIES**

**Section 3.01 Purpose**

It is the purpose of this Article to provide for the administration of this Ordinance and the creation of a review and permit process. The primary permit process shall require the issuance of one permit which shall be the Zoning Permit. Issuance of a Zoning Permit shall indicate that the uses and plans for which the Zoning Permit is requested comply with this Ordinance.

**Section 3.02 Responsibility for Administration**

The administration and enforcement of this Ordinance shall be the responsibility of the Township Board, the Planning Commission, and such personnel as designated by the Township Board in accordance with P.A. 184 of 1943, as amended, the "Township Zoning Act", and this Ordinance. The Township Board shall appoint a Zoning Administrator who shall act as an officer in the administration and enforcement of this Ordinance.

**Section 3.03 Duties of the Zoning Administrator**

**A.** It shall be the responsibility of the Zoning Administrator to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance and in doing so shall perform, at a minimum, the following:

1. **Issue Permits:** The Zoning Administrator shall issue permits when all applicable provisions of this Ordinance have been met and approval has been granted by the proper body or official.
2. **File of Applications:** The Zoning Administrator shall maintain files of all permit applications, and shall keep a record of all permits issued.
3. **Inspections:** The Zoning Administrator shall be empowered to make inspections of buildings or premises in order to carry out the enforcement of this Ordinance. No person shall molest, hinder, or interfere with the Zoning Administrator in the discharge of his/her duties.
4. **Record of Complaints:** The Zoning Administrator shall keep a record of every complaint of a violation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance, and of the action taken consequent to each complaint.
5. **Reports:** The Zoning Administrator shall report to the Planning Commission and Township Board periodically, as requested by such bodies, on activities pertaining to the issuance of Zoning Permits and complaints of violation and actions taken on such complaints.

**B.** Under no circumstances is the Zoning Administrator permitted to make changes in this Ordinance, nor to vary the terms of this Ordinance while carrying out the duties prescribed herein.

**Section 3.04 General Permit Procedures and Regulations**

**A. Zoning Permit/Building Permit Required for Construction:** No excavation shall be initiated, no building or structure (eff. 12/13/08) shall be erected, altered, moved or structural alterations initiated, including but not limited to porches, decks, or similar fixtures with a permanent location, and no building permit shall be issued, until a Zoning Permit has been issued by the Zoning Administrator and, where required, a Building Permit has been issued by the Building Inspector. No Zoning Permit shall be issued for any building or use of land where the construction, addition, alteration, or use thereof would be in violation of this Ordinance, except upon written order of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

**B. Plot Plan / Site Plan:** An application for a Zoning Permit shall include the submittal of a Plot Plan or Site Plan. The preparation and review of such submittal shall comply with the provisions of Article 4. Upon approval of the plot plan or site plan, a Zoning Permit shall be issued except as may be provided otherwise in this Ordinance.

**C. Special Land Use:** In addition to meeting the site plan requirements of Article 4 (Plot Plan and Site Plan Review Procedures), a Zoning Permit application for a use classified as a "special land use" within the subject zoning district shall be processed according to the provisions of Article 5.

**D. Application Fees:** Fees for review of development proposals, inspections and the issuance of permits or certificates required under this Ordinance shall be deposited with the Township Clerk, or in the case of a dwelling with the Zoning Administrator, in advance of processing any application or issuance of any permit. No application for approval for which a fee is required shall be processed until the fee is deposited. The amount of such fees shall be established by the Township Board by resolution and shall cover the cost of inspection and administration resulting from the enforcement of this Ordinance. Such fees may include but are not limited to all costs associated with

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

conducting a public hearing or inspection, including the newspaper notice, postage, photocopying, staff time, Planning Commission and/or ZBA time, mileage, and any costs associated with reviews by qualified professionals including professional planners and/or engineers.

**E. Zoning Permit Issuance, Withholding, Expiration, and Revocation.**

1. **Issuance:** Whenever the buildings, structures, and uses as set forth in any application are in conformity with the provisions of this Ordinance, or a variance granted by the ZBA, the Zoning Administrator shall issue the appropriate permit. A performance guarantee may be required as a condition to the issuance of any Zoning Permit in order to insure conformance with the requirements of this Ordinance (*see Section 3.07*). In any case where a permit is refused, the reasons shall be stated in writing to the applicant.
2. **Withholding Permit:** The Zoning Administrator may withhold any Zoning Permit pending verification that an applicant has received required county, state or federal permits including but not limited to septic and water well permits; soil erosion and sedimentation control permits; wetlands permits; flood plain and culvert permits; and driveway permits. Likewise, wherever this Ordinance authorizes permit approval by the Planning Commission or Township Board, the Planning Commission or Township Board may condition final approval of the requested development activity upon the receipt of any of the above mentioned county, state or federal approvals and/or direct the Zoning Administrator not to issue a Zoning Permit until said permits from other agencies have been obtained.
3. **Expiration of Permit:** A permit shall become null and void after one (1) year from the date of granting such permit unless the development proposed or activity authorized shall have passed its first building inspection by the Building Inspector. Upon expiration, the permit shall be renewable only upon reapplication, subject to the provisions of all ordinances in effect at the time of renewal. This subsection shall apply to all permits issued pursuant to this Ordinance.
4. **Revocation:** The Zoning Administrator shall have the power to revoke or cancel any Zoning Permit in case of failure or neglect to comply with any provisions of this Ordinance, or in the case of any false statement or misrepresentation made in the application. The owner or his agent shall be notified of such revocation in writing. Upon such revocation, all further construction activities and usage shall cease upon the site, other than for the purpose of correcting the violation. The Zoning Administrator may issue a stop work order to halt all construction activities and usage pending a decision on revocation of said permit. Failure to terminate the use for which the permit was revoked, other than for the purpose of correcting the violation is declared to be a nuisance per se and a violation of this Ordinance. Revocation of a permit issued for a special land use or variance shall not occur until a hearing has been held by the body which granted the permit.

**F. Other Permits:** The issuance of a Zoning Permit does not relieve an applicant of the obligation to apply for and obtain all other required permits whether required by the Township or any other government agency having jurisdiction.

**G. Certificate of Occupancy:** No structure or use shall be occupied without first receiving a Certificate of Occupancy from the Building Inspector. The Building Inspector shall confer with the Zoning Administrator prior to issuing a Certificate of Occupancy to confirm all site improvements conform to this Ordinance. In the case where the Building Code exempts certain structures or uses from requiring a Building Permit, such exempt structures and uses shall not be occupied without first receiving a Certificate of Occupancy from the Zoning Administrator certifying that such structures and uses are in conformance with this Ordinance.

**Section 3.05 Violations and Enforcement Procedures**

**A. Violations are Nuisances Per Se:** Any violation of this Ordinance is declared to be a nuisance per se.

**B. Notice of Violation:** The Zoning Administrator shall inspect each alleged or apparent violation. Whenever the Zoning Administrator determines that a violation of this Ordinance exists, the Zoning Administrator shall issue a Notice of Violation, in writing, that specifies all circumstances found to be in violation. A Notice of Violation or stop order posted by the Zoning Administrator on a structure shall not be removed without written authorization from the Zoning Administrator.

**C. Service of Notice:** Such notice shall be directed to each owner of, or a party in interest, in whose name the property appears on the last local tax assessment records. All notices shall be served upon the person to whom they are directed personally, or in lieu of personal service, may be mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to such owner or party in interest at the address shown on the tax records.

**D. Stop Work Order:** The Zoning Administrator may issue a stop work order to halt all construction activities and/or usage pending the resolution of the alleged violation. Failure to terminate such construction activities and/or usage, other than for the purpose of correcting the violation, is declared to be a nuisance per se and a violation of this Ordinance.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**E. Violation Correction Period:** All violations shall be corrected within the time period specified on the Notice of Violation, as deemed appropriate in the reasonable discretion of the Zoning Administrator, but not less than 5 days nor more than 6 months.

**F. Legal Action:** If the owner or party in interest fails to correct the violation within the time period specified by the Zoning Administrator or disregards a stop work order, the Zoning Administrator shall notify the Township Board and the Township Board shall thereafter direct the Township Attorney to take appropriate legal action. If the threat to public health and or safety necessitates immediate action, this procedure may be circumscribed and the Township Board may initiate injunctive action in Circuit Court or any such other remedy provided by Law (*see Section 3.06*).

**Section 3.06 Penalties and Remedies**

**A. Violations as Misdemeanors:** Violations of the provisions of this Ordinance or failure to comply with any of its requirements, including violations of conditions and safeguards established in connection with variances, approved site plans, zoning permits, or other authorizations under this Ordinance, shall constitute a misdemeanor. Any person who violates this Ordinance or fails to comply with any of its requirements shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) or imprisoned for not more than ninety (90) days, or both, and in addition, shall pay all costs and expenses involved in the case. Each day such violation continues shall be considered a separate offense.

**B. Persons Liable:** The owner of record or tenant of any building, structure, premises, or part thereof, and any architect, building contractor, agent, or other person who commits, participates in, assists in, or maintains such violation may each be found guilty of a separate offense and suffer the penalties herein provided.

**C. Remedies:**

1. In addition to the filing of criminal proceedings for violations of this Ordinance, the Township Board may commence civil suit seeking injunction, specific performance, mandamus, abatement or other appropriate proceedings to prevent, enjoin, abate or remove any violations of this Ordinance. The rights and remedies provided herein are both civil and criminal in nature. The imposition of any fine, or jail sentence or both shall not exempt the violator from compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance.
2. In the event the Township commences civil suit pursuant to this Section and it is determined that a zoning violation has occurred, in addition to any other remedies to which the Township shall be entitled, it shall also be entitled to recover from the violator its actual attorney fees and costs incurred in enforcing the provisions of this Ordinance.

**Section 3.07 Performance Guarantee for Compliance**

**A. Purpose:** Where required by this Ordinance, and in those situations where an applicant is required to perform some act, the non-performance of which will, in the opinion of the Township Board, adversely impact the health, safety or welfare of the community, the applicant shall be required to furnish the Township a performance guarantee to: (1) insure compliance with the requirements, specifications and conditions imposed with the grant of such approval, permit or variance; (2) insure the discontinuance of a temporary use by a stipulated time; and/or (3) provide sufficient resources for the Township to complete required improvements or conditions in the event the permit holder does not, or otherwise ensure the site does not pose a public health, safety, or welfare threat.

**B. Requirements of Guarantee:** The performance guarantee shall meet the following requirements:

1. Improvements Covered: Improvements that shall be covered by the performance guarantee include, but are not necessarily limited to: streets and other roadways, utilities, fencing, screening, landscaping, common open space improvements, lighting, drainage and sidewalks
2. Form: The performance guarantee shall be in a form acceptable to the Township Clerk, which names the property owner as the obligor and the Township as the obligee. If appropriate, based on the type of performance guarantee submitted, the Township shall deposit the funds in an account in a financial institution with which the Township regularly conducts business.
3. Amount and Time Required: The amount of the performance guarantee should be sufficient to cover one hundred percent (100%) of the estimated cost of the improvements or conditions, according to a detailed cost estimate submitted by the applicant and approved by the requiring body or official. After approval of the detailed cost estimate by the requiring body or official, the performance guarantee shall be submitted at the time of issuance of the permit authorizing the activity of the project.

**C. Return of Performance Guarantee:** The following procedure shall be followed in the return of performance guarantees:

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

1. **Request for Payment:** As required improvements are completed, or when all of the required improvements have been completed, the applicant shall send written notice to the Zoning Administrator of completion of said improvements. Thereupon, the Zoning Administrator shall inspect all of the improvements and shall transmit recommendation to the Township Board indicating either approval, partial approval, or rejection of the improvements or conditions with a statement of the reasons for any rejections. If partial approval is indicated, the cost of the improvement or condition rejected shall be set forth.
2. **Approval of Payment:** The Township Board shall either approve, partially approve or reject the improvements or conditions with the recommendation of the Zoning Administrator's written statement and shall notify the obligor in writing of the action of the Township Board. Where approval or partial approval is granted, the Township Board shall release the approved payment to the applicant. The portion of the performance guarantee to be rebated shall be in the same amount as stated in the itemized cost estimate for the applicable improvement or condition. The Township Board shall withhold thirty percent (30%) of the performance guarantee to be rebated until such time that the applicant submits an accurate set of "as-built" drawings upon project completion.
  - a. Where partial approval is granted, the obligor shall be released from liability pursuant to relevant portions of the performance guarantee, except for that portion adequately sufficient to secure provision of the improvements not yet approved.

**D. Record of Performance Guarantees:** A record of authorized performance guarantees shall be maintained by the individual or body designated by the Township Board.

**Section 3.08 Professional and Outside Agency Review of Applications**

**A. Review of Applications:** For any application for a Zoning Permit, variance, or other use or activity requiring a permit or other approval under this Ordinance, a reviewing or approving body may obtain the input of qualified professionals and outside agencies, prior to taking action on such permit or approval, regarding information pertaining to the extent of the project's conformance or nonconformance with this Ordinance, and may identify problems which may create a threat to public health, safety or the general welfare, mitigation measures or alterations to a proposed design that may lessen or eliminate identified impacts, and recommendations for action. Such professionals and outside agencies may include, but are not limited to professional planners, engineers, attorneys, County Road Commission, County Drain Commissioner, Fire Department, and County Health Department. A professional review shall result in a report to the Township, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the applicant.

**B. Fees:** Where a reviewing or approving body desires the input of a qualified professional(s) in association with an approval under this Ordinance, such body may require the payment of a professional review fee. The fee schedule shall be established by Township Board resolution and the fee shall be paid prior to taking action on the permit or approval. If the permit is denied, the applicant is entitled to a refund of any unused professional review fees. If the permit is approved, any unused professional fees shall be returned upon receipt and approval of the final as-built site plans by the Township Board (amended/eff. 4/29/10). If actual professional review costs exceed the amount of the fee, the applicant shall pay the balance due prior to receipt of any permit or approval issued in response to the applicant's request.

***End of Article 3***

## Article 4 PROCEDURES for PLOT PLAN and SITE PLAN REVIEW

### Section 4.01 Purpose

It is the purpose of this Article to specify standards, application and data requirements, and the review process which shall be followed in the preparation of site plans and plot plans as required by this Ordinance. These procedures are incorporated into the Zoning Permit application process to ensure that the Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission, and Township Board is afforded an opportunity to review and evaluate proposed uses of sites with regard to such considerations as parking and vehicular circulation, drainage, screening, signage, impacts on abutting and nearby properties, and conformance with all applicable provisions and standards of this Ordinance.

### Section 4.02 Approval of Site Plan or Plot Plan Required

**A. Township Board Approval for Site Plans:** Prior to the issuance of a Zoning Permit, site plan approval is required by the Township Board for the following uses and associated structures and buildings, and the initiation of any construction activities in association with such uses, structures or buildings:

1. All uses permitted by right within any commercial or industrial zoning district.
2. All special land uses as specified in each zoning district.
3. All uses for which this Ordinance requires five (5) or more off-street parking spaces.
4. All non-residential principal uses in any District that permits residential or agricultural uses.
5. All developments in wetlands or one hundred (100) year floodplains, including individual single family homes, for which a permit is required by the Department of Environmental Quality.
6. All planned unit developments.
7. Multiple family dwellings.
8. All subdivisions subject to the platting requirements of P.A. 591 of 1996, the Land Division Act, as amended.
9. All condominium subdivisions subject to P.A. 59 of 1978, the Condominium Act, as amended.
10. All other uses as required elsewhere in this Ordinance.

**B. Zoning Administrator Approval for Plot Plans:** Prior to the issuance of a Zoning Permit, plot plan approval is required by the Zoning Administrator for all other uses and associated structures and buildings not listed in Section 4.02 (A) above, including single family and two-family dwellings not addressed under (A)(5) above, and the initiation of any construction activities in association with such uses, structures or buildings.

### Section 4.03 Plot Plan Review Procedures

**A. Data Required:** An accurate, readable, scale drawing showing the following shall be submitted with applications for Zoning Permits for uses requiring plot plan review.

1. Name, address and telephone number of the applicant (and owner if different).
2. Legal description of the lot.
3. The location, shape, area and dimensions of the lot.
4. Dimensioned location, outline, and dimensions of all existing and proposed structures.
5. A description of proposed use(s) of the building(s), land and structures.
6. A description or depiction of the neighboring uses, including buildings, within 300' of the boundaries of the subject lot(s) or parcel(s). (eff. 12/27/2018)
7. Any other information deemed necessary by the Zoning Administrator to determine zoning ordinance compliance and provide for the enforcement of this Ordinance.

**B. Review:** The Zoning Administrator shall review the application materials for completeness and compliance with the standards of this Ordinance. If such materials are not complete pursuant to Section 4.03(A) or do not adequately portray proposed construction and use of the property, the materials shall be returned to the applicant with a written notice identifying the inadequacies or otherwise disapproved. Upon receipt of completed and adequate application materials, the Zoning Administrator shall review the plot plan and determine its conformity with the applicable provisions of this Ordinance.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**C. Action:** After conducting a review, the Zoning Administrator shall reject, approve, or conditionally approve the plot plan as it pertains to requirements and standards contained in the Zoning Ordinance. Any conditions required by the Zoning Administrator in association with an approved plot plan shall be stated in writing and shown on the plot plan, together with the reasons, and delivered to the applicant. The decision by the Zoning Administrator shall be made within thirty (30) days of the receipt of complete and adequate application materials. A plot plan shall be approved if it contains the information required by law, and is in compliance with this Ordinance.

**D. Approved Plot Plans:** At least three (3) copies of an approved plot plan, with any conditions contained within, shall be maintained as part of the Township records for future review and enforcement. One (1) copy shall be returned to the applicant. For identification of the approved plans, each copy shall be signed and dated with the date of approval by the Zoning Administrator. If any variances from the Zoning Ordinance have been obtained from the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), the minutes concerning the variances, duly signed, shall also be filed with the Township records as a part of the plot plan and delivered to the applicant for information and direction.

**Section 4.04 Site Plan Review Procedures**

**A. Preliminary Site Plan Application Required:** Prior to preparing a detailed final site plan and seeking approval of such site plan, the applicant shall seek approval of a preliminary site plan for the purpose of receiving approval of the general design and layout of the project. A preliminary site plan shall be submitted as part of a Zoning Permit application for all uses listed in Section 4.02(A).

1. **Preapplication Meeting:** Prior to the submission of a preliminary site plan, the applicant may request a meeting with the Chairperson of the Planning Commission and the Township Supervisor, together with such consultants and local officials and staff as either the Township or the applicant deem appropriate. The purpose of the meeting is to inform township officials of the general theme for the proposed development and to provide the potential applicant with information regarding land development policies, procedures, standards and requirements of the Township in terms of the proposed development. Statements made in the course of a preapplication conference shall not be legally binding commitments. At a preapplication conference (or conferences) for a preliminary site plan, the applicant may present plans that provide an overview or concept of the proposed project.
2. **Plot Plan Substitution:** At a preapplication meeting, the applicant may request a plot plan meeting the criteria of Section 4.03.A be submitted instead of a preliminary site plan, meeting the criteria of Section 4.04.B. The Chairperson of the Planning Commission and the Township Supervisor, in unanimous agreement, may grant the substitution for applications where the plot plan provides adequate information for decisions to be made and the requirements of Section 4.04.B are onerous. If granted, the substitution would allow the plot plan to meet the preliminary and final site plan submission requirements.

Approval of the substitution of a Plot Plan for a Site Plan shall not exempt a proposed use or project from other processes, approvals or procedures required herein generally referring to site plans, including but not limited to Planning Commission review, building to plan, obtaining approvals for plan revisions and submission of an "as built" plan. (eff. 12/27/2018)

**B. Preliminary Site Plan Submittal, Distribution and Data:** Applications for preliminary site plan approval shall be submitted to the Township Clerk on a form for that purpose, a minimum of 1 calendar month prior to a special hearing or meeting at which the application would be considered. Upon receipt of the plans and zoning permit application forms, the Township Clerk shall record the date of their receipt and transmit copies to the Planning Commission, Township Board, and other agencies or individuals selected to review such plans. The preliminary site plan application shall include the following:

1. Twenty (20) copies or a lesser number as determined by the Zoning Administrator (eff. 12/13/08), of a completed Zoning Permit application form, available from the Township Clerk.
2. Twenty (20) copies or a lesser number as determined by the Zoning Administrator (eff. 12/13/08), of the preliminary site plan at a scale of not less than one (1) inch equals one-hundred (100) feet. The preliminary site plan shall be provided on a professional quality drawing and all information depicted shall be designed by a professional engineer, land surveyor, or landscape architect licensed in Michigan and the seal of such designer shall be affixed. The plan shall provide the following minimum information except where the Planning Commission determines that certain specific data is not necessary in rendering a sound and educated decision on the specific site plan before it. The waiving of such data requirements by the Planning Commission shall not preclude the Township Board from requiring such data be submitted. The required information shall be of such accuracy and clarity to afford officials the ability to determine the plan's



**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

conformance with this Ordinance. The Township Board may deny approval of the application if the site plan does not include the required information.

- a. Name, address and telephone number of the applicant, owner (if different from applicant), and designer/engineer, and owner's signed consent for preliminary site plan approval application if the applicant is not the owner.
- b. Scale, north arrow, and date of plan.
- c. A legal description of the property in text form and a property line survey illustrating dimensions, bearings, and lot area.
- d. Existing natural features such as soils, woodlands, streams, flood plains, wetlands, drains, lakes or ponds, and topography at two (2) foot intervals with a designation of grades in excess of 12%.
- e. Existing and proposed public rights-of-way, private easements, and deed restrictions.
- f. Existing and proposed accessory and principal structures and buildings including their approximate location, dimensions, height, number of floors, square footage, and use, and a designation of existing structures and buildings to be retained and removed.
- g. Proposed open space and recreation areas, including location, size and use.
- h. Proposed parking areas, including location, number and typical dimensions of spaces, aisle widths, angle of spaces, and surface type.
- i. Approximate areas of intended fill or cut.
- j. Existing zoning classification and use of the parcel and surrounding properties including the location of all buildings and drives within one hundred fifty (150) feet of the parcel, the delineation of the parcel's required yards and proposed lot coverage by percent, and the density of development and lot area per dwelling in the case of a residential development.
- k. Approximate location, shape and size of proposed signs.
- l. A conceptual landscape plan indicating the locations of plant materials to be preserved and locations of proposed planting and screening, fencing, and lighting.
- m. General description of proposed potable water and sewage disposal measures, and a conceptual plan addressing how storm water is to be collected and discharged, including general location of any retention and/or detention areas and approximate points of discharge for all drains.
- n. A vicinity map conforming to the specifications of Section 20.18 of this Ordinance.
- o. Description of ground-water recharge areas located on property and rough delineation of their borders.
- p. Identification of any significant views onto or from the site to or from adjoining areas.
- q. Conceptual elevation drawings of all buildings.
- r. Identification of the extent, quantities, and types of explosive, flammable, or otherwise hazardous materials that may be used or created, and the measures to be used for proper handling, storage, and disposal of such materials.
- s. Documentation of the availability and capacity of sewage facilities and potable water to handle the anticipated volumes and types of wastes and potable water needs.
- t. Such other information as is necessary to enable the Planning Commission or Township Board to determine whether the proposed site plan conforms to the provisions of this Ordinance. Such information may include the submittal of a report on the anticipated environmental impact of the project, prepared pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Protection Agency or other agency as determined appropriate.  
(eff. 12/27/2018)

**C. Preliminary Site Plan Action:**

1. After conducting a review, the Planning Commission shall recommend to the Township Board denial, approval, or conditional approval of the site plan as it pertains to requirements and standards contained in the Zoning Ordinance, including the standards of Section 4.05. Any recommended conditions for approval shall be stated in writing, together with the reasons.
2. The Township Board shall take final action on the preliminary site plan and shall deny, approve, or approve with conditions such plan. The preliminary site plan shall be approved if it contains the information required by, and is in compliance with this Ordinance, the conditions imposed pursuant to the Ordinance, other Township planning documents, other applicable ordinances, and state and federal statutes. Any conditions required by the Township Board for approval shall be stated in writing, together with the reasons, and delivered to the applicant.
3. Approval of the preliminary site plan is valid for a period of one (1) year. If a complete final site plan for the development, or any phase of the development, has not been submitted during that period, the approval of the preliminary site plan shall be null and void. This time limit may be extended by the Township Board upon its finding that no substantial changes have occurred to abutting properties or applicable regulations that

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

suggest substantial revisions to the layout and/or design of the development. Preliminary site plans whose approval has expired shall be required to resubmit and be processed for approval according to this Section.

4. The Township Board shall have the authority to approve a preliminary site plan as a final site plan if it finds that the preliminary plan includes all necessary data and portrays such data in sufficient detail and accuracy to verify that such plans are in compliance with all standards of the Ordinance. However, such preliminary plan shall be submitted and acted upon by the Planning Commission prior to Township Board action.

**D. Final Site Plan Submittal, Distribution and Data:** Applications for final site plan approval shall be submitted to the Township Clerk on a form for that purpose, a minimum of 1 calendar month prior to a special hearing or meeting at which the application would be considered. Upon receipt of the plans and zoning permit application forms, the Township Clerk shall record the date of their receipt and transmit copies to the Planning Commission and Township Board, and other agencies or individuals selected to review such plans. The final site plan application shall include the following:

1. Twenty (20) copies of a completed application form, available from the Township Clerk.
2. Twenty (20) copies of the final site plan at a scale of not less than one (1) inch equals one-hundred (100) feet. The final site plan shall be provided on a professional quality drawing and all information depicted shall be designed by a professional engineer, land surveyor, or landscape architect licensed in Michigan and the seal of such designer shall be affixed. The plan shall provide the following minimum information in addition to that information required by Section (B) above except where the Planning Commission or Township Board determines that certain specific data is not necessary in rendering a sound and educated decision on the specific site plan before it. The waiving of such data requirements by the Planning Commission shall not preclude the Township Board from requiring such data be submitted. The required information shall be of such accuracy and clarity to afford officials the ability to determine the plan's conformance with this Ordinance. The Township Board may deny approval of the application if the site plan does not include the required information.
  - a. Final engineering plans for all proposed on-site and off-site improvements that adequately portray the manner in which the proposed improvements are to be constructed and the assurance of the public health, safety and welfare. Plans shall include, but shall not necessary be limited to:
    - 1) Storm water management plans and specifications addressing how storm water is to be collected and discharged, for both paved and unpaved surfaces, including but not limited to pipe dimensions, elevations of pipes, inverts, and discharge points, and retention and detention basins and grading thereof.
    - 2) Utility plans and specifications addressing facilities designed to provide, collect, store, dispose of, and/or transport potable water, waste water and sewage, including pipes, drains, sumps, holding tanks, and easements that exist or are proposed to be established for installation, repair and maintenance of such utilities.
    - 3) Utility plans not otherwise addressed in (2) above, and any easements that exist or are proposed to be established for installation, repair and maintenance of utilities.
    - 4) Soil erosion and sedimentation control plans.
    - 5) Road and parking lot plans including the location and alignment of all proposed streets, drives and parking areas; plan and profile specifications; surface type and width, and typical cross sections; location and typical details of curbs; turning lanes; surface elevations and grades of all entries and exits; and curve-radii.
    - 6) Grading plan, showing finished contours at a minimum interval of two (2) feet, and correlated with existing contours so as to clearly indicate cut and fill required and where finished contour lines connect to existing contour lines. Proposed spot elevations shall be illustrated at sufficient frequency to assure proposed storm water management measures.
    - 7) Lighting plans including location, type and height of all fixtures and measures to limit off-site illumination.
    - 8) Location and specifications for any existing or proposed above or below ground storage facilities for any chemicals, salts, flammable materials, or hazardous materials as well as any containment structures or clear zones required by government authorities.
  - b. Elevation drawings of all buildings and structures.
  - c. Propose location of free standing and wall signs, including type, size, area, height and construction characteristics.
  - d. A landscaping plan indicating the locations of plant materials to be preserved and locations of proposed planting and screening, fencing, and lighting in compliance with the requirements of Article 17, Landscaping and Screening.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

- e. Location of proposed outdoor trash container enclosures including their size and typical elevation showing materials and dimensions.
- f. Proposed easements to be recorded, including but not limited to easements for access, utilities, and conservation.
- g. Such other information as is necessary to enable the Township Board to determine whether the proposed site plan will conform to the provisions of this Ordinance.

**E. Final Site Plan Recommendation by Planning Commission:** The Planning Commission shall review the final site plan and determine its conformity with the applicable provisions of this Ordinance and the provisions of Section 4.05. After conducting a review, the Planning Commission shall recommend to the Township Board to deny, approve, or conditionally approve the final site plan as it pertains to requirements and standards contained in the Zoning Ordinance, including the standards of Section 4.05. Any conditions recommended by the Planning Commission for approval shall be stated in writing.

**F. Final Site Plan Action by Township Board:** The Township Board shall review the application and plans and determine their conformity with the applicable provisions of this Ordinance and the provisions of Section 4.05. After conducting a review, the Township Board shall deny, approve, or conditionally approve the final site plan as it pertains to requirements and standards contained in the Zoning Ordinance, including the standards of Section 4.05. A site plan shall be approved by the Township Board if it contains the information required by, and is in compliance with this Ordinance, the conditions imposed pursuant to the Ordinance, other Township planning documents, other applicable ordinances, and state and federal statutes. Any conditions required by the Township Board for approval shall be stated in writing, together with the reasons, and delivered to the applicant.

**G. Approved Site Plans:** Three (3) copies of the approved site plan, with any conditions contained within shall be maintained as part of the Township records for future review and enforcement. One (1) copy shall be returned to the applicant. Each copy shall be signed and dated with the date of approval by the Township Supervisor, for identification of the approved plans. If any variances from the Zoning Ordinance have been obtained from the ZBA, the minutes concerning the variances, duly signed, shall also be filed with the Township records as a part of the site plan and delivered to the applicant for information and direction.

**H. Time Limit on Approval of Final Site Plan:** Approval of the final site plan is valid for a period of eighteen (18) months. If work described by the site plan has not been completed during that period, the approval of the final site plan shall be null and void. This time limit may be extended up to twelve (12) months by the Township Board upon review and recommendation by the Planning Commission.  
(eff. 12/27/2018)

**Section 4.05 Plot Plan and Site Plan Approval Standards**

**A. Plot Plan:** Each plot plan shall conform with all applicable provisions of this Ordinance.

**B. Site Plan:** Each preliminary and final site plan shall conform with the provisions of this Ordinance including requirements pertaining to lot area, setbacks, lot width, and permitted uses, and the standards listed below. A preliminary site shall be evaluated according to the level of information required at the preliminary site plan level.

1. All elements of the Plan shall be harmoniously and efficiently organized in relation to topography, the size and type of lot, the character of adjoining property and the type and size of buildings, and coordinated with existing and planned public improvements. The site shall be so developed as not to impede the normal and orderly development or improvement of surrounding property.
2. The landscape shall be preserved in its natural state, insofar as practical, by minimizing tree, other vegetative material, and soil removal, and by topographic modifications which are in keeping with the general appearance of adjacent and surrounding uses and development. Organic, wet, or similar soils that present severe limitations to development shall remain generally undisturbed.
3. The removal of storm waters shall not increase off-site sedimentation or otherwise adversely affect neighboring properties due to flooding.
4. All buildings or groups of buildings shall be so arranged as to permit emergency access by some practical means to all sides.
5. The movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic within the site and in relation to access streets and sidewalks shall be safe and convenient. Every principal building shall have access to a public or private road, walkway, or other area dedicated to common use.
6. The arrangement of public or common ways for vehicular and pedestrian circulation shall respect the pattern of existing or planned streets and pedestrian or bicycle pathways in the area. Streets and drives which are part of an existing or planned street pattern which serves adjacent development shall be of a width

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

- appropriate to the traffic volume they will carry and shall have a dedicated right-of-way according to the standards of the County Road Commission.
7. All parking areas shall be so designed to facilitate efficient and safe vehicular and pedestrian circulation, minimize congestion at access and egress points to intersecting roads, including the use of service drives as appropriate, and to minimize the negative visual impact of such parking areas.
  8. Commercial and industrial development shall not include unnecessary curb cuts and shall use shared drives and/or service drives unless precluded by substantial practical difficulties.
  9. All phased projects shall be phased in a logical sequence and no phase shall require the completion of another phase for adequate public services and utilities.
  10. The site plan shall provide for the appropriate location of all necessary and proposed utilities. Locational requirements shall include underground facilities to the greatest extent feasible.
  11. Site plans shall conform to all applicable requirements of state and federal statutes.
  12. The applicant shall demonstrate that reasonable precautions will be made to prevent hazardous materials from entering the environment including:
    - a. General purpose floor drains shall only be allowed if they are approved by the responsible agency for connection to a public sewer system, an on-site closed holding tank (not a septic system), or regulated through a State of Michigan ground water discharge permit.
    - b. State and federal agency requirements for storage, spill prevention, record keeping, emergency response, transport and disposal of hazardous substances shall be met. No discharges to ground water, including direct and indirect discharges, shall be allowed without required local, state and federal permits.
  13. A final site plan and engineering drawings shall be in general conformance with the approved preliminary site plan. Any deviations from the approved preliminary site plan shall be clearly delineated and documented. Deviations that are deemed "major" by the Zoning Administrator per Section 4.07 A.1 will require re-submittal and approval of the preliminary site plan. (eff. 12/27/2018)

**Section 4.06 Conformity to Approved Site Plan and Plot Plan**

Property which is the subject of plot plan or site plan approval shall be developed in compliance with the approved plan and any approved changes thereto. If construction and development does not conform with such approved plans, the approved Zoning Permit shall be revoked by the Zoning Administrator pursuant to Section 3.04(E)(4). Upon revocation of such approval, all construction activities shall immediately cease upon the site, other than for the purpose of correcting the violation.

**Section 4.07 Changes to Approved Site Plan and Plot Plan**

**A. Site Plan Changes:** No changes shall be made to an approved site plan prior to, during, or after construction except according to the following procedures;

1. **Major or Minor Site Plan Change Determination:** The Zoning Administrator shall determine whether a proposed site plan change is major or minor, in accordance with this section.
2. **Major Changes:** Major changes to an approved site plan shall include changes in excess of five (5) feet in the location of walkways, vehicular circulation ways and parking areas, or exterior building and structure walls; the number and location of accesses to public streets and alleys; a reduction or increase in the number of parking spaces; an increase in the gross floor area by more than 500 square feet or more than 30% of the original gross floor area, whichever is greater; or an increase in the heights of buildings or number of dwelling units; a reduction in open space; and similar changes. Major changes shall require approval in the same manner as the original site plan application was submitted, reviewed, and approved and subject to the finding of all of the following:
  - a. Such changes will not adversely affect the initial basis for granting approval;
  - b. Such changes will not adversely affect the overall project in light of the intent and purpose of such development as set forth in this Article; and
  - c. Such changes shall comply with applicable minimum standards of this Ordinance.
3. **Minor Changes:** Minor changes to an approved site plan shall include changes not otherwise included as a major change in (A)(1) above and may be approved by the Zoning Administrator. Approved changes shall be clearly specified in writing and signed by the Zoning Administrator. The Zoning Administrator shall keep accurate records of approved changes. The Zoning Administrator may defer action to the Township Board. (eff. 12/27/2018)

**B. Plot Plan Changes:** The Zoning Administrator shall review proposed changes to an approved Plot Plan in the same manner as the original plot plan application was submitted, reviewed, and approved.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**Section 4.08 As-Built Drawings**

**A.** The applicant shall provide as-built drawings of all roads, sanitary sewer, water, and storm sewer lines and all appurtenances, underground storage facilities and utilities which were installed on a site for which a final site plan was approved. The drawings shall be submitted to the Township Clerk and shall be approved by the Township Engineer and Township Board prior to the release of any performance guarantee, professional review fees, or part thereof covering such installation (amended/eff. 4/29/10).

**B.** The as-built drawings shall show, but shall not be limited to, such information as road plan and profile specifications; the exact size, type, and location of pipes; location and size of manholes and catch basins; location and size of valves, fire hydrants, tees and crosses; depth and slopes of retention basins; and location and type of other utility installations. The drawings shall show plan and profile views of all sanitary and storm sewer lines and plan views of all water lines.

**C.** The as-built drawings shall show all work as actually installed and as field verified by a professional engineer or a representative thereof. The drawings shall be identified as "As-Built Drawings" in the title block of each drawing and shall be signed and dated by the owner of the development or the owner's legal representative and shall bear the seal of a professional engineer.

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

***End of Article 4***

## Article 5 SPECIAL LAND USE PROCEDURES and STANDARDS

### **Section 5.01 Purpose**

It is the purpose of this Ordinance to provide a set of procedures and standards for specific uses of land or structures that will allow, on one hand, practical latitude for the landowner or developer, but that will, at the same time, promote the intent and purpose of this Zoning Ordinance, and insure that the land use or activity authorized shall be compatible with adjacent uses of land, the natural environment, and the capacities of public services and facilities affected by the land uses. In order to provide control and reasonable flexibility, this Article delineates procedures for the detailed review of certain specified types of land use activities which, because of their particular and unique characteristics, require special consideration in relation to the welfare of adjacent properties and to the community as a whole. Land uses and structures possessing these characteristics may be authorized within certain zoning districts by the issuance of a Zoning Permit for a Special Land Use.

### **Section 5.02 Procedures**

#### **A. Application:**

1. An application for a Zoning Permit for any special land use or structure identified as such in a particular zoning district shall be on a form available from and provided by the Township for that purpose and must be accompanied by a site plan according to Article 4.
2. A Vicinity Map meeting the specifications of Section 20.18 of this Ordinance must accompany every Special Use application.

#### **B. Hearing, Standards, and Action:** Action on the permit application and site plan shall be submitted a minimum of 1 calendar month prior to a special hearing or meeting at which the application would be considered and processed according to the same procedures for site plan approval pursuant to Article 4, including the forwarding of a recommendation by the Planning Commission to the Township Board for final action, except as otherwise specified or clarified below:

1. **Public Hearing:** Prior to the Planning Commission forwarding a recommendation of action to the Township Board regarding the application and preliminary site plan, the Planning Commission shall hold a public hearing on the application and preliminary site plan.
  - a. Upon certification that the application materials are complete, the Planning Commission shall publish a notice of public hearing on the special land use application which shall:
    - 1) Describe the nature of the special land use request.
    - 2) Indicate the property which is the subject of the special land use request.
    - 3) State when and where the request will be considered.
    - 4) Indicate when and where written comments will be received concerning the request.
  - b. Notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township and shall be sent by mail or personal delivery to the owners of property for which approval is being considered, to all persons to which real property is assessed within three hundred (300) feet of the boundary of the property in question, and to the occupants of all structures within three hundred (300) feet. Notice shall be given not less than 15 days before the date of the hearing.
    - 1) If the name of the occupant is not known, the term "occupant" may be used in making notification. Notification need not be given to more than one occupant of a structure, except that if a structure contains more than one dwelling unit or spatial area owned or leased by different individuals, partnerships, businesses or organizations, one (1) occupant of each unit or spatial area shall receive notice. In the case of a single structure containing more than four dwelling units or other distinct spatial areas owned or leased by different individuals, partnerships, businesses or organizations, notice may be given to the manager or owner of the structure who shall be requested to post the notice at the primary entrance to the structure.
2. **Decision and Basis:** The Planning Commission's recommendation to the Township Board regarding action on the application and preliminary and final site plan, and the Township Board's action on the same, shall refer to and be guided by the site plan standards set forth in Section 4.05, the general special land use standards of Section 5.06, and the specific special land use standards included in other Sections of this Article. The Township Board shall deny, approve, or approve with conditions the application for special land

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

use approval. Its decision shall be incorporated in a statement of conclusions relative to the special land use under consideration, and shall specify the basis for the decision and any conditions imposed.

- a. No special land use application shall be approved that would result in more than one (1) special land use on a single parcel. The Township Board approval of a special land use application for a parcel on which a special land use already exists shall provide for the voidance of the existing permit.

**C. Voidance of Permit due to Non-Use:** A Zoning Permit for a special land use or structure shall become null and void upon a finding by the Township Board that the special use has been abandoned or otherwise not operated for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months.  
(eff. 12/27/2018)

**Section 5.03 Appeal to Circuit Court**

An appeal on a special land use application is not subject to appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals and shall be taken to the Circuit Court only.

**Section 5.04 Reapplication**

**A.** No application for a Zoning Permit for a special land use which has been denied wholly or in part shall be resubmitted until the expiration of one (1) year from the date of such denial, except on the grounds of newly-discovered evidence or proof of changed conditions that the Township Board finds has direct bearing upon the basis for the final action taken on the original application, and only then pursuant to the provisions of Section 5.02.

1. For the purposes of this Section, "changed conditions" shall be limited to one or more of the following:
  - a. a substantial change in the proposed intensity of the use of the site as reflected in gross floor area, building size(s), impervious surface, and or other site development features, where the Township Board finds that such changes have significant bearing upon the basis for the Township Board's previous action.
  - b. a substantial change in surrounding conditions, such as land use, development patterns, and infrastructure, where the Township Board finds that such changes have significant bearing upon the basis for the Township Board's previous action.
2. For the purposes of this Section, "newly discovered evidence" shall be evidence not previously submitted which the Township Board finds has significant bearing upon the basis for the Township Board's previous action.

**Section 5.05 Changes**

**A. Site Plan:** The site plan, as approved, shall become part of the record of approval, and subsequent actions shall be consistent with the approved site plan. Changes to the approved Site Plan shall comply with the application and review procedures of Section 4.07.

**B. Use or Activity:** A change in the character of the use or activity from what the originally approved Zoning Permit authorized shall not occur until such change is applied for and approved according to the application and review procedures of this Article and all other applicable sections of this Ordinance. Changes requiring a new application and review procedure include, but shall not be limited to:

1. the addition or reduction of land to the legal description of the original special land use permit property;
2. the establishment of another special land use;
3. the addition of more sales or service area, or the addition of dwelling units; and
4. an expansion or increase in intensity of use.

**Section 5.06 General Approval Standards**

**A.** Each application for a special land use shall be reviewed for the purpose of determining that the land use or activity which may be authorized shall be compatible with adjacent uses of land, the natural environment, and the capacities of public services and facilities affected by the land use. An application for a special land use shall be denied except upon a finding that all of the following standards have been met by the application:

1. The proposed special use shall be harmonious with and in accordance with the general objectives, intent, and purposes of this ordinance.
2. The proposed special use shall be designed, constructed, operated, maintained, and managed so as to be harmonious and appropriate in appearance with the existing or intended character of the general vicinity.
3. The proposed special use shall be served adequately by essential public facilities and services, such as: highways, streets, police and fire protection, drainage structures, refuse disposal, or that the persons or agencies responsible for the establishment of the proposed use shall be able to provide adequately any such service.
4. The proposed special use shall not be hazardous or disturbing to existing or future neighboring uses.



**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

5. The proposed special use shall not create excessive additional requirements at public costs for public facilities and services.

**Section 5.07 Bed and Breakfast**

**A. The following site and developmental requirements shall apply:**

1. No bed and breakfast use shall be permitted within a subdivision plat or condominium development, or on any property where there exists another bed and breakfast use within one thousand (1,000) feet, measured as a straight line distance between the closest lot lines.
2. One (1) parking space per room to be rented shall be provided on site, in addition to the parking required for a single family dwelling. Parking shall be arranged so as not to pose negative impacts on adjacent properties or necessitate on-street parking.

**B Special Performance Standards:**

1. The bed and breakfast facility shall be a single family dwelling which is operated and occupied by the owner of the dwelling.
2. Meals may be served to overnight guests only. No separate or additional kitchen facilities shall be provided for the guests.
3. The number of bedrooms available for use by guests shall not exceed six (6).
4. No receptions, private parties or activities for which a fee is paid shall be permitted except as may be expressly authorized in association with a conditional approval.
5. The establishment shall contain at least two (2) exits to the outdoors.
6. Rooms utilized for sleeping must be part of the primary residential structure.
7. No transient occupant shall reside on the premises for more than fourteen (14) consecutive days and not more than thirty (30) days in any one (1) year.
8. Lavatories and bathing facilities shall be available to all persons using the premises.
9. Each sleeping room shall be equipped with a smoke detector.
10. The exterior appearance of the structure shall not be altered from its single family character.

**Section 5.08 Commercial Stables**

**A. The following site and developmental requirements shall apply:**

1. A commercial stable shall not be established on any lot less than ten (10) acres in area.
2. Commercial stables shall provide off-street parking at a minimum of one parking space per two (2) animals, based on the number of horse stalls or maximum number of horses that can be accommodated in the stable.
3. Commercial stables shall not be located in platted subdivisions or condominium subdivisions unless specifically designed as an equestrian community.
4. Stables and buildings housing horses shall be set back a minimum of fifty (50) feet from any lot line.
5. A vegetative strip of at least one-hundred (100) feet wide shall be maintained between any animal holding area, manure pile, or manure application area and any surface water or well head. In areas with slopes of over five percent (5%), the Township Board may increase setbacks in order to minimize runoff, prevent erosion, and promote nutrient absorption.

**B. Special Performance Standards:**

1. The facility shall be constructed and maintained so that dust and drainage from the stable will not create a nuisance or hazard to adjoining property or uses.
2. Manure shall be removed and/or applied in accordance with the Michigan Commission on Agriculture's Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices and County Health Department regulations.
3. No special events such as shows, exhibitions, and contests shall be permitted within one hundred (100) feet of a residentially used or residentially zoned property, including the parking of cars and viewing areas.

**Section 5.09 Vehicle / Car Wash Establishment**

**A. The following site and developmental requirements shall apply:**

1. All washing activities shall be carried on within an enclosed building, or under a covered structure with side walls separating individual washing bays.
2. Vacuuming activities shall be set back a minimum of seventy-five (75) feet from property zoned or used for residential purposes.
3. All maneuvering lanes and stacking lanes shall be located on the site and shall provide sufficient room to avoid waiting cars encroaching into a road right-of-way.

**B Special Performance Standards:**

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

1. Each bay shall be graded and drained to collect run-off originating in the bay.
2. Trash containers shall be provided and emptied as necessary to minimize the accumulation of liter.

**Section 5.10 Vehicle Repair Shops and Service Stations**

**A.** The following site and developmental requirements shall apply:

1. The site shall be no less than two hundred (200) feet from any place of public assembly, including any hospital, sanitarium, school, church or other institution. Measurement shall be the closest distance between exterior lot lines.
2. All underground storage tanks shall comply with all rules and regulations of the State of Michigan, including those pertaining to required setbacks from wells, secondary containment, and monitoring.
3. No more than two (2) driveways onto a roadway shall be permitted per site. Driveway approach width shall not exceed thirty-five (35) feet.
4. All gasoline pumps shall comply with the minimum setback requirements for principal buildings in the District.
5. The entire area used for vehicle service shall be paved and adequately drained.

**B. Special Performance Standards:**

1. Hydraulic hoists, service pits, lubricating, greasing, washing, and repair equipment and operations shall be located within a completely enclosed structure.
2. Vehicles rendered inoperative for any reason, and vehicles without current license plates and registration, shall not be maintained on the property for more than thirty (30) days. Such vehicles shall not be parked or stored in a front or side yard, and shall be screened.
3. A car wash may be established as part of the principal structure or as a separate structure but shall conform to all setback requirements for a principal structure.
4. Vehicle renting or leasing in association with a repair facility may exist only as an accessory use to the principal repair activities, and only upon approval of a site plan delineating such rental/lease area and the type and maximum number of vehicles to be stored on the site for such purpose.

**Section 5.11 Shooting Ranges**

**A. Site, Development and Performance Standards for Shooting Ranges.**

1. Minimum lot area shall be forty (40) acres for outdoor shooting activities. The Township Board may require additional acreage where site characteristics, surrounding land uses, and/or the proposed type(s) of firearms warrant, in order to minimize the potential for a projectile to cross a property line.
2. Minimum front, side and rear yard setbacks for outdoor shooting ranges shall be two hundred fifty (250) feet.
3. A minimum eight (8) foot high fence shall be provided around the entire area devoted to or used for the outdoor shooting of firearms to assure that individuals will not unknowingly trespass on the property.
4. A site plan for the range, whether indoor or outdoor, shall be submitted clearly indicating all safety provisions to assure that any projectile discharged within the confines of a shooting range shall not carry into or over an adjacent district or area.
5. The Township Board may submit a copy of the site plan to law enforcement agencies for review and comment.
6. All indoor and outdoor activities, including the shooting of projectiles and storage of projectiles, shall comply with the most current published standards and guidelines of the National Rifle Association.
7. Hours of outdoor operation shall be between sunrise and sundown, according to such times as published by the National Weather Service.

**Section 5.12 Extraction, Soil Removal and Mining Operations (amended/eff. 02/18/21)**

**A. General Intent**

1. This Section 5.12 of the Zoning Ordinance is intended to provide the procedure and standards for review and approval of applications seeking permission to conduct the land use of extracting natural resources in Sharon Township in accordance with MCL 125.3205(3), et seq. enacted by Act 113, PA 2011 ("Act 113"). As described and explained in this Section 5.12, approval of an application shall require special land use approval based on the ultimate determination of whether the proposed extraction operation would result in "very serious consequences" as that term is understood in Act 113. Therefore, the special standards in this Section shall apply rather than the usual standards in this Zoning Ordinance for the review of special land use applications.

In conformance with Act 113, the application and approval process under this Section shall be divided into two parts.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

First, a preliminary hearing will be held to determine the extent of need for and public interest in the natural resource(s) sought to be extracted on the applicant's property. This part of the process is required as explained by the Michigan Court of Appeals in order to determine the precise calibration for the standard of review under the "very serious consequences" test (as explained in greater detail below in this Section).

After the preliminary proceedings are completed, a public hearing and review shall be conducted at the request of an applicant to determine whether the special land use for the extraction of natural resources proposed in the application would result in "very serious consequences." The Planning Commission shall conduct the public hearing and make findings and a recommendation to the Township Board, and the Township Board shall make the final special land use determination.

**B. Findings By Township Board As A Foundation For This Ordinance Section**

The Township Board recognizes that, as the Michigan Supreme Court observed in *Kyser v Kasson Township*, 486 Mich 514, 518 (2010) ("*Kyser*"): the exercise of the zoning authority under MCL 125.3201(1) and (3) is an empowerment of the township board to plan and zone for a broad range of purposes. These provisions reveal the comprehensive nature of the ZEA. It defines the fundamental structure of a zoning ordinance by requiring a zoning plan to take into account the interests of the entire community and to ensure that a broad range of land uses is permitted within that community. These provisions empower a township to plan for and regulate a broad array of land uses, taking into consideration the full range of planning concerns that affect the public health, safety, and welfare of the community.

The provisions of Act 113 direct that:

In subsection (3), it is directed that an ordinance shall not prevent the extraction, by mining, of valuable natural resources from any property unless very serious consequences would result from the extraction of those natural resources. Natural resources shall be considered valuable for the purposes of this section if a person, by extracting the natural resources, can receive revenue and reasonably expect to operate at a profit.

In subsection (4), it is directed that a person challenging a zoning decision under subsection (3) has the initial burden of showing that there are valuable natural resources located on the relevant property, that there is a need for the natural resources by the person or in the market served by the person, and that no very serious consequences would result from the extraction, by mining, of the natural resources

Act 113 further specifies that the standards in *Silva v Ada Township*, 416 Mich. 153 (1982) ("*Silva*") shall be applied in reviewing an application to permit the extraction of natural resources.

Based on the authority provided to the Township Board in MCL 125.3202(1) to "provide by ordinance for the manner in which the regulations and boundaries of districts or zones shall be determined and enforced or amended," the Township Board finds that review and approval of a special land use for the extraction of natural resources would be most effective and efficient if based on the procedures and terms of this Section.

The Township Board finds that a careful review process, based on standards understood by the Planning Commission, Township Board, the applicant, and the general public, is critical to protecting the public health, safety, and welfare as intended in the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act.

**C. Preliminary Review Process To Determine The Extent Of Need For And Public Interest In The Natural Resources Proposed To Be Extracted**

1. The purpose for having a preliminary hearing and review is founded on direction given by the Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Court of Appeals with regard to the "very serious consequences" standard, which was codified as part of Act 113 in MCL 125.3205(4) with the specification that a showing of "Need" for the resources to be extracted is to be the *initial burden* that must be met by the applicant. While it might be argued that a showing of need is not required until a party challenges a zoning decision denying a proposed use, the Michigan Court of Appeals explains that the "need" issue must be ascertained in advance in order to know how to apply the "very serious consequences" standard. In the adoption of the "no very serious consequences" standard in its *Silva v Ada Township* opinion, the Michigan Supreme Court discussed a *variable level of public interest*, that is, need for the resources proposed to be extracted: "[t]he public interest

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

of the citizens of this state who do not reside in the community where natural resources are located in the development and use of natural resources requires closer scrutiny of local zoning regulations which prevent development.” 416 Mich at 160. A more detailed explanation on this point was as provided by the Court of Appeals in *American Aggregates Corp v Highland Township*, 151 Mich App. 37, 42-46 (1986), where it was clarified that the public interest, that is, the “Need” factor, is required to inform the ultimate decision on “no very serious consequences,” noting that the entire foundation of the stricter “no very serious consequences” test (as compared to the standard that applies to nearly all other uses) rests on the important public interest involved in extracting and using natural resources. Therefore, the degree and extent of need and demand for the extraction of the specific natural resources located on the applicant’s land is a relevant factor in reviewing the “no very serious consequences” issue. The Court referred to this as a sliding scale determination of whether “very serious consequences” exist in the landowner’s specific situation. If the Need for a specific landowner’s resource is very high, the consequences resulting from the extraction of the resource will not reach the level of “very serious” as readily as in the case where Need in the specific resource is relatively low. Accordingly, this Section 5.12 makes provision for a preliminary determination on the extent of need for the applicant’s resources in order to inform the ultimate decision on whether the applicant’s proposal would result in “very serious consequences.”

2. This preliminary proceeding shall be commenced by the applicant filing an application for a determination with regard to the extent of Need for the Natural Resources proposed to be extracted on the property, including a determination on the duration of the need. Act 113 specifies that the “Need” for the natural resources shall be determined with regard to the need for the resources by the person or in the market served by the person. Need must be reviewed based on the extent that the particular natural resources proposed to be extracted from applicant’s property can be reasonably supplied from other viable sources within the geographic area expected to be served by the property at issue, that is, within the geographic area in which there would be other extractive operations already providing a supply of the same natural resources. The geographic area for this analysis is to be determined by considering factors including, but not limited to the economic feasibility of transporting the natural resources to the locations of demand, as well as other factors relevant to feasibly providing a supply of the natural resources to the locations of demand.
3. The application form for the need analysis for the preliminary hearing and review shall be approved by resolution of the township board, and shall require the applicant to provide sufficient information for use by the Township in reviewing the matter of need.
4. An application for special land use approval for the proposed operation, including haul route, shall include:
  - a. A Use Plan, which shall provide a plan reflecting the intended location and use of the property which is the subject of the application.
  - b. A plan showing the location of all proposed haul routes.
  - c. A description of each type of natural resource proposed to be mined.
  - d. A description of the names and locations of all places anticipated to create the need, that is the demand, for the natural resources from the property within the foreseeable future, including the type of use to be made by the resources, such as building construction, road building, and the like.
  - e. A description of the names and locations of all properties and operations which exist, or have been approved, for the extraction of any of the natural resources proposed to be extracted on the property, along with a specification with regard to each property of the type of natural resource extracted, and an estimate of the remaining useful life for the particular natural resource on each of such other properties and operations.
  - f. Calculations and facts leading to a conclusion on the extent of need which is not being met, and could not be met, from the existing sources for each type of natural resource proposed to be extracted on the property. This calculation must apply past experience and take into account that new properties and operations will likely to be approved in the foreseeable future on other properties within the market area.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

- g. A fact-based estimate of the expected duration of the proposed extraction operation on the property.
  - h. The average and maximum number of loaded trucks per day anticipated to leave the proposed operation on a full business day during the operating season.
- 5. For purposes of this preliminary administrative review process, the Planning Commission shall conduct a hearing on the application. Prior to the hearing, the Township shall review the application and documentation submitted in support of the application, and report any deficiencies to the applicant within a reasonable time. The hearing shall not be noticed until the applicant has cured the deficiencies found to exist in the application.
  - 6. This preliminary hearing shall begin with an introduction by the person designated by the Planning Commission chairperson. The applicant shall then be given the opportunity to present proofs on the need issue consistent with the application submitted. At the completion of the applicant's presentation the Township, through its representatives, may address and offer evidence or argument on these issues. Members of the public shall then have the opportunity to address and offer evidence or argument on these issues. If requested, the applicant shall be provided with an opportunity to rebut evidence and argument presented, but for efficiency purposes shall not be permitted to duplicate evidence on matters included in applicant's earlier presentation. Likewise, any new matters addressed by the applicant may be rebutted by representatives of the Township and members of the public. The hearing shall then be closed.
  - 7. Following completion of the hearing, either at the same meeting at which the hearing was held, or at a later meeting, the Planning Commission shall, based on the record made, adopt findings and recommendations on the extent of need demonstrated by the applicant. Township representatives may assist the Planning Commission with the articulation of its findings and recommendations.
  - 8. The Planning Commission shall forward its findings and recommendation on the degree of need for the applicant's natural resources to the Township Board which shall, taking into consideration the evidence from the hearing and the Planning Commission's recommendation, then make its own findings and conclusions on the extent of need demonstrated. The Township Board may conduct a further hearing at its discretion.
  - 9. Because the matter of the extent of need for the natural resources is relevant to the ultimate determination of "very serious consequences," the findings and conclusions made by the Township Board may be appealed by the applicant or other interested party to the circuit court prior to the next part of the process at which the Township must determine the issue of "very serious consequences."

**D. Determination Of Whether The Proposed Extraction Of Natural Resources Would Result In Very Serious Consequences**

- 1. Once the Township Board has completed its decision making on the extent of need for the natural resources proposed to be extracted in accordance with subsection C, above, the applicant may apply for special land use approval under this subsection D.
- 2. The standards for determining whether the proposed extraction of natural resources would result in "very serious consequences" shall be the *Silva* standard, as articulated in Act 113.
  - a. Act 113 specifies that the Township shall not prevent the extraction, by mining, of valuable natural resources from any property unless it would result in very serious consequences. The applicant shall have the initial burden of showing that no very serious consequences would result from the extraction, by mining, of the natural resources. In determining under this Section whether very serious consequences would result from the extraction, by mining, of natural resources, the standards set forth in *Silva v Ada Township*, 416 Mich 153 (1982), shall be applied, as directed in Act 113.
  - b. The applicable standards are explained in the holdings in cases interpreting *Silva v Ada Township*, such as, *American Aggregates Corp. v. Highland Township*, 151 Mich App. 37 (1986).
  - c. The standards provided in this subsection D that are the standards in Act 113, with explanations to assist in the understanding of the applicable considerations by the Planning Commission, Township Board, the

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

applicant and the public, and shall guide interpretation and decision of "no very serious consequences" with regard to an application for special land use approval under this Section.

3. Act 113 Standards of Review

The following guiding standards are provided. These standards are based on the framework provided in Act 113, MCL 125.3205(5) (a)- (f) for the purpose of determining whether the applicant has proven that "no very serious consequences" would result from the applicant's proposed extractive operation and haul route. These standards are intended to assist the Township in reviewing an application under the Act 113, and shall guide decision making on the ultimate decision on whether the applicant has proven that "no very serious consequences" would result from the applicant's proposed extractive use and haul route. The weight and relevance of each of these standards shall be determined by the Township Board, in its discretion, taking into consideration the extent of Need and public interest in the specific natural resources on applicant's property, as well as all other relevant facts and circumstances.

a. Existing Land Uses

- (1) The relationship and impact of applicant's proposed use and associated activities with and upon existing land uses anticipated to be impacted, particularly those properties in the vicinity of the property and along the haul route(s).
- (2) The impact upon the public health, safety and welfare from the proposed use, including haul route(s), considering, among other things, the proposed design, location, layout and operation in relation to existing land uses.

b. Property Values

- (1) The impact of applicant's proposed use and associated activities on property values in the vicinity of the property and along the proposed haul route(s) serving the property.
- (2) The effect on the general demand for and value of properties in the Township anticipated to be caused by the proposed use, including use of the haul route(s).
- (3) The impacts considered in this subsection b may taking into consideration: the number and type of vehicles proposed; machines and equipment to be used in the operation; location and height of buildings, equipment, stockpile or structures; location, nature and height of walls, berms, fences and landscaping; and all other aspects of the proposed use.

c. Pedestrian and Traffic Safety

- (1) The impact of the proposed use and associated activities on pedestrian and traffic safety in the vicinity of the property and along the proposed haul route(s) serving the property.
- (2) Consistency with and authorization of the proposed use and haul route(s) under state, county, and/or local regulations that have been established for roadways, including regulations applicable to the use of roads for proposed haul route(s).
- (3) The impact of the proposed use, including haul route(s), on vehicular and pedestrian traffic, particularly in relation to hazards reasonably expected in the district(s) impacted, taking into consideration the number, size, weight, noise, and fumes of vehicles, vehicular control, braking, and vehicular movements in relation to routes of traffic flow, proximity and relationship to intersections, adequacy of sight distances, location and driveways and other means of access, off-street parking and provisions for pedestrian traffic. Consideration shall be given to the interaction of heavy vehicles used for the use with children, the elderly and the handicapped.
- (4) Whether the proposed use and associated activities would result in a hazard to children attending schools or other activities within the Township.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

- (5) Overall, the impact of the proposed use, including haul route(s), on children, older persons, and handicapped persons, with consideration to be given to the extent to which such persons shall be required to forego or alter their activities.

d. Identifiable Health, Safety, and Welfare Interests

- (1) If the property has been designated in the Master Plan as an appropriate site for heavy industrial use, this shall weigh in favor of the applicant under this provision, subject to consideration of the specific scope and impact of the operation and associated activities. Similarly, if the property has been designated in the Master Plan for non-industrial use, this shall weigh in favor of determining that the proposed Use would result in a very serious adverse consequence.
- (2) The impact of applicant's proposed use and associated activities on identifiable health, safety, and welfare interests in the Township.
- (3) The impact of the proposed use, including haul route(s), upon surrounding property in terms of noise, dust, fumes, smoke, air, water, odor, light, and/or vibration. In determining whether a proposed use amounts to a very serious consequence, the standards for the stated impacts contained within the Township's regulatory ordinance, as the same may be amended, will be considered, along with any one or a combination of components proposed for the use that have unique qualities relating to these impacts (such as crusher noise and vibration).
- (4) The extent of impact of the proposed use, including haul route(s), on economic development and on the character and features that defines the community, or on development in other units of government that will be impacted by the use, including haul route(s).
- (5) The impacts of the proposed use on the planning, functioning and spirit of the community, factoring into such consideration whether the proposed use would be likely to render the applicable regulations in the zoning ordinance on other properties in the area unreasonable. This review shall analyze whether the heavy industrial nature of the proposed use would undermine reciprocity of advantage by creating impacts and character that would raise a reasonable question whether residential zoning restrictions on area property would represent arbitrary limitations on the use and enjoyment of such area property.
- (6) The operation of the proposed use, including the haul route(s), shall be evaluated in light of the proposed location and height of buildings or structures and location, nature and height of stockpiles, walls, berms, fences and landscaping, and all other proposed aspects of the overall use, including whether such improvements would interfere with or discourage the appropriate development and use of adjacent land and buildings.
- (7) The extent to which the proposed use, including haul route(s), would be likely to cause limitations on the use and enjoyment of other property in the vicinity (zoning district or districts, as impacted) in which it is to be located and along the haul route(s), and the extent to which the proposed use would likely be detrimental to existing and/or other permitted land uses and future redevelopment in the manner specified in the Master Plan.
- (8) The extent to which the proposed use, including haul route(s), would likely be detrimental to the development of new land uses in the zoning districts impacted.
- (9) The burden from the proposed use, including haul route(s), on the capacity of public services, infrastructure or facilities.
- (10) The burden of the proposed use, including haul route(s), on retail uses, arts and culture, equestrian activities, non-motorized vehicle travel or recreation, school use, parks, playgrounds, residential uses, and the likely creation of physical vulnerability or degradation of any uses and resources, including the creation of the need for added public or private expenditures for maintenance of buildings, structures, and infrastructure.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

- (11) The extent to which the proposed use, including haul route(s), would cause diesel fumes, dust, truck noise or physical/mental health issues, including along the haul route(s).
- (12) The nature and extent of impact from the proposed use, including haul route(s), in relation to environmental resources in the Township, including air, ground water, surface water, soils, and wetlands. In determining impacts, the cumulative effect upon all environmental resources shall be evaluated.

e. Overall Public Interest in the Proposed Extraction

- (1) The overall public interest in the extraction of the specific natural resources on the property both in absolute terms and in relative terms in relation to the need for resources and the adverse consequences likely to occur.
- (2) Public interest in the proposed use, as measured against any inconsistencies with the interests of the public as are proposed to be protected in Master Plan for the area to be impacted by the use and haul route(s).
- (3) Public interest in the proposed extraction, as measured against any inconsistencies with regard to physical, historic, and economic interests in relation to the use and haul route(s).
- (4) Public interest in the proposed extraction, as measured against any likely creation of valid environmental concerns, including without limitation impairment, pollution and/or destruction of the air, water, natural resources and/or public trust therein.
- (5) Public interest in the proposed extraction, as measured against public costs likely to be caused by the proposed use, including haul route(s), considering alternative supplies of natural resources.

4. Application for Special Land Use Approval

- a. The applicant shall submit a separate application in the form approved by resolution of the Township Board for purposes of seeking review and approval to determine whether “very serious consequences” would result from the proposed use. The application shall address all of the Act 113 standards, as stated above in this Section 5.12.
- b. The application shall also include the following:
  - (1) The name, address and other contact information for the owner as well as the operator of the proposed site, along with a boundary survey of the property proposed to be mined, sealed by a registered land surveyor or engineer, and a general description of the materials, methods, and techniques that will be utilized for the mining operations.
  - (2) A site plan, at a scale of at least one (1) inch per two hundred (200) feet, drawn on a topographic map with the same scale, showing the location of the perimeter of the site, buildings, equipment, processing area, parking for equipment, area for truck stacking and loading, stockpiles, roads, berms, or other features necessary to the mining operations. The site plan shall also include an aerial photograph showing the property in substantially the condition as on the date of the application, enlarged to a scale of one inch equals 200 feet, from original photograph flown at a negative scale no smaller than one inch equals 660 feet. The date of the aerial photograph shall be shown, and shall have been flown at such time as the foliage shall be off of on-site trees. The site plan shall show or demonstrate all of the following:



**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

- (i) A setback of the mining area from the nearest public roadway or adjoining property line of not less than 200 feet.
  - (ii) All of the following minimum setbacks of equipment used for screening and crushing:
    - (A) Not less than 300 feet from the nearest public roadway.
    - (B) Not less than 200 feet from the nearest adjoining non-residential property line, and 400 feet from the nearest residential property line.
    - (C) Not less than 500 feet from the nearest residential dwelling on adjacent property as of the date of submittal of the plan for extraction.
  - (iii) A setback of 150 feet from the perimeter of the site to internal roads, and 300 feet from the perimeter of the site to all stockpiles and processing equipment, including wash plant.
  - (iv) A description of all proposed haul routes to be used to transport natural resources from the mining area to all freeways or state trunk line highways proposed to transport natural resources to destinations, other than for local deliveries. All extraction operations shall be located near an all-season primary road, and best efforts shall be made to minimize the increase in truck traffic through areas developed primarily for residential purposes. In this regard trucks used to transfer the natural resources shall follow a route that poses the least interference with other traffic, minimizes traffic through residential areas, and uses public streets constructed for high volumes of heavy truck traffic. Truck traffic shall comply with any truck route ordinances and all road commission regulations.
  - (v) The maximum number of trucks leaving the extraction property on any one day shall be certified by the applicant in the application.
- (3) Stockpiling is the component of a mining operation that allows the operator to have a ready supply of extracted material. No stockpile shall be higher than 25 feet above the grade of the area situated between the stockpile and adjoining property; provided, the height of a stockpile and the nature of the materials stockpiled shall not result in materials recurrently blowing from a stockpile onto adjacent property.
- (4) Description and location of berms or other equivalent screening and buffering of the active mining area shall be established along the boundary lines of the premises where such lines abut a public highway, abut privately owned property which is improved for residential or commercial purposes, and at such places as are necessary to screen or buffer processing equipment from the view and impact of a person standing at ground level on any parcel of land improved for residential purposes located adjacent to or which fronts on any of the roads forming the boundaries of the mining site. When constructed along public highways, the berm shall be of a sufficient height to screen processing equipment from the view of the general public using the highway.
- (5) A description of processing activities shall be provided, including, but shall not limited to, washing, screening, transporting, crushing, and blending of stone, sand, gravel, and other materials. In describing the wash plant, the design and other specifications, including depth and water transportation facilities, and the amount, depth and source of water to be utilized in processing, and the anticipated means and location of disbursement of such water following use.
- (6) A general description and location of each type of natural resources deposits proposed to be extracted.
- (7) The sequence of mining, including proposed phasing, if applicable.
- (8) Surface overburden removal and storage plans.
- (9) A description of the minimum and maximum depth from grade level from which the each type of natural resource will be excavated, with each location and depth shown on the site plan referenced above.
- (10) The estimated and maximum period of time to complete operations, including reclamation, recognizing that market conditions will impact such estimate.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

- (11) A plan for the post-mining reclamation of the property, including:
- (i) A detailed plan for reclamation, including:
    - A. A general plan shown on an aerial photograph;
    - B. A reclamation contour map; and
    - C. A description of reclamation methods and materials proposed for renewal of topsoil and replanting, including a proposed sequence of reclamation, indicating the time sequence within which each area to be mined will be reclaimed as mining operations progress.
  - (ii) The general plan for reclamation shall be presented on a series of drawings showing the conditions before commencing operations and also showing the alterations to be made. The drawings shall have the same scale as the vertical aerial photograph (required in the application under Section 302, showing the acreage for each item shown:
    - A. Each phase of reclamation, reflecting the sequence of each phase in relation to all others;
    - B. Location and boundaries of all permanent water areas; and
    - C. Distances of all reclamation areas and water areas from property boundaries.
    - D. A restoration contour map shall be prepared to the same base as site plan required above to indicate the grade and slopes to which excavated areas shall be reclaimed, and a general indication of the distance of such reclaimed areas from the property boundaries. Such grade and slope designations shall be included with respect to areas proposed to be beneath the surface of permanent water areas. Side slopes around the active extraction-area perimeter shall have a grade not exceeding one (1) vertical foot per three (3) horizontal feet. The banks adjacent to any submerged areas shall have a grade not exceeding one (1) vertical foot per five (5) horizontal feet, out to a depth of five (5) feet.
    - E. A description of the methods and materials proposed for reclamation shall include topsoiling and the amount and type of plantings.
    - F. Reclamation shall be implemented in a manner that prevents washout and erosion, using appropriate grading, turf, vegetation, soil, overburden, shrubs, and trees, as necessary, and performed in accordance with the approved reclamation plan. Topsoil shall not be removed from the site unless authorized in the permit.

5. Decision on Special Land Use Application

- a. A decision on the special land use application shall be made based on the Act 113 standards, above.
- b. The decision may consist of an approval, an approval with conditions, or a denial.
- c. An approval, with or without conditions, shall be deemed to incorporate the site plan and associated specifications in the record approved by the Planning Commission, including the materials submitted in accordance with paragraph 4, above (as modified in the approval), and all representations made by the applicant in the review proceedings.
- d. An approval shall state a termination date for the effect of the approval consistent with the application and proceedings conducted in response to the application.
- e. The decision shall include a statement of reasons why the applicant has been approved, or why it has failed to satisfy its burden of proof based on the standard of "no very serious consequences."

6. Review Process at the Planning Commission

- a. Prior to conducting a public hearing on the application, the Township shall review the application and documentation submitted in support of the application and report any deficiencies to the applicant and the Planning Commission within a reasonable time. The public hearing on the application shall not be noticed until the applicant has cured the deficiencies found to exist in accordance with this procedure.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

The Planning Commission may request a preliminary presentation for informational purposes prior to conducting a public hearing.

- b. The Planning Commission shall conduct a public hearing on the application to determine whether the applicant can and does satisfy the applicant's burden of proof that "no very serious consequences" shall result from applicant's use of the property and haul route(s) based on the Act 113 standards above. The hearing shall begin with an introduction by the Planning Commission chairperson, or a person designated by the chairperson. The applicant shall then be given the opportunity to make the showings required in this ordinance. At the completion of the applicant's presentation, either at the same meeting or at a subsequent meeting if additional time is needed in order to thoroughly address the subject matter, the Township, through its representatives, may address and offer evidence or argument on the issues. Members of the public shall then have the opportunity to address and offer evidence or argument on the issues. If requested, the applicant shall be provided with an opportunity to rebut evidence and argument presented, but for efficiency purposes shall not be permitted to duplicate evidence on matters included in applicant's earlier presentation. Likewise, any new matters addressed by the applicant may be rebutted by representatives of the Township and members of the public. The public hearing shall then be closed.
- c. After the public hearing has been closed, either at the same meeting at which the public hearing was completed, or at a later meeting held within a reasonable time, the Planning Commission shall, based on the evidence presented, adopt findings and recommendations on whether the applicant has made a sufficient showing on whether there would be "no very serious consequences" as a result of the proposed use, including haul route(s), applying the Act 113 standards, above, as interpreted in accordance with applicable principles and law. Township representatives may assist the Planning Commission with the articulation of such findings and recommendations.
- d. Following all of the hearing procedures and requirements specified above, the Planning Commission shall forward to the Township Board its findings and recommendations on whether the proposed special land use should be approved.

**7. Review Process at the Township Board**

- a. The Township Board shall, taking into consideration the evidence from the public hearing, the Planning Commission's recommendation, and any additional evidence presented to the Township Board, act on the application for special land use approval.
- b. The Board's action may consist of approval, approval with conditions, or denial, and the Board shall state the reasons for its decision, which shall be based on the evidence in the record.
- c. An approval shall also state in detail the specifications of the approval.

**E. Effect Of Approval**

1. Approval of a special land use under this Section 5.12 shall authorize the owner of the property to apply for a license for construction and operation of the use under the Township's Mineral Extraction Ordinance, which is Chapter IV, Article 2 of the Township's Ordinance Code.
2. The approval under this Section 5.12 shall expire following a period of two (2) years from the date of the minutes in which the approval is granted, unless:
  - a. The period for securing the license, permits and commencing bona fide construction is extended by the Township Board for good cause within the effective period; or
  - b. Approved bona fide development for the approved operation pursuant to building and other required permits and license issued by the Township under this Section 5.12 and the Township's Mineral Extraction Ordinance, commences within such two (2) year period and proceeds diligently and in good faith as required by ordinance to completion.
3. In the event that bona fide development has not commenced within the permissible period of time calculated under sub-paragraph 2 above, the special land use shall be void and of no effect.

**F. Fees**

The applicant for a special land use under this Section 5.12 shall pay as a fee the Township's costs and expenses incurred in the review and evaluation of and action on the application. An escrow shall be established in an amount specified by Township Board resolution, and additional reasonable amounts shall be contributed as required in order to complete the process of review and approval. Any unexpended amounts from such escrow shall be returned to the applicant.

**Section 5.13 Day Care Facility, Group Home**

**A. The following site and developmental requirements shall apply:**

1. A group home day care facility shall not be located closer than fifteen-hundred (1,500) feet to any of the following facilities as measured along a street, road, or other public thoroughfare, excluding an alley:
  - a. Another group home day care facility licensed by the State of Michigan.
  - b. A adult foster care group home licensed by the State of Michigan.
  - c. A facility offering substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation services to seven (7) or more people which is licensed by the State of Michigan.
  - d. A community correction center, resident home, halfway house or other similar facility which houses an inmate population under the jurisdiction of the Department of Corrections.

**B. Special Performance Standards:**

1. All outdoor play areas shall be enclosed with fencing, a minimum of four (4) feet high.
2. The property, including landscape and structural elements, shall be maintained in a manner that is consistent with the character of the neighborhood. A group day care home should not require exterior modifications to the dwelling nor shall the front yard be the location of play equipment.
3. One identification sign shall be permitted. Such sign face shall not be greater the two (2) square feet, shall be mounted flush to a wall, made of a material that is compatible with the dwelling unit, and shall not be illuminated. Sign text shall be limited to the name of the facility and an address.
4. At least one (1) off-street parking space shall be provided for each non-family employee of the group day care home in addition to the parking normally required for the residence. A driveway may be used for this purpose. An off-street drop-off area is to be provided with the capability to accommodate at least two (2) automobiles in addition to the parking required for non-family employees of the dwelling and the parking normally required for the residence.
5. Hours of operation shall not exceed sixteen (16) hours in a twenty-four (24) hour period.

**Section 5.14 Drive-In and Drive-Through Facilities**

**A. The following site and developmental requirements shall apply:**

1. Access to and egress from a drive-in establishment shall be arranged for the free flow of vehicles at all times, so as to prevent the blocking or endangering of vehicular or pedestrian traffic through the stopping or standing of vehicles on sidewalks or streets.
2. Ingress and egress driveways shall be located at least seventy-five (75) linear feet from any corner when said property abuts an intersection of two streets. Further, no driveway shall be located nearer than fifty (50) feet, as measured along the property line, to any other driveway providing access to or from the drive-in business. All driveways providing ingress and egress to a drive-in business shall be not more than twenty-four (24) feet wide at the property line.
3. Sufficient stacking capacity for the drive-through portion of the operation shall be provided to ensure that traffic does not extend into the public right-of-way. A minimum of five (5) stacking spaces for the service ordering station shall be provided.

**Section 5.15 Seasonal Agriculture Labor Housing (eff. 12/27/2018)**

**A. The following site and developmental requirements shall apply:**

1. Minimum parcel area used for agricultural production in association with the seasonal agricultural labor housing shall be ten (10) acres, and the labor housing shall be located on such minimum ten (10) acre agricultural production parcel.
2. Labor housing facilities shall comply with the minimum yard setbacks in Table 9-4 for the zoning district in which they are located and in no case shall such housing be located in the front yard of a principal dwelling.
3. Labor housing facilities shall be screened from view of adjacent roads and existing residences on adjacent lots by a landscape screen, berm or existing buildings or topography on the parcel in question.

**B. Performance Standards**

1. The permit shall terminate at such time as the occupants of such housing do not satisfy this Ordinance's definition for "seasonal agriculture labor housing."
2. Housing shall be occupied for no more than 240 days in the calendar year.
3. All housing must meet the requirements for seasonal agricultural labor required by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration and State of Michigan Agricultural Labor Camp licensing, where applicable

**Section 5.16 Junkyards**

**A. The following site and developmental requirements shall apply:**

1. The minimum lot size shall be ten (10) acres.
2. A solid fence, wall or earthen berm at least eight (8) feet in height shall be provided around all sides of the area used to store junk. Such fence, wall or berm shall be of sound construction, painted or otherwise finished neatly and inconspicuously.
3. No portion of the enclosed area shall be located within 1,000 feet of a school, day care facility, church, hospital, convalescent or nursing home, or Residential District.
4. All enclosed areas shall be set back at least fifty (50) feet from any lot line. A landscaped buffer strip at least fifty (50) feet in width shall be provided adjacent to such enclosed areas.
5. Adequate parking and unloading facilities shall be provided at the site so that no loaded vehicle at any time stands on a public right-of-way awaiting entrance to the site.

**B. Special Performance Standards:**

1. All activities shall be confined to within the enclosed area including any: storage of materials; stockpiling of materials; disassembly of materials, parts, and vehicles; and the storage or parking of all equipment and inoperative vehicles. There shall be no stocking of material above the height of the fence, wall, or berm, except that moveable equipment used on the site may exceed that height.
2. All roads, driveways, parking lots, and loading and unloading areas within any junk yard shall be paved, watered, or chemically treated so as to limit the nuisance caused by wind-borne dust on adjoining lots and public roads.
3. The operation shall be licensed by the Michigan Secretary of State to sell used vehicle parts or tow non-operational vehicles.
4. Any materials listed on the Michigan Critical Materials Register require secondary containment and a Pollution Incident Protection Plan filed with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.
5. No inoperable vehicle shall be maintained on the site for more than forty-eight (48) hours except where all fluids in such vehicle, including but not limited to fuels, oils, and coolants, are fully drained. Such fluids shall be disposed of in accordance with all local, county, state and federal regulations.

**Section 5.17 Kennels (eff. 12/27/2018)**

**A. The following shall apply to both commercial/sport and private kennels:**

1. The owner must obtain a permit from the township to construct permanent kennel facilities. A permanent kennel structure must comply with all Township ordinances and building codes pertaining to accessory structures.
2. All structures used as a kennel must be sound-proof. Noise created by a dog cannot emanate beyond the owner's property lines.
3. All structures and areas must be designed and maintained as a humane environment. The premises must be kept clean and sanitary to prevent the accumulation of flies, the spread of disease or offensive odor.
4. A residence designed for human habitat may not be used as a private or commercial/sport kennel. The boarding and hoarding of any animal within the confines of human habitat, which compromises the health, welfare and safety of the animals and/or humans within, may subject the resident/owner to law enforcement and humane society interdiction.

**B. Requirements and Standards for Commercial/Sport Kennels:**

1. Site and developmental requirements
  - a. The lot must be at least ten (10) acres in size.
  - b. The owner must obtain a permit from the township to construct a permanent commercial/sport kennel facility. All permanent or fabricated kennel facilities must comply with Township ordinances and building codes pertaining to accessory structures.
  - c. The owner must obtain a kennel permit from the township prior to the dogs taking up occupancy of newly built kennels or of previously constructed kennels.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

- d. Commercial/Sport Kennels may not be located in a subdivision plat or condominium subdivision.
- e. The buildings where animals are kept, runs, and exercise areas shall not be located nearer than one-hundred feet (100) to a side or rear lot line and three hundred (300) feet to a public right-of-way.
- 2. Special performance requirements
  - a. Commercial/sport kennels must be operated in conformance with all applicable county, state and federal regulations.
  - b. Training and exercise yards shall not be used between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
  - c. During the hours of 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. animals shall be permitted in outdoor runs or pens. Animals shall be kept confined and not allowed to run at large on the property, except as part of supervised training.
- 3. Private kennels are an accessory use in any Residential District and the keeping of animals must meet the regulations in Section 20.16 of this Ordinance.
- 4. Farm Exemption: Owners of dogs used in conjunction with an active farm operation are not limited to four (4) working dogs on their property or in their private kennels.

**Section 5.18 Mini Storage Facilities**

**A. The following site and developmental requirements shall apply:**

- 1. One (1) parking space shall be provided for each twenty (20) rental units within the buildings, and one (1) parking space shall be provided for each employee.
- 2. There shall be a minimum of thirty-five (35) feet (forty-five (45) feet if the driveway is two-way) between warehouses for driveway, parking, and fire lane purposes. Where no parking is provided within the building separation areas, said building separation need only be twenty five (25) feet. Traffic direction and parking shall be designated by signaling or painting.

**B. Special Performance Standards:**

- 1. No retail, wholesale, fabrication, manufacturing, or service activities may be conducted from the storage units by the lessees.
- 2. Chain link security fencing shall be permitted along all property lines subject to any required setbacks.
- 3. Storage spaces shall not contain more than 400 square feet each.
- 4. All storage shall be within the enclosed building area unless specifically provided for otherwise as part of an approved site plan, as in the case of the storage of recreational vehicles. No outdoor storage shall occur within fifty (50) feet from any right-of-way.
- 5. The exterior of mini-storage buildings shall be of finished quality and maintained so as not to be offensive to adjacent property or abutting roads.
- 6. No storage of hazardous, toxic, or explosive materials shall be permitted at the facility. Signs shall be posted at the facility describing such limitations.

**Section 5.19 Private Landing Strips**

**A. The following site and developmental requirements shall apply:**

- 1. Landing strips shall be situated on a parcel of at least twenty (20) acres in size.
- 2. The landing strip shall be a minimum of one thousand two hundred feet in length and shall be free of obstructions for a minimum distance of fifty (50) feet to both sides of the landing strip, as measured from the centerline of the landing strip, and for a distance at the end of the landing strip to allow a clear approach slope of 20:1. The ends of a landing strip shall be a minimum of seven hundred (700) feet from a property line.

**B. Special Performance Standards:**

- 1. The private landing strip shall not be operated for commercial gain or in any way involve the payment of fees.
- 2. Approval of landing strips shall not be made prior to the submittal by the applicant of the Federal Aviation Authority's review of the proposed landing strip.

**Section 5.20 Campgrounds**

**A. Site, Development and Performance Standards for Camping Facilities**

- 1. Campgrounds shall be situated on a parcel of at least twenty (20) acres in size.
- 2. All campsites and principal and accessory buildings shall be setback a minimum distance of one hundred fifty (150) feet from all right-of-way and lot lines.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

3. A common use area shall be provided on the parcel at a rate of five hundred (500) square feet per campsite, except that a minimum of ten thousand (10,000) square feet shall be provided.
4. There shall be no permanent storage of tents, campers, travel trailers or mobile home units in the development unless specifically permitted.
5. At least one public telephone shall be provided in the facility.
6. No more than one permanent dwelling shall be allowed in a campground which shall only be occupied by the owner, manager or an employee.
7. Each campsite shall have a picnic table and designated place for fires.
8. All campgrounds shall be licensed as required by local, state, and federal regulations.
9. All provisions for water, laundry, sanitary facilities, fire protection, and electrical services shall be installed and maintained in accordance to all applicable township, county and state laws and ordinances.
10. No commercial enterprises shall be permitted to operate on the campground parcel, except that a convenience goods shopping building may be provided where more than forty (40) camp sites are provided. Such building shall be located to discourage use of the facility by non-campers.
11. Each campsite made available as a travel trailer space shall contain at least 2,000 square feet. Each space shall be clearly defined on the ground by stakes or markers, and no parking space shall be closer than thirty (30) feet to another space.
12. All entrances and exit lanes within a campground shall be lighted.

**Section 5.21 Home Occupation, Class 2**

**A. The following site and developmental requirements shall apply:**

1. Minimum lot size shall be one-half (1/2) acre, except that the minimum lot size for a home occupation located in a detached garage or other detached accessory structure shall be two (2) acres.
2. Accessory buildings housing home occupations shall be a minimum of seventy-five feet (75) feet from all lot lines except where the home occupation is to occupy an accessory building existing on the effective date of this Ordinance and no alterations are made to increase its height or area.

**B. The following special performance standards shall apply:**

1. No equipment or process shall be used in such home occupation which creates noise, vibration, glare, fumes, odors or electrical interference detectable to the normal senses off the lot. No equipment or process shall be used which creates visual or audible interference in any radio or television receivers off the premises, or causes fluctuations in line voltage off the premises.
2. The home occupation shall not employ more than two (2) persons not residing in the home.
3. No article shall be sold or offered for sale on the premises except such as is produced within the accessory building, or is provided as an incidental activity associated with the principal service offered by the home occupation.
4. A special land use application for a Class 2 home occupation shall specify, at a minimum, the following information in addition to that required by Section 4.04(B).
  - a. The type and frequency of vehicular traffic to be generated by the home occupation and the location of all outdoor parking and storage areas, if proposed.
  - b. Proposed landscaping/screening in association with any parking and outdoor storage areas.
  - c. The number of full-time and part-time employees of the business and the frequency at which such employees will be present at the site.

**Section 5.22 Adult Entertainment Business**

The purpose of this Section is to clearly define what constitutes an adult entertainment business and regulate the location and concentration of such businesses, but not exclude such businesses. These regulations are created with the understanding that Sharon Township acknowledges that there are some uses which, because of their very nature, have serious objectionable impacts when concentrated in location, causing deleterious effects upon adjacent residential and commercial use areas. The Township recognizes that regulation of adult entertainment businesses is necessary to insure that adverse effects will not contribute to the blighting or downgrading of surrounding residential neighborhoods and commercial areas.

**A. The following site and developmental requirements shall apply:**

1. No adult entertainment business shall be established on any premises where there exists another adult entertainment business within one thousand (1,000) feet, measured as a straight line distance between the closest property lines.
2. The property on which an adult entertainment business is located shall be situated at least one thousand (1,000) feet from a state licensed child care facility, religious institution, public school, public building, public

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

park, or any Residential District or residential use, measured as a straight line distance between the closest property lines.

**B. Special Performance Standards**

1. Signs shall contain no photographs, silhouettes, drawings or pictorial representations of any manner which include "*specified anatomical areas*" or "*specified sexual activities*."
2. Adult entertainment businesses shall not be located within, or otherwise be attached to, a building in which one (1) or more dwelling units or sleeping quarters are located, or on the same lot where one (1) or more dwelling units or sleeping quarters are located.
3. Operational hours are permitted between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 a.m. only.
4. The premises shall be equipped with overhead lighting fixtures of sufficient intensity to illuminate every place to which patrons are permitted access, at an illumination of not less than one (1) foot candle measured at floor level.
5. The applicant shall submit a diagram of the premises showing a plan thereof and specifying the location of one or more manager's stations and the location of all overhead lighting fixtures and illumination intensity of each. A manager's station shall not exceed thirty (30) square feet of floor area.
6. The premises shall be so configured and designed to provide an unobstructed view of each area of the premises to which any person is permitted access for any purpose from at least one (1) of the manager's stations.
7. Activities conducted within buildings housing the aforementioned uses shall be shielded in such a manner that no person outside the building can see said activities, provided however that such shielding shall not consist of a curtain alone, shall not obstruct the exit sign or directional or instructional signs regarding emergency egress, nor be constructed in such a way as to block an exit.
8. All changing of attire by employees or performers shall be within a completely enclosed room into which access by patrons is prohibited.

**Section 5.23 Golf Courses, Country Clubs, and Driving Ranges**

**A. The following site and developmental requirements shall apply:**

1. Regulation length 18-hole golf courses shall have a minimum lot size of 120 acres, of which a minimum of 110 acres of usable land shall be allocated to fairways, roughs, and greens. Eighteen-hole par-3 courses, and nine-hole courses with regulation length fairways, shall have a minimum lot size of 60 acres.
2. No parking areas shall be located within seventy-five (75) feet of a property line.
3. No temporary sanitary facility or trash receptacle shall be located within two hundred (200) feet of an existing dwelling.
4. All principal and accessory buildings shall be not less than one hundred (100) feet from any lot line.
5. A golf driving range shall maintain a seventy-five (75) foot setback from all property lines. The area shall be buffered by vegetation to minimize the impact upon adjoining properties. Additional buffering conditions necessary to minimize the impact or safety threats upon adjacent land uses may be imposed.
6. The site shall have direct access onto a public road.

**B. Special Performance standards:**

1. A minimum fifty (50) foot buffer zone between turf areas and natural water bodies, watercourses or wetlands shall be maintained. The buffer zone may be selectively pruned or thinned, and weeds and dead plant material may be removed. However, the buffer shall consist of natural vegetation and shall not be chemically treated.
2. A hydrogeological study shall be completed and submitted to document the anticipated impact of the golf course on groundwater quality and quantity. This study shall inventory and analyze well logs from surrounding properties, giving consideration to the depth of the wells and quality of water. The study shall further estimate the quantity of water that will be used on a daily basis during the peak watering periods and shall evaluate the impact of watering operations on surrounding wells. The study shall be performed by an engineer or hydrologist licensed in the State of Michigan, or a geologist certified by a nationally recognized organization with a minimum of five (5) years of current and applicable experience.
3. Detailed plans for hazardous materials storage shall be provided. Buildings in which hazardous materials are stored shall be designed to contain spills, shall not have floor drains that discharge into a septic system or other pathway to the groundwater, shall be lockable, and shall be kept locked. An inventory manifest of stored hazardous materials must be posted at the entrance of the storage building and filed with the Township. Plans for emergency containment and clean-up shall also be provided.
4. All operations of the golf course, including the use and storage of all hazardous materials, shall comply with all applicable local, county, state and federal rules and regulations.



**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

5. Accessory uses may include clubhouse/pro shop, managerial facilities, maintenance sheds, toilets, lockers, and other accessory uses directly incidental to the golf course. Accessory uses shall not include restaurants and drinking establishments; tennis, racket sport, or swimming facilities; or other uses having no direct reliance upon the sport of golf.
  - a. This subsection (5) shall not prohibit concession stands and grills provided no food or beverages are sold to the general public.
6. The design of the clubhouse and other accessory buildings shall be of a residential character and exterior materials shall be primarily wood or brick.
7. Fairways and Driving Ranges: Fairways and driving ranges shall have sufficient width and shall be oriented in such a manner and set back a sufficient distance to prevent golf balls from being hit outside the perimeter of the golf course. The minimum width for fairways shall be one hundred (100) feet, unless the golf course designer can demonstrate that, because of the location of trees, sand traps, berms, or other features, a narrower fairway will not compromise safety. The minimum length of a driving range shall be three hundred (300) yards, measured from the tee to the end of the range.
8. Toilet facilities for use by patrons shall be conveniently located and shall comply with all County Health Department rules and regulations.
9. Golf course hours, including those for general operations and public admission, shall not exceed dawn to dusk.
10. All motorized equipment, excluding golf carts and equipment of lesser size, shall be stored within a building when not in use.
11. A golf course may integrate residential development on the same parcel provided such development is in conformance with all review procedures and standards of this Ordinance.

**Section 5.24 Communication Towers, Class 1**

**A. Additional Application Requirements:** In addition to submitting the information required for all special land uses, including a site plan pursuant to Article 4, each applicant for a communication tower shall provide the following additional information. Any information of an engineering nature that the applicant submits, whether civil, mechanical, electrical, or structural, shall be certified by a licensed professional engineer registered in the State of Michigan.

1. An inventory of existing towers, antennae, or sites approved for towers or antennae, that are either within the jurisdiction of Sharon Township or within one (1) mile of the border thereof, including specific information about the location, height, and design of each tower. Such information may be shared with other applicants applying for approvals under this Section or other organizations seeking to locate towers or antennae within the jurisdiction of Sharon Township, provided, however, that the sharing of such information in no way constitutes a representation or warrant by the Township that such sites are available or suitable.
2. Elevation drawings of the proposed tower and any other structures.
3. The setback distance between the proposed tower and the nearest residential unit, platted residentially zoned properties, and unplatted residentially zoned properties.
4. The separation distance from other towers described in the inventory of existing sites submitted pursuant to (A)(1) above shall be shown on an updated site plan or map. The applicant shall also identify the type of construction of the existing tower(s) and the owner(s)/operator(s) of the existing tower(s), if known.
5. Method of fencing and finished color and, if applicable, the method of camouflage and illumination.
6. A notarized, sworn statement by the applicant as to whether construction of that the tower will accommodate collocation of additional antennae for future users (amended/eff. 4/29/10).
7. For wireless communication systems, identification of the entities providing the backhaul network (i.e., the lines that connect a provider's towers/cell sites to one or more cellular telephone switching offices, and/or long distance providers, and/or the public switched telephone network) for the tower(s) described in the application and other sites owned or operated by the applicant in the Township.
8. A description of the suitability of the use of existing towers, other structures, or alternative technology not requiring the use of towers or structures to provide the services proposed through the use of the proposed new tower.
9. A description of the feasible location(s) of future towers or antennae within Sharon Township based on existing physical, engineering, technological, or geographical limitations.

**B. The following site and development requirements shall apply:**

1. Separation Distances and Setbacks: The following minimum separation distances and setbacks shall apply:
  - a. No tower shall be located within two (2) miles of another commercial communication tower. This requirement may be waived in the sole discretion of the Township Board if one (1) of the following conditions are met:

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

- 1) The proposed tower would more effectively minimize negative impacts of telecommunication facilities on the Township as a whole; or
- 2) The tower is of an exceptional design so as to create a positive architectural and/or environmental feature which is compatible with the character of the surrounding area and community.
- b. No tower shall be located closer than eight hundred (800) feet from the boundary of any Residential District, including any PUD District incorporating residential uses.
- c. A tower shall have a minimum setback from all property boundaries and road right-of-ways equal to the height of the tower.
- d. Guys and accessory buildings must satisfy the minimum zoning district regulations.
- e. For purposes of measurement, tower setbacks and separation distances shall be calculated and applied to facilities located irrespective of municipal, township and county jurisdictional boundaries.
2. Fencing and Landscaping: The tower and appurtenant apparatus building shall be secured by fencing a minimum of six (6) feet in height. The fencing and apparatus building shall be screened with a landscape strip at least twenty (20) feet wide along each side of such fencing and/or building. The landscape strip shall be maintained in good condition at all times so as to continue its effectiveness. Existing mature on-site vegetation and natural land forms shall be preserved to the maximum extent feasible. In some cases, such as towers sited on large, wooded lots, natural growth around the property perimeter may provide sufficient buffer, in which case the Township Board may waive the landscaping requirements of this subsection. If natural vegetation is used to meet the buffering requirements of this section, such vegetation shall not be removed without prior permission and approval of a replacement schedule by the Planning Commission (eff. 7/5/12).
3. Lighting
  - a. Towers shall not be artificially lighted, unless required by the FAA or other applicable authority. If lighting is required, the lighting alternatives and design chosen must cause the least disturbance to the surrounding views. Strobe lights are prohibited except where required by the FAA or other applicable authority.
  - b. Lighting in, on or around the site, or any ancillary buildings, shall be designed, mounted, shaded and/or shielded so that no direct light from any emitter, bulb, globe, envelope, or reflector, and no light reflected from any surface within three (3) feet of any such emitter, bulb, globe, envelope, or reflector, shall be visible from outside the site when the site is unattended.
4. Height: Tower height shall be measured from the finished grade of the parcel to the highest point on the tower or other structure, including the base pad and any antenna. The maximum height of a communication tower shall not exceed one hundred eighty (180) feet. Accessory buildings shall be limited to the maximum height for accessory structures within the respective district.
5. Advertising, signs, and identification of any kind intended to be visible from the ground or other structures shall be prohibited, except as required for emergency purposes.
6. The base of the tower shall occupy no more than five hundred (500) square feet.
7. The minimum lot area for a commercial communication tower and antennae shall be four (4) acres.

**C. Special Performance Standards:**

1. All communications towers shall be required to provide to the Zoning Administrator an annual report of total radiation output from all channels and all antennae on the tower.
2. No employees shall be located on the site on a permanent basis to service or maintain the antennae. Occasional or temporary repair and service activities are excluded from this restriction.
3. Owners and/or operators of towers or antennae shall certify that all franchises required by law for the construction and/or operation of a wireless communication system have been obtained and shall file a copy of all required franchises with Sharon Township.
4. Collocation: No new tower shall be permitted unless the applicant demonstrates that no existing tower, structure or alternative technology that does not require the use of new towers or structures can accommodate the applicant's proposed antenna. An applicant shall submit information related to the availability of suitable existing towers, other structures or alternative technology. The Township may employ specialized experts to review data submitted by the applicant. The applicant shall incur all costs associated with such review. Evidence submitted to demonstrate that no existing tower, structure or alternative technology can accommodate the applicant's proposed antenna may consist of any of the following:
  - a. No existing towers or structures are located within the geographic area which meet applicant's engineering requirements.
  - b. Existing towers or structures are not of sufficient height to meet applicant's engineering requirements.
  - c. Existing towers or structures do not have sufficient structural strength to support applicant's proposed antenna and related equipment.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

- d. The applicant's proposed antenna would cause electromagnetic interference with the antenna on the existing towers or structures, or the antenna on the existing towers or structures would cause interference with the applicant's proposed antenna.
  - e. The fees, costs, or contractual provisions required by the owner in order to share an existing tower or structure or to adapt an existing tower or structure for sharing are unreasonable. Costs exceeding new tower development are presumed to be unreasonable.
  - f. The applicant demonstrates that there are other limiting factors that render existing towers and structures unsuitable.
  - g. The applicant demonstrates that an alternative technology that does not require the use of towers or structures, such as a cable microcell network using multiple low-powered transmitters/receivers attached to a wireline system, is unsuitable. Costs of alternative technology that exceed new tower or antenna development shall not be presumed to render the technology unsuitable.
  - h. The owner or operator of the communication tower shall notify the Zoning Administrator of plans to install any additional antennae including any relevant information regarding the new antennae (eff. 4/29/10).
5. Structural Design and Installation
- a. The plans for the tower construction shall be certified by a registered structural engineer, and the applicant shall submit verification that the installation is in compliance with all applicable codes. All towers must meet all applicable standards of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Federal Communications Commission.
  - b. All towers must meet or exceed current standards and regulations of the FAA, the FCC, and other agencies of the state or federal government with the authority to regulate towers and antennae. If such standards and regulations are changed, then the owners of the towers and antennae governed by this Section shall bring such towers and antennae into compliance with such revised standards and regulations within six (6) months of the effective date of such standards and regulations, unless a different compliance schedule is mandated by the controlling state or federal agency. Failure to bring towers and antennae into compliance with such revised standards and regulations shall constitute grounds for the removal of the tower or antenna at the owner's expense.
  - c. To ensure the structural integrity of towers, the owner of a tower shall ensure that it is maintained in compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal statutes, regulations, and standards, and the applicable standards published by the Electronic Industries Association, as amended. If, upon inspection, Sharon Township concludes that a tower fails to comply with such codes and standards and constitutes a danger to persons or property, then upon notice being provided to the owner of the tower, the owner shall have thirty (30) days to bring such tower into compliance with such standards. Failure to bring such tower into compliance within said thirty (30) days shall constitute grounds for the removal of the tower or antenna at the owner's expense.
  - d. Antennae and metal towers shall be provided with protection against strikes by lightning. The electrical wiring and connections on all towers shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal statutes, regulations, and standards.
  - e. Towers with antennae shall be designed to withstand a uniform wind loading as prescribed in the Building Code.
  - f. Towers and structures shall be subject to any state and/or federal regulations concerning nonionizing electromagnetic radiation. If more restrictive state and/or federal regulations are adopted in the future, the operator of the tower shall bring the antennae into conformance with such standards within sixty (60) days of its adoption, or the Special Use Permit shall be subject to revocation by the Township Board. The operator of the tower shall bear the costs for testing and verification of compliance.
  - g. All signals and remote control conductors of low energy extending substantially above the ground between a tower or antennae and a structure, or between towers, shall be at least eight (8) feet above the ground at all points (amended/eff. 7/5/12).
  - h. The base of the tower shall occupy no more than five hundred (500) square feet.
  - i. An annual report of total radiation output from all channels and all antennae on the tower shall be provided to the Zoning Administrator.
6. Design
- a. Metal towers shall be constructed of, or treated with, corrosion resistant material.
  - b. Advertising, signs, and identification of any kind intended to be visible from the ground or other structures shall be prohibited, except as required for emergency purposes.
  - c. The antennae shall be painted to match the exterior treatment of the tower. The paint scheme of the tower and antennae shall be designed to minimize off-site visibility of the antennae and tower.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

- d. At a tower site, the design of the buildings and related structures shall, to the maximum extent possible, use materials, textures, screening, and landscaping that will blend them into the natural setting and surrounding buildings.
  - e. If an antenna is installed on a structure other than a tower (such as a clock tower, bell steeple, or light pole), the antenna and supporting electrical and mechanical equipment must be of a neutral color that is identical to, or closely compatible with, the color of the supporting structure so as to make the antenna and related equipment as visually unobtrusive as possible.
7. Removal
- a. A condition of every approval of a communication tower is the removal of all or part of the facility by users and owners upon the occurrence of one or more of the following events:
    - 1) When the facility has not been used for ten (10) months or more. For purposes of this subsection, the removal of antennas or other equipment from the facility, or the cessation of operations (transmission and/or reception of radio signals) shall be considered as the beginning of a period of non-use.
    - 2) Six months after new technology is available at reasonable cost as determined by the Township, which permits the operation of the communication system without the requirement of the support structure, or with a support structure which is lower and/or less incompatible with the area.
  - b. In the case where removal of the facility is required, such removal shall apply to the tower, tower foundation(s), fencing, building(s), ancillary facilities, and roadway(s), except where the Township Board determines, in its sole discretion, that specific elements need not be removed. Removal of the facility, or parts thereof, shall be followed by restoration of the site to its original condition prior to tower construction.
  - c. Upon the occurrence of one or more of the events requiring removal, specified in subsection (a) above, the property owner or persons who had used the facility shall immediately proceed with and complete the demolition/removal and restoration of the premises to an acceptable condition as reasonably determined by the Township Board. Such removal and restoration shall be completed within twelve months of cessation of operation.
  - d. If the required removal of a facility or a portion thereof has not been completed within ninety (90) days of the applicable deadline, and after at least thirty (30) days written notice, the Township may remove or secure the removal of the facility or required portions thereof, with its actual cost and reasonable administrative charge to be drawn, collected and/or enforced from or under the security posted at the time application was made for establishing the facility.
8. Replacement of Towers: Approval of a tower of a particular design or configuration shall not be construed as approval of a replacement tower of a different design or configuration should the approved tower be destroyed or removed.

**D. Performance Guarantee:**

- 1. As part of the permit review process hereof, the Township Engineer, at the expense of the applicant, shall provide an estimate of the cost of removal and restoration activities required to return the site to its original condition and an annual cost escalation factor.
- 2. Performance guarantee as used herein shall mean a cash deposit, certified check or irrevocable bank letter of credit in the amount of the Township Engineer's estimate of the cost of removal and restoration activities plus twenty-five (25) years of cost escalation.
- 3. Said performance guarantee shall be deposited with the Township Treasurer prior to the approval of a permit.
- 4. Upon satisfactory completion of the removal and restoration activities for which the performance guarantee was required, as determined by the Zoning Administrator, the Township Treasurer shall return to the applicant the performance guarantee deposited plus any interest earned thereon.
- 5. In the event the applicant defaults in performing the removal and restoration activities for which the performance guarantee was required, as determined by the Zoning Administrator, the Township of Sharon shall have the right to use the performance guarantee deposited and any interest earned thereon to complete the removal and restoration activities through contract or otherwise, including specifically the right to enter upon the subject property to perform the work. If the performance guarantee is not sufficient to allow the Township of Sharon to complete the work for which it was deposited, the applicant shall be required to pay the Township of Sharon the amount(s) by which the cost(s) of completing the work exceeds the amount of the performance guarantee deposited. Should the Township use the performance guarantee, or a portion thereof, to complete the work, any amount remaining after said completion shall be applied first to the Sharon Township administrative cost in completing the work, with any balance remaining refunded to the applicant (amended/eff. 7/5/12).

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

6. The terms of this subsection shall be embodied in a written contract between the Township of Sharon, the owner(s) of the land on which the tower is to be constructed, their heirs and assigns, the owner(s) of the tower, their heirs and assigns, and the operator(s) of the tower, their heirs and assigns.

**Section 5.25 Recreational Facilities**

**A. The following site and developmental requirements shall apply:**

1. The minimum lot size shall be ten (10) acres.
2. The operation of vehicles shall not encroach into any front, side or rear yard setbacks for principal buildings as delineated in Table 9-4.

**B. Special Performance Standards:**

1. The following are prohibited unless expressly authorized as part of a site plan approval, and accurately depicted on such site plan:
  - a. Events open to the general public and off-street parking associated therewith.
  - b. Observation decks or stands.
  - c. Buildings for the storage or repair of vehicles or for any other accessory aspect of the facility operations.
2. See Section 18.07 regarding noise.

**Section 5.26 Open Space Communities**

See Article 10.

**Section 5.27 Wind Energy Conversion Systems (eff. 12/13/08)**

**A. Purpose:** Sharon Township promotes the effective and efficient use of Wind Energy Conversion Systems

by minimizing regulations on the siting, design, and installation of conversion systems commensurate with preserving and protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of neighboring property owners or occupants.

In no case shall the provision of this ordinance guarantee the wind rights or establish access to the wind.

**B. Definitions**

1. **Wind Energy Conversion System**” (WECS) shall mean any device such as a wind charger, windmill, or wind turbine that converts wind energy to a form of usable energy together with such auxiliary and ancillary equipment and facilities required to condition or distribute the usable energy for use.
  - a. **“Private WECS”** shall mean any WECS that is accessory to a principal land use located on the same lot, and is designed and built to serve the needs of the principal use.
  - b. **“Commercial WECS”** shall mean any WECS that is designed and built to provide electricity to the electric utility power grid and not for direct connection to specific, i.e. on site, uses
2. **“Manual and Automatic Controls”** prevent operation of the WECS outside of its design limits in order to protect the electric grid (if so connected), the machine itself, and the general public from the effects of failures that could occur were those limits to be exceeded.
3. An **“Authorized Factory Representative”** shall mean an individual with technical training of a WECS who has received factory installation instructions and is certified in writing by the manufacturer of the WECS.
4. A **“Utility Scale”** wind farm shall mean all wind farms that produce greater than 50 kilowatts of energy.
5. **“Facility Abandonment”** shall mean out of production for a period of time not less than one year. (See Section 5.27.E.12. below)
6. **“Anemometer Tower” (AMT)** shall mean a structure supporting an anemometer (wind speed gauge).

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**C. Approval Required**

Except where noted in this Section, it shall be unlawful to construct, erect, install, alter, or locate any WECS project within Sharon Township unless a Special Use permit has been obtained pursuant to this Ordinance.

1. Private WECS projects, accessory to permitted uses, shall not require a Special Use permit. Private WECS projects shall conform to the regulations of the zoning district where located, except that maximum height and minimum setback standards for WECS shall be as determined by Section D.4 and D.5, herein respectively.

Application for Private WECS projects shall contain the following information in addition to that generally required by Article 4, Section 4.03, Plot Plan Review.

- a. Plot plan to show location of the WECS pole or tower, guy lines where required, guy line anchor bases, and their distance from all property lines;
  - b. Elevation renderings depicting the appearance of the WECS from the nearest public road and from the nearest neighboring occupied dwelling.
  - c. Documentation on non-interference with radio and television communication (D.6, below).
  - d. Documentation on acoustic noise levels (D.8, below).
  - e. Plot plan to show the outline of the area “swept” by moving parts, e.g. turbine blades, under all operating conditions, e.g. wind direction. (For a typical “windmill” WECS this would be a circle centered on the center of rotation of the nacelle or cab, with a radius equal to the distance from such center of rotation to the tip of a blade when horizontal.)
2. Application for special use permit required by this Ordinance for all Commercial WECS shall contain the following information, in addition to that generally required by Article 4, Site Plan Review, and Article 5, Special Uses:
    - a. Plot plan to show location of the WECS pole or tower, guy lines where required, guy line anchor bases, and their distance from all property lines;
    - b. Methods to screen the base of the WECS pole and/or other ground apparatus.
    - c. A permit fee for each WECS as set by Sharon Township Board must accompany the application.
    - d. Elevation renderings depicting the appearance of the WECS from the nearest public road and from the nearest neighboring occupied dwelling.
    - e. Documentation on non-interference with radio and television communication (D.6, below).
    - f. Documentation on acoustic noise levels (D.8, below).
    - g. Plot plan to show the outline of the area “swept” by moving parts, e.g. turbine blades, under all operating conditions, e.g. wind direction. (For a typical “windmill” WECS this would be a circle centered on the center of rotation of the nacelle or cab, with a radius equal to the distance from such center of rotation to the tip of a blade when horizontal.)

**D. General Standards**

The following standards shall apply to all private and commercial wind energy conversion systems in Sharon Township:

**1. Controls and Brakes**

All private and commercial WECS machines shall be equipped with manual and automatic controls to maintain operation, rotation speed, load, etc., of the WECS within its design limits.

The Professional Engineer shall certify that the rotor and ‘over speed’ control design and fabrication of a Commercial WESC conform to applicable design standards. The certification documentation may include materials, calculations, etc., provided by the WECS manufacturer. No changes or alterations from certified design shall be permitted unless accompanied by a Professional Engineer’s statement of certification.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**2. Electrical Components**

All electrical compartments, storage facilities, wire conduit and interconnections with utility companies will conform to national and local electrical codes.

**3. Compliance with Township Ordinances**

All private and commercial WECS projects shall be in compliance with all Sharon zoning ordinance requirements and other applicable ordinances.

**4. Setbacks**

All private and commercial WECS machines must be set back from property lines a distance equal to or greater than the larger of

- (a) one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the height of the structure, measured from the base of the structure to the highest reach of its blades or other moving components
- (b) one hundred percent (100%) of the height, measured from the base of the structure, of any non-moving component or attachment.
- (c) 100 percent (100%) of the height of an anemometer tower.

**5. Height**

The height of any WECS machine shall be measured from the finish grade at the base of the structure to the maximum vertical extent of any component or attachment, moving or non-moving.

- a. The maximum height of a Private WECS installation shall be one hundred and ten feet (110 ft.).
- b. No moving parts shall be closer to the finish grade than twenty-five feet (25 ft.).
- c. Commercial WECS projects shall be exempt from the height requirements of this Ordinance, subject to the provisions of Special Uses, ARTICLE 5, and compliance with Federal Aviation Administration requirements and regulations.

**6. Interference**

A private or commercial WECS installation shall not in any way cause interference with commercial microwave or radio transmissions, or with residential television or radio reception.

**7. Fire Risk**

All private and commercial WECS projects must adhere to all applicable electrical codes and standards, must remove fuel sources, such as vegetation, from the immediate vicinity of electrical gear and connections, and must utilize twistable cables on turbines.

**8. Noise Levels**

The acoustic noise level from the WECS machine(s) operating at a wind speed of 15 mph, measured at the property line of the property on which the private or commercial WECS project has been installed, shall not exceed 55 decibels, A-weighted (dBA).

Acoustic design and/or testing documentation from the WECS machine manufacturer or builder showing noise levels versus wind speed versus distance shall be provided as part of the application.

**E. Additional Standards for Commercial WECS Projects**

The following additional standards shall apply to all commercial wind energy conversion systems in Sharon Township:

**1. Design Safety Certification**

The safety of the design of all commercial WECS towers shall be certified by a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Michigan. The standard(s) for certification shall be included with the permit application.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**2. Waste**

- a. All solid wastes, whether generated from supplies, equipment parts, packaging, operation or maintenance of a Commercial WECS, including old parts and equipment, shall be removed from the site immediately.
- b. All hazardous waste generated by the operation and maintenance of a Commercial WECS, including but not limited to lubricating materials, shall be removed from the site immediately.

**3. Color and finish**

External surfaces and components shall be painted or treated to be non-corroding. Color is at the discretion of the WECS owner, operator or applicant, subject to compliance with any regulations promulgated by any competent external agency, such as, but not limited to, the Federal Aviation Administration.

**4. Compliance with FAA**

It shall be the responsibility of the person in charge of the commercial WECS project to complete the proper FAA applications and obtain the proper permits for the WECS project. It shall also be the responsibility of the person in charge of the commercial WECS project to obtain a determination of no significant impact to air navigation from the FAA.

**5. Warnings**

Warning signs reading "High Voltage" are required at all commercial WECS projects where voltages exceeding 250 volts are present outside of closed structures. The signs must have at a minimum six-inch letters with 3/4-inch stroke. Such signs shall be located a maximum of three hundred (300) feet apart and at all points of site ingress and egress. The location(s) of the sign(s) shall be called out on the Site Plan.

**6. Installation Certification**

Construction and installation of a commercial WECS shall be certified by a Professional Engineer with expertise in Wind Energy Systems to meet or exceed the manufacturer's construction and installation standards.

**7. Climb Prevention**

All commercial WECS project towers or poles must be unclimbable by design or protected by anti-climbing devices such as:

- a. Fences with locking portals at least six feet high;
- b. Anti-climbing devices 12 feet from base of pole; or
- c. Anchor points for guy wires supporting tower(s) shall be enclosed by a six-foot high fence or shall be located within the confines of a yard that is completely fenced.

**8. Annual Inspection**

Every commercial WECS project must be inspected annually by an Authorized Factory Representative or Professional Engineer to certify that it is in good working condition and not a hazard to the public.

A record of each such inspection shall be submitted to Sharon Township and considered a part of the continuing special use permit.

**9. Compliance with additional Regulations**

Applicants for commercial WECS projects shall contact such external agencies, as, but not limited to, the FCC, the FAA, the MDOT Bureau of Aeronautics and Freight Services, and the MPSC regarding any necessary additional permits or regulations.

Sharon Township shall not grant final approval for the Special Use prior to evidence of such contact, the corresponding permits if needed or correspondence indicating no necessity, or compliance with such regulations being provided. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to ascertain which agencies claim such jurisdiction. A Special Use permit may be suspended or revoked if Sharon Township determines that an owner or applicant knowingly bypassed a required contact, permit or regulation.



**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**10. Migratory Birds**

Sharon Township may require an avian study conducted by a qualified professional to determine any potential impacts the commercial WECS project may present to migratory birds. The study as part of the Special Use permit application must provide assurances that the WECS project does not negatively impact the path of migratory birds.

**11. Liability Insurance**

The owner or operator of a commercial WECS installation shall maintain a current insurance policy with a bond rating acceptable to Sharon Township to cover installation and operation of the WECS project. The amount of the policy shall be established as a condition of special use permit approval.

**12. Decommissioning Plan and Escrow**

Application for a commercial WECS project shall include a Decommissioning Plan to ensure the WECS is properly decommissioned upon the end of the project life or facility abandonment. Decommissioning shall include: removal of all structures (including transmission equipment and fencing) and debris to a depth of four (4) feet, restoration of the soil, and restoration of vegetation within six (6) months of the end of project life or facility abandonment.

The decommissioning plan shall state how the facility will be decommissioned, the Professional Engineer's estimated cost of decommissioning, the financial resources to be used to accomplish decommissioning, and the escrow agent with which the resources shall be deposited. The decommissioning plan shall also include an agreement between the applicant and Sharon Township that:

- a. The financial resources for decommissioning shall be in the form of a surety bond, or shall be deposited in an escrow account with an escrow agent acceptable to Sharon Township.
- b. Sharon Township shall have access to the escrow account funds for the expressed purpose of completing decommissioning if decommissioning is not completed by the WECS owner or applicant within six (6) months of the end of project life or facility abandonment.
- c. Sharon Township is granted the right of entry onto the site, pursuant to reasonable notice, to effect or complete decommissioning.
- d. Sharon Township is granted the right to seek injunctive relief to effect or complete decommissioning, as well as the Township's right to seek reimbursement from applicant or applicant successor for decommissioning costs in excess of the amount deposited in escrow and to file a lien against any real estate owned by applicant or applicant's successor, or in which they have an interest, for the amount of the excess, and to take all steps allowed by law to enforce said lien. Financial provisions shall not be so onerous as to make wind power projects unfeasible.

**Section 5.28 Small distiller, micro brewer, small wine maker (eff. 12/27/2018)**

- A. Micro brewer/small distiller/small wine maker means a facility in which a limited amount beer, wine or other alcoholic beverages, defined by the State of Michigan Liquor Control Commission, are brewed, fermented, or distilled and then packaged and stored for distribution.
- B. The following site and developmental requirements shall apply:
  1. A microbrewer, small distiller, or small wine maker shall be accessory to or in conjunction with an agricultural use on the site.
  2. A microbrewer, small distiller, or small wine maker shall not be established on any lot less than ten (10) acres in area.
  3. A microbrewer, small distiller, or small wine maker shall not be located in platted subdivisions or condominium subdivisions.
  4. A microbrewer, small distiller, or small wine maker shall provide at a minimum of one parking space for every employee during the largest shift.
  5. Loading spaces must be provided in compliance with Section 16.05.
  6. Buildings used for the microbrewer, small distiller, or small wine maker shall be set back a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from any front lot line or road right-of-way and a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from all other lot lines.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

C. Special Performance Standards:

1. All microbrewers, small distillers, and small wine makers shall be licensed by the State of Michigan and the U.S. Federal Government. All other permits required by applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations shall be obtained prior to commencement of construction and operation.
2. A tasting room may be permitted but is limited to free samples and take out for sale only. No sale for consumption on site shall be permitted. Hours of operation for tasting rooms are limited to between the hours of noon to 8:00 p.m. The Township Board may further limit hours or not allow tasting rooms based on findings that the tasting room operation would cause a nuisance to adjacent property owners.
3. Outdoor tasting areas, outdoor service areas, special events or entertainment are permitted. The hours of operation are limited to between the hours of noon to 8:00 p.m. The Township Board may further limit hours or not allow these uses based on findings that the use would cause a nuisance to adjacent property owners.
4. A microbrewer, small distiller, or small wine maker shall not create a nuisance for adjacent property owners. Such nuisances include, but are not limited to, amplified music or sounds, excessive dust or odors, and/or traffic that cannot be accommodated on site. The Planning Commission and Township Board may require location on a paved road based on the traffic and environmental impact of the anticipated volume of truck and/or vehicle traffic.

**Section 5.29 Agricultural Commercial Kitchen (eff. 12/27/2018)**

A. The following site and developmental requirements shall apply:

1. An agricultural commercial kitchen shall be permitted only as an activity incidental to the production or processing of farm products. The purpose of the agricultural commercial kitchen use shall be to allow a small-scale facility that supports the local agricultural community. This type of kitchen is intended for use by local farmers and other local producers of agricultural products to create small volumes of value-added products made from local fruits, vegetables, and other locally-raised food.
2. An agricultural commercial kitchen shall not be established on any lot less than three (3) acres in area.
3. An agricultural commercial kitchen shall not be located in platted subdivisions or condominium subdivisions.
4. The total combined floor area of all agricultural commercial kitchen facilities located on a farm operation shall not exceed 2,500 square feet.
5. An agricultural commercial kitchen shall provide at a minimum of one parking space for every employee during the largest shift.
6. Loading spaces must be provided in compliance with Section 16.05
7. An agricultural commercial kitchen shall have ingress and egress on a public road and shall be designed so as to avoid traffic congestion and hazards. All connections to public roads shall meet the driveway permit requirements of the Washtenaw County Road Commission.
8. Buildings used for an agricultural commercial kitchen shall be set back a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from any lot line.

B. Special Performance Standards:

1. Raw agricultural products processed at an agricultural commercial kitchen shall be regionally grown and obtained from Michigan farms or a farm otherwise within a radius of 100 miles from the Township. For value-added products, at least 50 percent of the products' "namesake" ingredient must be produced by a Michigan farm or a farm otherwise within a radius of 100 miles from the Township.
2. The site of the agricultural commercial kitchen shall not contain an associated eating establishment for consumption on site, such as a restaurant, coffee shop, snack bar or similar establishment, catering service, or mobile food vendor; however, it can be associated with a farm market/roadside stand for a farm operation that sells products to customers for consumption off-site. Samples of products offered for sale at the associated farm market are exempt from this prohibition.
3. An agricultural commercial kitchen shall not create a nuisance for adjacent property owners. Such nuisances include, but are not limited to, amplified music or sounds, excessive dust or odors, and/or traffic that cannot be accommodated on site.

**Section 5.30 Agricultural Processing and Food Storage (eff. 12/27/2018)**

- A. The following site and developmental requirements shall apply:
1. The maximum area of buildings and structures (or areas within buildings or structures) located on a single parcel used for either agricultural processing or food storage, or for both uses together, as defined herein, shall not exceed 10,000 square feet in floor area.
  2. Agricultural processing and food storage buildings, structures and uses shall be setback a minimum of 100 feet from any adjacent residential structure. ea.
  3. Parking areas and surfaces shall be adequate to accommodate anticipated traffic and vehicles on site. No parking or maneuvering lanes shall be permitted within any road right-of-way.
  4. Lighting used for agricultural processing or food storage operations shall be downward facing and shielded to minimize light trespass onto adjacent properties. Lights, other than those needed only for security, shall be turned off when the agricultural processing or food storage operations are not in use.
- B. Special Performance Standards:
1. Raw agricultural products processed or stored at an agricultural processing and food storage facility shall be locally/regionally grown and obtained from Michigan farms within a radius of no more than 100 miles from the facility.
  2. An agricultural processing and food storage facility may operate any time between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
  3. An agricultural processing or food storage operation shall not create a nuisance for adjacent property owners. Such nuisances include, but are not limited to, amplified music or sounds, excessive dust or odors, and/or traffic that cannot be accommodated on site.
  4. All other permits required by applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations shall be obtained prior to commencement of construction and user operation.

**Section 5.31 Large Solar Energy System (eff. 12/27/2018)**

- A. **Purpose:** Sharon Township promotes the effective and efficient use of Large Solar Energy Systems by minimizing regulations on the siting, design, and installation of conversion systems commensurate with preserving and protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of neighboring property owners or occupants.
- B. **Definitions**
1. **Large Solar Energy System** is a utility-scale solar energy system where the primary use of the land is to generate electric energy or other energy by converting sunlight, whether by Photovoltaic Devices or other conversion technology, for the sale, delivery or consumption of the generated energy with a capacity greater than one megawatt (MW) at peak performance.
  2. **Photovoltaic device** is a system of components that generates electric energy from incident sunlight by means of the photovoltaic effect, whether or not the device is able to store the electric energy produced for later use.
  3. **Solar array** is any number of photovoltaic devices connected to provide a single output of electric energy or other energy.

C. **Approval Required**

It shall be unlawful to construct, erect, install, alter or locate any Large Solar Energy Systems within Sharon Township unless a Special Use Permit has been obtained pursuant to this Ordinance.

1. Application for a Special Use Permit required by this Ordinance for all Large Solar Energy Systems shall contain the following information, in addition to that generally required by Article 4, Site Plan Review, and Article 5, Special Uses:
  - a. Location of all existing and proposed overhead and underground electrical transmission or distribution lines within the Large Solar Energy System and within 100 feet of all exterior property lines of the Large Solar Energy System.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

- b. Proposed setbacks from the Solar Array(s) to all existing and proposed structures within the Large Solar Energy System.
  - c. Land elevations for the Solar Array(s) location and the relationship to the land elevations of all existing and proposed structures within the Large Solar Energy System at a minimum of 5 foot contours.
  - d. Planned security measures to prevent unauthorized trespass and access during the construction, operation, removal, maintenance or repair of the Large Solar Energy System.
  - e. A written description of the maintenance program to be used for the Solar Array and other components of the Large Solar Energy System, including decommissioning and removal. The description shall include maintenance schedules, types of maintenance to be performed, and decommissioning and removal procedures and schedules if the Large Solar Energy System is decommissioned.
  - f. Planned lightning protection measures.
  - g. Additional detail(s) and information as required by the Special Land Use requirements of the Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance or as required by the Planning Commission.
2. If applicable according to the state or county agency, approval by the Washtenaw County Road Commission, Michigan Department of Transportation and/or the Washtenaw Water Resources Commission must be obtained. Final approvals from these agencies may be a condition of approval by the Township Board.
  3. An escrow account shall be deposited with the Township by the Applicant when the Applicant applies for a Special Land Use Permit for a Large Solar Energy System. The monetary amount deposited by the Applicant in escrow with the Township shall be the amount estimated by the Township to cover all reasonable costs and expenses associated with the Special Land Use Permit review and approval process which costs shall include, but are not limited to, reasonable fees of the Township Attorney, Township Planner and Township Engineer, as well as costs for any reports or studies that are reasonably related to the zoning review process for the application. The Applicant shall have thirty (30) days to refuse or approve of the amount estimated by the Township. Such escrow amount shall be in addition to any filing or application fees established by resolution. At any point during the Special Land Use Permit review process, the Township may require that the Applicant place additional funds into escrow with the Township if the existing escrow amount deposited by the Applicant is deemed insufficient by the Township. If the escrow account needs replenishing and the Applicant refuses to do so within thirty (30) days, the Special Land Use Permit process shall cease unless and until the Applicant makes the required additional escrow deposit. Any applicable zoning escrow Resolutions or other Ordinances adopted by the Township must also be complied with by the Applicant. The Township shall provide a summary of all account activity to the Applicant within a timely manner upon request. Any funds remaining within the escrow after approval of the Special Land Use Permit shall be returned in a timely manner to the Applicant.

D. General Standards

The following standards shall apply to all Large Energy Solar Systems in Sharon Township:

1. **Land not Protected by P.A. 116 Farmland Development Rights Agreements.** The land proposed for erection of a Large Energy Solar System may not be protected by a Farmland Development Rights Agreement under farmland protection program under Michigan Public Act 116.
2. **Compliance with the County Building Code and the National Electric Safety Code** Construction of a Large Solar Energy System shall comply with the National Electric Safety Code and the County Building Code (as shown by approval by the County) as a condition of any Special Land Use Permit under this section. In the event of a conflict between the County Building Code and National Electric Safety Code (NESC), the NESC shall prevail.
3. **Certified Solar Array Components** Components of a Solar Array shall be approved by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Solar Rating and Certification Corporation (SRCC), Electronic Testing Laboratories (ETL), or other similar certification organization if the similar certification organization is approved by the Township which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.
4. **Setbacks**

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

A minimum setback distance of one hundred (100) feet from all exterior property lines of the Large Solar Energy System and existing public roads and railroad rights-of-way shall be required for all buildings and Solar Arrays, provided that a setback of one hundred (100) feet shall be required adjacent to any residential structure.

**5. Height**

Maximum height of a Solar Array, other collection device, components or buildings of the Large Solar Energy System, excluding substation and electrical transmission equipment, shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet (as measured from the natural grade at the base of improvements) at any time or location on the property. Substation and electrical transmission equipment shall not exceed seventy-five (75) feet.

**6. Lot Size**

A Large Solar Energy System shall be located on one or more parcels with an aggregate area of ten (10) acres or greater.

**7. Lot Coverage**

A Large Solar Energy System may not cover more than seventy-five (75) percent of the area of the parcel(s).

**8. Screening/Security**

A Large Solar Energy System shall be completely enclosed by perimeter security fencing to restrict unauthorized access. Such fencing shall be six (6) feet in height. The Planning Commission may approve as part of the site plan approval up to a one (1) foot extension arm with barbed-wire or razor-wire slanting outward as measured from the natural grade of the fencing perimeter, with a finding that the additional barbed-wire or razor-wire is necessary to ensure public safety. Electric fencing is not permitted. The perimeter of Large Solar Energy Systems shall also be screened and buffered by installed evergreen or native vegetative plantings providing a minimum of 80 percent opacity year-round whenever existing natural vegetation does not otherwise reasonably obscure the Large Solar Energy System from adjacent residential structures, subject to the following requirements:

- a. The Large Solar Energy Systems shall be exempt from the landscape requirements of Article 17.
- b. The evergreen or native vegetative buffer shall be composed of evergreen trees that at planting shall be a minimum of six (6) feet in height, native deciduous shade trees a minimum of two and a half (2 1/2) inch caliper and shrubs four (4) feet in height. The evergreen trees shall be spaced no more than fifteen (15) feet apart on center (from the central trunk of one plant to the central trunk of the next plant), native deciduous shade trees shall be placed no more than thirty (30) feet apart on center and shrubs shall be spaced no more than seven (7) feet apart on center. The buffer shall be planted in at least two (2) rows of staggered plantings. For the lifetime of the Large Solar Energy System, all unhealthy (sixty (60) percent dead or greater) and dead material shall be replaced by the Applicant within one (1) year, or the next appropriate planting period, whichever occurs first.
- c. All plant materials shall be installed between March 15 and November 15. If the Applicant requests a Final Certificate of Occupancy from the Township and the Applicant is unable to plant during the installation period, the Applicant will provide the Township with a letter of credit, surety or corporate guarantee for an amount equal to one and one-half (1.5) times the cost of any planting deficiencies that the Township shall hold until the next planting season. After all plantings have occurred, the Township shall return the financial guarantee.
- d. Failure to install or continuously maintain the required vegetative buffer shall constitute a violation of this Ordinance and any Special Use Permit may be subject to revocation.

**9. Signage**

No advertising or non-project related graphics shall be on any part of the Solar Arrays or other components of the Large Solar Energy System. This exclusion does not apply to entrance gate signage or notifications containing points of contact or any and all other information that may be required by authorities having jurisdiction for electrical operations and the safety and welfare of the public. All signs must meet the provisions of Article 15.

**10. Noise**

No component of any Large Solar Energy System shall emit noise exceeding sixty-five (65) dBA as measured at the exterior property boundary or the existing ROW line. This regulation is in addition to the provisions of Section 18.07 of this Ordinance.

**11. Lighting**

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

All lighting for parking lots, driveways, external illumination of buildings, or the illumination of signs shall be directed away from and be shielded from adjacent properties and shall be so arranged as to not adversely affect driver visibility on adjacent public roads in accordance with Section 18.04.

**12. Distribution, Transmission and Interconnection**

All collection lines and interconnections from the Solar Array(s) to any electrical substations shall be located and maintained underground inside the Large Solar Energy System. The Planning Commission may waive this requirement if it determines that it would be impractical or unreasonably expensive to install, place or maintain such collection lines and interconnections underground. This requirement excludes transmission equipment meant to connect the project substation to the local transmission system.

**13. Abandonment and Decommissioning**

Following the operational life of the project, the Applicant shall perform decommissioning and removal of the Large Solar Energy System and all its components. The Applicant shall prepare a Decommissioning Plan and submit it to the Planning Commission for review and approval prior to issuance of the Special Land User Permit. Under this plan, all structures, concrete, piping, facilities, and other project related materials above grade and any structures up to three (3) feet below-grade shall be removed offsite for disposal. Any Solar Array or combination of Photovoltaic Devices that is not operated for a continuous period of twelve (12) months shall be considered abandoned and shall be removed under the Decommissioning Plan. The ground must be restored to its original topography within three hundred sixty-five (365) days of abandonment or decommissioning.

**14. Continuing Security**

If any Large Solar Energy System is approved for construction under this Section, Applicant shall post decommissioning security in the form of a letter of credit prior to the start of construction (in a mutually agreed upon form) for an amount necessary to accomplish the work specified in the decommissioning plan as agreed upon by the Township and Applicant. The amount shall be reasonably sufficient to restore the property to its previous condition prior to construction and operation of the Large Solar Energy System. Such letter of credit shall be kept in full force and effect during the entire time that the Large Solar Energy System exists or is in place, and such letter of credit shall be irrevocable and non-cancelable.

- a. **Continuing Obligations:** Failure to keep any required letter of credit in full force and effect at all times while a Large Solar Energy System exists or is in place shall constitute a material and significant violation of the Special Land Use Permit and this Ordinance, and will subject the Large Solar Energy System Applicant, owner and operator to all remedies available to the Township, including any enforcement action, civil action, request for injunctive relief, and revocation of the Special Land Use Permit.

**15. General Standards**

The Planning Commission shall not approve any Large Solar Energy System Special Land Use Permit unless it finds that all of the general standards for Special Land Uses contained in Article 5 of this Ordinance are met.

**16. Approval Time Limit and Extension**

Special Use and Site Plan approvals or permits under this Section shall be valid for one year but, if requested by the Applicant prior to that expiration date, shall automatically be extended for a single additional one year period.

**17. Conditions and Modifications**

Any conditions and modifications approved by the Planning Commission shall be recorded in the Planning Commissions' meeting minutes. The Planning Commission may, in addition to other reasonable conditions, require landscaping, walls, fences and other improvements that are reasonable in relation to and consistent with the nature of the applicable or adjacent zoning districts.

**18. Inspection**

The Township shall have the right at any reasonable time, to provide same-day notice to the Applicant to inspect the premises on which any Large Solar Energy System is located. The Township may hire one or more consultants, with approval from the Applicant (which shall not be unreasonably withheld), to assist with inspections at the Applicant's or project owner's expense. Inspections must be coordinated with, and escorted by, the Applicant's operations staff at the Large Solar Energy Facility to ensure compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), NESC and all other applicable safety guidelines.

**19. Maintenance and Repair**

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

Each Large Solar Energy System must be kept and maintained in good repair and condition at all times. If the Township Zoning Administrator determines that a Large Solar Energy System fails to meet the requirements of this Ordinance and the Special Land Use Permit, or that it poses a safety hazard, the Zoning Administrator, or his or her designee, shall provide notice to the Applicant of the safety hazard. If, after a reasonable cure period (not to exceed 7 days), the safety hazards are not corrected, the Applicant is entitled to a hearing before the Township Board. If the Township Board determines that the safety hazard requires that the Large Solar Energy System must be shut down, Applicant shall immediately shut down the Large Solar Energy System and not operate, start or restart the Large Solar Energy System until the issues have been resolved. Applicant shall keep a maintenance log on the Solar Array(s), which shall be available for the Township's review within 48 hours of such request. Applicant shall keep all sites within the Large Solar Energy System neat, clean and free of refuse, waste or unsightly, hazardous or unsanitary conditions.

**20. Roads**

Any material damages to a public road located within the Township resulting from the construction, maintenance or operation of a Large Solar Energy System shall be repaired at the Applicant's expense. In addition, the Applicant shall submit to the Washtenaw County Road Commission or the Michigan Department of Transportation, as applicable, a description of the routes to be used by construction and delivery vehicles; any road improvements that will be necessary to accommodate construction vehicles, equipment or other deliveries. The Applicant shall abide by all County requirements regarding the use and/or repair of County roads. The Applicant shall be responsible for any road improvements necessary to accommodate construction vehicles, equipment or other deliveries.

**21. Other Requirements**

Each Large Solar Energy System shall also comply with all applicable federal, state and county requirements, in addition to other applicable Township Ordinances.

---

***End of Article 5***

## Article 6 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (ZBA)

### Section 6.01 Purpose

The purpose of this Article is to assure adequate means for the competent interpretation of this Ordinance, appeals of administrative decisions, and flexibility in the strict application of this Ordinance where such flexibility is considered appropriate to assure that the spirit of the Ordinance be observed, public safety secured, and substantial justice done, through the duties of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).

### Section 6.02 Creation and Membership

**A. Establishment and Appointment of Members:** The ZBA established by the Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance adopted on January 20, 1983, as amended, is hereby retained in accordance with Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943, as amended, and shall consist of five members: a member of the Planning Commission; and the remaining members appointed by the Township Board from the electors residing in the Township outside of incorporated cities and villages. A member of the Township Board may serve on the ZBA but not serve as the chairperson. The Zoning Administrator or other employee or contractor of the Township Board may not serve on the ZBA.

1. **Alternate Members:** The Township Board may appoint not more than two (2) alternate members for the same term as regular members of the ZBA. No alternate member may be either a member of the Township Board or the Planning Commission. The alternate members may be called as needed, on a rotating basis, to sit as regular members of the ZBA in the absence of a regular member if the regular member is absent from or will be unable to attend two (2) or more consecutive meetings of the ZBA or is absent from or will be unable to attend meetings for a period of more than 30 consecutive days. An alternate member may also be called to serve in the place of a regular member for the purpose of reaching a decision on a case in which the regular member has abstained for reasons of conflict of interest. An alternate member shall serve on a case until a final decision is made. The alternate member shall have the same voting rights as a regular member of the ZBA.

**B. Terms of Office:** Members shall be appointed for three (3) year terms except in the case of the Planning Commission and Township Board members, whose terms shall be limited to the time they are members of the Planning Commission or Township Board. A successor shall be appointed not more than one (1) month after the term of the preceding member has expired. Vacancies for unexpired terms shall be filled for the remainder of the term. Members may be reappointed. Members of the ZBA may be removed by the Township Board for nonperformance of duty or misconduct in office upon written charges and after a public hearing.

**C. Conflict of Interest:** A member shall disqualify himself or herself from deliberations and a vote in which the member has a conflict of interest. Failure to do so shall constitute misconduct in office.

### Section 6.03 Organization

**A. Rules of Procedure and Officers:** The ZBA shall adopt rules of procedure for the conduct of its meetings and the implementation of its duties. The Board shall annually elect a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and a secretary.

**B. Meetings and Quorum:** Meetings of the ZBA shall be held at the call of the chairperson and at such other times as the Board in its Rules of Procedure may specify. A majority of the total membership of the Board shall comprise a quorum. The Board shall not conduct official business unless it has a quorum. All meetings shall be open to the public and conducted pursuant to the requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

**C. Oaths and Witnesses:** The chairperson may administer oaths and compel the attendance of any witness in order to insure a fair and proper hearing.

**D. Records:** The minutes of all meetings shall contain the grounds for every determination made by the Board including all evidence and data considered, all findings of fact and conclusions drawn by the Board for every case, along with the vote of each member and the final ruling on each case. The ZBA shall file its minutes in the office of the Township Clerk.

**E. Legal Counsel:** An attorney for the Township shall act as legal counsel for the ZBA pursuant to procedures established by the Township Board.



**Section 6.04 Jurisdiction**

The ZBA shall act upon questions as they arise in the administration of this Ordinance and take other actions as specified in this Ordinance. The Board shall perform its duties and exercise its powers as provided in Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943, as amended. The ZBA shall not have the power to alter or change the zoning district classification of any property, nor make any change in the terms or intent of this Ordinance, but does have the power to act on those matters so specified in this Ordinance including appeals regarding an administrative review, interpretation, and variance. Within this capacity the ZBA may reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify the order, requirement, decision, or determination of the Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission, or any official administering or enforcing the provisions of this Ordinance as set forth in Section 6.05. The ZBA shall have all the powers of the officer or body from whom the appeal is taken.

**Section 6.05 Authorized Appeals and Standards**

The ZBA shall hear the following specified categories of appeals in accordance with the following standards:

**A. Administrative Review:** The ZBA shall hear and decide appeals where it is alleged by the appellant that there is an error in any order, requirement, permit, decision or refusal made by the Zoning Administrator or by any other body or official in administering or enforcing the provisions of this Ordinance. The ZBA shall reverse or otherwise modify the decision of such body or official only if it finds that the action or decision appealed:

1. was arbitrary or capricious, or
2. was based upon an erroneous finding of a material fact, or
3. constituted an abuse of discretion, or
4. was based upon erroneous interpretation of the Zoning Ordinance or zoning law, or
5. did not follow required procedures.

In hearing and deciding appeals under this sub-section, The Zoning Board of Appeal's review shall be based upon the record of the administrative decision being appealed, and the ZBA shall not consider new information which had not been presented to the administrative official, board, or commission from whom the appeal is taken.

**B. Interpretation of the Ordinance:** The ZBA shall hear and decide upon requests to:

1. Interpret the provisions of this Ordinance when it is alleged that certain provisions are not clear or that they could have more than one meaning. In deciding upon such request the ZBA shall insure that its interpretation is consistent with the intent and purpose of the Ordinance, the Article in which the language in question is contained, and all other relevant provisions in the Ordinance.
2. Determine the precise location of the boundary lines between zoning districts (*see Section 10.04*).
3. Classify a use which is not specifically mentioned as a part of the use regulations of any zoning district so that it conforms to a comparable permitted or prohibited use, in accordance with the purpose and intent of each district. Where there is no comparable permitted or prohibited use, the ZBA shall so declare, the effect being that use is not permitted in the Township until or unless the text of the Ordinance is amended to permit it.
4. Determine the parking space requirements of any use not specifically mentioned either by classifying it with one of the groups listed in Article 21, Off Street Parking and Loading or by an analysis of the specific needs. If no comparable use is found, the ZBA shall so inform the petitioner and indicate that the parking space requirements will have to be established by amendment of the Ordinance.

Prior to deciding a request for an interpretation, the ZBA shall confer with Township staff and consultants to determine the basic purpose of the provision subject to interpretation and any consequences which may result from differing decisions. A decision providing an interpretation may be accompanied by a recommendation for consideration of an amendment of the Ordinance.

**C. Variances:** The ZBA shall have the power to authorize specific variances from site development requirements such as lot area and width regulations, building height and bulk regulations, setback regulations, off-street parking and loading space requirements, and sign requirements of this Ordinance.

1. **Required Findings:** The ZBA shall have the power to authorize specific variances from site development requirements provided that all the required findings listed below are met and the record of proceedings of the ZBA contains evidence supporting each conclusion.
  - a. That there are practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships which prevent carrying out the strict letter of this Ordinance. These difficulties shall not be deemed economic, but shall be evaluated in terms of the use of a particular parcel of land.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

- b. That a genuine practical difficulty exists because of unique circumstances or physical conditions such as narrowness, shallowness, shape, or topography of the property involved, or to the intended use of the property, that do not generally apply to other property or uses in the same zoning district, and shall not be recurrent in nature.
  - c. That the special conditions or circumstances do not result from actions of the applicant.
  - d. That the variance will relate only to property under control of the applicant.
  - e. That the variance will be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of this Ordinance and will not cause a substantial adverse effect upon surrounding property, property values, and the use and enjoyment of property in the neighborhood or district.
  - f. That strict compliance with area, setbacks, frontage, height, bulk, density or other standards would unreasonably prevent the owner from using the property for a permitted purpose, or would render conformity unnecessarily burdensome.
  - g. That the variance requested is the minimum amount necessary to overcome the inequality inherent in the particular property or mitigate the hardship.
2. Evidence: In all variance proceedings, it shall be the responsibility of the applicant to provide information, plans, testimony and/or evidence from which the ZBA may make the required findings. Administrative officials and other persons may, but shall not be required to, provide information, testimony, and/or evidence on a variance request.
3. Use Variances:
- a. A use variance is defined as any variance that would permit the establishment of any use in a zoning district that is not a principal permitted use within that zoning district.
  - b. The ZBA is not authorized to grant a use variance.
  - c. If an application seeking a use variance is received by the ZBA, the ZBA shall notify the applicant that it does not have the authority to issue use variances and it shall not schedule or hold any further hearings with respect to that application.

**Section 6.06 Appeal Procedures**

- A. Appeal Request:** Appeal requests shall be made to the ZBA by completing and filing a written notice of appeal with the Township Clerk on forms established for that purpose and accompanied with such information as is necessary to decide such appeal. Upon receipt of a notice of appeal, the Township Clerk shall promptly transmit records concerning the appeal, as well as any related information to the chairperson of the ZBA.
1. An appeal of an administrative decision shall be made within fourteen (14) days of such administrative decision.
  2. An appeal for a variance shall be accompanied by the plot plan or site plan, according to Article 4, for which the variance is being appealed.
- B. Fee:** A fee as established by the Township Board shall be paid at the time the petitioner files a notice of appeals. The purpose of such fee is to cover, in part, the necessary advertisements, investigations, hearing records and other expenses incurred by the Board in connection with the appeal.
- C. Hearings and Notices:** The ZBA shall fix a reasonable time for the hearing of the appeal, give due notice thereof to the parties, and decide the appeal within a reasonable time.
- D. Decision:** The decision of the ZBA shall be in the form of a resolution containing a full record of the findings and determination of the Board of Appeals. The concurring vote of a majority of the members of the ZBA shall be necessary to grant a variance, make an interpretation of the Ordinance, or reverse an order, requirement, decision, or determination of an administrative official or body. The ZBA shall state the grounds for each decision.
1. Conditions: In granting any variance, the ZBA may prescribe appropriate conditions and safeguards in conformity with this Ordinance (*See Section 20.12*). Violations of such conditions and safeguards, when made a part of the terms under which the variance is granted, shall be deemed a violation of this Ordinance.
  2. Variance Authorization Period: Each variance granted under the provisions of this Ordinance shall become null and void unless the construction or other actions authorized by such variance have commenced within one hundred eighty (180) days of the granting of such variance. The Zoning Administrator may grant an extension for good cause shown for a period not to exceed six (6) months.
- E. Reapplication:** No appeal which has been denied wholly or in part by the ZBA, shall be resubmitted for a period of one (1) year from the date of the last denial, except on proof of changed conditions found upon inspection by the ZBA to be valid and have direct bearing on such appeal.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**Section 6.07 Stay**

An appeal shall stay all proceedings in furtherance of the action appealed unless the Zoning Administrator certifies to the ZBA after notice of appeal has been filed, that by reason of facts stated in the certificate a stay would, in the Administrator's opinion, cause imminent peril to life or property, in which case the proceedings shall not be stayed other than by a restraining order, which may be granted by the ZBA, or, on application, by court of record.

***End of Article 6***

## Article 7 PROCEDURES FOR AMENDMENTS

### **Section 7.01 Purpose**

The purpose of this Article is to establish the procedures for amending this Ordinance, including application requirements and the review of such applications. It is not intended that this Ordinance be amended except to correct an error in the Ordinance, to address changed or changing conditions in a particular area in the Township, to conform with the planned future land use pattern for the Township and changes to other ordinances of the Township, to meet public need for new or additional land uses in areas so contemplated by the Township, or to further protect the environment, neighborhoods, public infrastructure or other public investment in the Township.

### **Section 7.02 Initiation of Amendments**

Proposals for amendments or changes may be initiated by the Township Board on its own motion, by the Planning Commission, or by petition of one (1) or more owners of property to be affected by the proposed amendment. Only the Township Board may amend this Ordinance.

### **Section 7.03 Filing Fee**

The Township Board shall establish by resolution, a fee to be paid in full at the time of receipt of any application to amend this Ordinance. Said fee shall be collected by the Township Clerk.

### **Section 7.04 Procedures**

**A. Application:** A petitioner shall submit fifteen (15) copies of a completed application for ordinance amendment to the Township Clerk on a form established for that purpose, which shall include a detailed description of the proposed amendment including the name and address of the applicant and the desired change(s) and reason(s) for such change(s).

1. When the petition involves a change in the Zoning Map, an application shall be submitted for each parcel of land which is not contiguous to any adjacent parcel of land being proposed for the same amendment, and the applicant shall also submit the following information:
  - a. A legal description of the property and its street address.
  - b. A scaled map of the property, correlated with the legal description, and clearly showing the property's location.
  - c. The applicant's name and address and interest in the property, and if the applicant is not the owner, the name and address of the owner.
  - d. The existing and desired zoning classification of the property.
  - e. A vicinity map showing the location of the property in relation to nearby roads, parcels, and land uses, and the existing zoning classification of such parcels.
  - f. Signature(s) of petitioner(s) and owner(s) certifying the accuracy of the required information.
2. When the petition involves a change in the text of the Zoning Ordinance, the applicant shall submit a detailed statement addressing the specific amendments proposed, by Ordinance section number, and the reasons for such proposed amendments.

The Township Clerk shall forward the applications to the Planning Commission and Township Board.

### **B. Planning Commission Action (eff. 12/27/2018)**

1. **Review for Completeness:** The Planning Commission shall review the application form and supporting materials. Any application not properly filed or complete shall be returned to the applicant.
2. **Public Hearing:** Upon finding that the application is complete, the Planning Commission shall establish a date for at least one (1) public hearing on the application and hold such hearing. The Planning Commission shall give notice of the public hearing in the following manner:
  - a. By one (1) publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township, printed not less than fifteen (15) days before the date of the hearing.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

- b. For any proposed amendment to the Zoning Map affecting an individual property or several adjacent properties, written notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be delivered by mail, or personally, to the owner or owners of the property in question, to all persons to whom any real property within three hundred (300) feet of the premises in question is assessed, and to the occupants of single and two family dwellings within three hundred (300) feet of the premises in question. The notice shall be delivered at the address given in the last assessment roll. If the tenant's name is not known, the term "occupant" may be used. The notice shall be made not less than fifteen (15) days before the hearing. Requirements of written notice to property owners shall not apply to comprehensive revisions to the Zoning Ordinance.
  - c. Written notice of the time and place of the hearing shall also be provided not less than fifteen (15) days before the hearing to each electric, gas, pipeline, and telephone public utility company who registers its name and mailing address with the Planning Commission for the purpose of receiving the notice.
  - d. All notices shall also include the places and times at which the tentative text and any maps of the Zoning Ordinance may be examined.
  - e. An affidavit of all mailings shall be maintained.
3. Planning Commission Review: In reviewing any application for an amendment to this Ordinance, the Planning Commission shall identify and evaluate all factors relevant to the application. Findings of fact shall be gathered and shall be made a part of the public records of the meetings of the Planning Commission.
- a. If the petition involves an amendment to the Zoning Map, matters to be considered by the Planning Commission shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:
    - 1) What, if any, identifiable conditions related to the application have changed which justify the proposed amendment?
    - 2) What are the precedents and the possible effects of such precedent which might result from the approval or denial of the petition?
    - 3) What is the impact of the amendment on the ability of the Township and other governmental agencies to provide adequate public services and facilities, and/or programs that might reasonably be required in the future if the proposed amendment is adopted?
    - 4) Would approval adversely affect environmental conditions?
    - 5) Would approval adversely affect the value of surrounding properties?
    - 6) Is the site's physical, geological, hydrological and other environmental features compatible with the host of uses permitted in the proposed district?
    - 7) Is the subject property able to be put to a reasonable economic use in the zoning district in which it is presently located?
    - 8) Does the petition generally comply with the adopted planning goals and policies of the Township and other impacted governmental bodies?
    - 9) Is the proposed rezoning consistent with the zoning classification of surrounding land?
    - 10) Can all requirements in the proposed zoning classification be complied with on the subject parcel?
  - b. If the petition involves an amendment to the text of the Ordinance, matters to be considered by the Planning Commission shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:
    - 1) Is the proposed amendment supported by documentation, such as from the ZBA, that the proposed amendment would minimize problems or conflicts with specific sections of the Ordinance?
    - 2) Is the proposed amendment supported by reference materials, planning and zoning publications, information gained at seminars or experiences of other communities to more effectively deal with certain zoning issues?
    - 3) Is the proposed amendment supported by significant case law?
  - c. In determining the above mentioned findings of fact, the Planning Commission may solicit information and testimony from, but not limited to, the County Health Department, County Road Commission, County Drain Commission, County Sheriff Department, any school district affected, County Planning Department, and planning and/or engineering consultants.
4. Planning Commission Recommendation: The Planning Commission shall transmit its findings of fact, recommendations for disposition of the application, and a summary of comments received at the public hearing to the Township Board. The Planning Commission shall simultaneously transmit its recommendations for disposition of the application to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners or other designated County office if the county has chosen to exercise its authority to comment on such amendments. If the County has exercised such authority, the County shall notify the Township Clerk of its disapproval with the proposed amendment within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Planning Commission's recommendation, or approval of the proposed amendment shall be conclusively presumed.

**Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**C. Township Board Actions**

1. After receiving and reviewing the findings and recommendations of the Township Planning Commission, and the recommendations of the County if so submitted, the Township Board at any regular meeting or at any special meeting called for that purpose, shall consider said findings of fact and recommendations and vote upon the adoption of the proposed amendment. Such action shall be by Ordinance, requiring a majority vote of the Township Board.
  - a. The Township Board may hold additional public hearings if the Township Board considers it necessary. Notice of a public hearing held by the Township Board shall be published in a newspaper which circulates in the township. The notice shall be published not more than fifteen (15) days nor less than five (5) days before the hearing.
2. The Township Board shall not deviate from the recommendation of the Township Planning Commission without first referring the application back to the Township Planning Commission to make further recommendation to the Township Board, after which the Township Board shall take such action as it determines. In the event that the Township Board refers an application back to the Planning Commission, the Township Board shall make specific mention of its objections to results of the Planning Commission's findings and recommendations and the date by which the Planning Commission is to resubmit its report.
  - a. After receiving the report specified in (C)(2) above, the Township Board shall grant a hearing on the proposed amendment to any property owner who has filed a written request to be heard. This written request shall take the form of a certified mail letter from the property owner to the Township Clerk. The Planning Commission shall be requested to attend the hearing, which may be held at a regular meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose.

**D. Publication Of Notice Of Ordinance Amendments:** Following adoption of subsequent amendments to this Ordinance by the Township Board, one (1) notice of adoption shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township within fifteen (15) days after adoption. The notice shall include the following information:

1. Either a summary of the regulatory effect of the amendment including the geographic area affected, or the text of the amendment.
2. The effective date of the amended Ordinance.
3. The place and time where a copy of the amended Ordinance may be purchased or inspected.

**Section 7.05 Reapplication**

No application for an amendment which has been denied by the Township Board shall be resubmitted for a period of one (1) year from the date of the last denial, except on grounds of newly-discovered evidence or proof of changed conditions, found upon inspection by the Township Board to be valid and have direct bearing on the proposed amendment.

**Section 7.06 Comprehensive Review Of Zoning Ordinance**

The Planning Commission shall, from time to time, examine the provisions of this Ordinance and the location of zoning district boundary lines and shall submit a report to the Township Board recommending changes and amendments, if any, which are deemed to be desirable in the interest of public health, safety and general welfare.

**Section 7.07 Court Decree**

Any amendment for the purpose of conforming a provision of this Ordinance to the decree of a court of competent jurisdiction as to any specific lands may be adopted by the township board and the notice of the adopted amendment published without referring the amendment to any other board or agency.

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

***End of Article 7***

**Article 8**  
***(Reserved For Future Use)***

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*



***End of Article 8***

SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

**Article 9**  
**ZONING DISTRICTS, REGULATIONS, and MAP**

**Section 9.01 Establishment of Districts**

For the purpose of this Ordinance, the Township is hereby divided into the following zoning districts, which shall be known by the following respective symbols and names, and shall have boundaries as delineated on the Official Zoning Map.

Agriculture Districts

A-1 General Agriculture District

Conservation Districts

RC Resource Conservation District

Residential Districts

R-1 Low Density Residential District  
R-2 Medium Density Residential District  
R-3 High Density Residential District  
R-MF Multiple Family Residential District  
R-MHC Manufactured Housing Community District

Commercial Districts

C-1 Retail Commercial District  
C-2 Office Commercial District

Industrial Districts

I-1 Light Industrial District

Special Districts

PUD Planned Unit Development District (See Article 11)

**Section 9.02 Purposes of Zoning Districts**

See Table 9-1.

**Section 9.03 Zoning District Map**

**A.** The boundaries of the respective Districts enumerated in Section 9.01 are defined and established as depicted on the Official Zoning Map entitled SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING MAP which is an integral part of this Ordinance. This map, with all notations and explanatory matter thereon, shall be published as part of this Ordinance as if fully described herein.

**B.** This Official Zoning Map shall be identified by the signature of the Township Supervisor, attested by the Township Clerk, and bearing the following: *This is to certify that this is the Official Zoning Map of the Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance adopted on the 3rd day of August, 2006.* If, in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance, changes are made in district boundaries or other matter portrayed on the Official Zoning Map, such changes shall be made on the Official Zoning Map.

**C.** The Official Zoning Map shall be held by the Township Clerk and shall be the final authority with regard to the current zoning status of all land in the Township, along with supporting minutes of Township Board meetings regarding zoning district changes, regardless of the existence of copies of the Official Zoning Map which may be made and published from time to time.

**D.** In the event that the Official Zoning Map becomes damaged, destroyed, lost or difficult to interpret because of the nature or number of changes made thereto, the Township Board may, by Ordinance, adopt a new Official Zoning Map which shall supersede the prior Official Zoning Map. The Official Zoning Map shall be identified by the signature of the Township Supervisor, attested by the Township Clerk, and bear the following words: *This is to certify that this is the Official Zoning Map of the Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance adopted on the 3rd day of August, 2006 and replaces and supersedes the Official Zoning Map which was adopted on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of July 1991 and any amendments made thereon.* Unless the prior Official Zoning Map has been lost, or has been totally destroyed, the prior map or any significant parts thereof remaining, shall be preserved together with all available records pertaining to its adoption or amendment.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

### **Section 9.04 Interpretation Of District Boundaries**

A. Where, due to the scale, lack of details, or illegibility of the Official Zoning Map, there is an uncertainty, contradiction, or conflict as to the intended location of any zoning district boundaries shown thereon, interpretation concerning the exact location of district boundary lines shall be determined, upon written application, to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). The ZBA, in arriving at a decision on such matters, shall apply the following standards:

1. Boundaries indicated as approximately following roads or highways shall be construed as following the right-of-way center lines of said roads or highways.
2. Boundaries indicated as approximately following section lines, quarter section lines, quarter-quarter section lines, or lot lines shall be construed as following such lines.
3. Boundaries indicated as approximately following Township boundary lines shall be construed as following such boundary lines.
4. Whenever any fill is placed in any lake or stream, the land thus created shall automatically and without further governmental action thenceforth acquire and be subject to the same zoning regulations as are applicable for lands to which the same shall attach or be adjacent.
5. Boundaries indicated as approximately parallel to the center lines of streets or highways shall be construed as being parallel thereto and at such distance therefrom as indicated on the Official Zoning Map. If no distance is given, such dimension shall be determined by the use of the scale shown on the Official Zoning Map.
6. Boundaries following the shoreline of a stream, lake, or other body of water shall be construed to follow such shorelines, and in the event of change in the shorelines shall be construed as moving with the actual shorelines; boundaries indicated as approximately following the thread of streams, canals, or other bodies of water shall be construed to follow such threads.
7. Where the application of the aforesaid rules leaves a reasonable doubt as to the boundaries between two (2) Districts, the regulations of the more restrictive District shall govern.

### **Section 9.05 Compliance with Zoning Regulations**

Except as may otherwise be provided in this Ordinance, every building and structure erected, every use of any lot, building, or structure established, every structural alteration or relocation of an existing building or structure occurring, and every enlargement of, or addition to an existing use, building and structure occurring after the effective date of this Ordinance shall be subject to all regulations of this Ordinance which are applicable in the Zoning District in which such use, building, or structure shall be located.

### **Section 9.06 Use Regulations of Zoning Districts**

A. Table 9-2 and 9-3 identifies the principal land uses permitted in each of the zoning districts enumerated in Section 9.01. No use of land shall occur except in conformance with Table 9-2 and 9-3. In order to insure all possible benefits and protection for the zoning districts in this Ordinance, the Table delineates whether a land use permitted in a particular Zoning District is a "Use Permitted by Right" or a "Special Land Use".

1. Uses Permitted by Right: Uses permitted by right are the primary uses and structures specified for which the District has been established. Site Plan or Plot Plan approval is required for such uses (see Article 4).
2. Special Land Uses: Special land uses are uses and structures which have been generally accepted as reasonably compatible with the primary uses and structures within the District, but could present potential injurious effects upon the primary uses and structures within the District or are otherwise unique in character, and therefore require special consideration in relation to the welfare of adjacent properties and to the Township as a whole. All such proposed uses shall be subject to the application review procedures of Article 5, including a public hearing, and Site Plan approval according to Article 4.
3. Accessory Uses: Unless otherwise specified in this Ordinance, accessory uses which are clearly incidental to, and customarily associated with the principal use of the property are permitted in all Districts and shall conform to all applicable standards of this Ordinance, including Section 20.17.
4. Prohibited Uses: Any use of land not specifically authorized by this Ordinance is prohibited. The ZBA shall have the power to classify a use which is not specifically identified, according to a comparable permitted or prohibited use, for the purpose of clarifying the use regulations in any District, if so petitioned and in accord with the requirements of Sections 6.05(B)(3) and 6.06. If the ZBA finds no comparable uses based on an examination of the characteristics of the proposed use, it shall so state and the Planning Commission may be petitioned to initiate an amendment to the text of the Ordinance to establish the appropriate District(s) and/or type of use (use permitted by right or special land use), and

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

criteria that will apply for that use. If the Ordinance is amended to include the new regulations, then an application can be processed to establish that use.

### **Section 9.07 Site Development Requirements of Zoning Districts**

**A.** All land uses shall comply with the site development requirements in Table 9-4, unless specified or authorized otherwise by this Ordinance including Article 5 – Procedures for Special Land Uses and Article 20 – General Provisions. In addition, all uses shall comply with all other applicable site development provisions of this Ordinance including, but not limited to:

1. Article 15: Signs
2. Article 16: Off-Street Parking and Loading
3. Article 17: Landscaping and Screening
4. Article 18: Environmental Standards
5. Article 20: General Provisions

**B.** Variances from required site development standards may be granted by the ZBA according to Section 6.05(C). Owners of nonconforming lots of record, structures, or uses should refer to Article 14.

**C.** No part of a setback area, yard, or other open space required about or in connection with any use, building or structure, for the purpose of complying with this Ordinance, shall be included as part of a setback area, yard, or other open space similarly required for any other use, building or structure.

**D.** No setback area or lot existing at the time of adoption of this Ordinance shall be reduced in dimensions or area below the minimum requirements set forth herein. Yards or lots created after the effective date of this Ordinance shall meet at least the minimum requirements established herein, including lot size and lot width.

**E.** No portion of one lot, once established and/or improved with a building or structure, shall be used in the creation of another lot unless each lot resulting from each such reduction, division, or sale, shall conform with all of the requirements established herein.

### **Section 9.08 Special Provisions for Specified Districts**

#### **A. Manufactured Housing Community District**

1. Pursuant to Section 11 of Public Act 96 of 1987, as amended, the Michigan Mobile Home Commission Act, a preliminary plan shall be submitted to the Township for review by the Planning Commission. The preliminary plan shall include the location, layout, general design, and general description of the project. The preliminary plan shall not include detailed construction plans. In preparing the preliminary plan and when reviewing the plan, the developer and Planning Commission shall generally follow the procedures of P.A. 96 of 1987, as amended, or the Manufactured Housing Commission Rules. Pursuant to such Act, the Planning Commission shall take action on the preliminary plan within 60 days after the Township receives the preliminary plan.
2. The construction of a manufactured home community shall not be initiated, nor shall a mobile home community be inhabited or operated until all necessary permits have been acquired from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services, and all other agencies pursuant to the Mobile Home Commission Act.
3. All manufactured home communities shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with P.A. 96 of 1987, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated by the Manufactured Housing Commission pursuant to the authority vested in the Manufactured Housing Commission by such Act, including applicable standards and provisions regarding but not limited to road design, setbacks, parking spaces, and dedicated open spaces, and shall comply with the following additional standard:
  - a. Minimum Parcel Size: A minimum of ten (10) acres shall be required for the development of a manufactured home community.
  - b. Minimum Site Size: The manufactured home community shall be developed with sites averaging 5,500 square feet per manufactured home unit. This 5,500 square foot standard for any site may be reduced by twenty (20) percent provided that the individual site shall be equal to at least 4,400 square feet. For each square foot of land gained through the reduction of a site below 5,500 square feet, at least an equal amount of land shall be dedicated as open space.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

### B. Resource Conservation District Natural Feature Setback

1. Intent and Purpose: It is the intent of this subsection (B) to require a minimum setback from natural features, and to regulate property within such setback in order to prevent physical harm, impairment and/or destruction of or to a natural feature. It has been determined that, in the absence of such a minimum setback, intrusions in or onto natural features would occur, resulting in harm, impairment and/or destruction of natural features contrary to the public health, safety and general welfare. It is the purpose of this subsection (B) to establish and preserve minimum setback from natural features in order to recognize and protect the special interrelationship and interdependency between the natural feature and the setback area. Components of the interrelationship which this section is intended to protect include: (1) the spatial relationship; (2) interdependency in terms of physical location, plant species, animal species and encouragement of diversity and richness of plant and animal species; (3) overland and subsurface hydrology; (4) water table; (5) water quality; (6) prevention of erosion or sediment deposition.
2. Regulation: A natural feature setback shall be maintained in relation to all areas defined in this ordinance as being a "natural feature," unless and to the extent, it is determined to be in the public interest not to maintain such setback, in accordance with the standards set forth in this subsection (B).
3. Definitions: For the purposes of this subsection (B), the following terms and phrases shall have the following meaning:
  - a. NATURAL FEATURE shall mean, for the purposes of establishing setback standards in this Ordinance, a protected wetland, watercourse or steep slope as defined below.
  - b. PROTECTED WETLANDS shall mean any of the following:
    - 1) All wetlands subject to regulation by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) including:
      - a) Wetlands, regardless of size, which are contiguous to any lake, stream, river, or pond whether partially or entirely contained within the project site.
      - b) Wetlands, regardless of size, which are partially or entirely within five hundred (500') feet of the ordinary high water mark of any lake, stream, river or pond unless it is determined by the MDEQ that there is no surface water or groundwater connection between the wetland and the water body.
      - c) Wetlands which are larger than five (5) acres, whether partially or entirely contained within the project site, and which are not contiguous to any lake, stream, river, or pond.
      - d) Wetlands, regardless of size, which are not contiguous to any lake, stream, river, or pond, if the MDEQ determines the protection of the wetland is essential to the preservation of the natural resources of the state from pollution, impairment or destruction.
    - 2) All wetlands subject to regulation by the Township including:
      - a) Wetlands two (2) to five (5) acres in size, whether partially or entirely contained within the site of proposed alteration, which are not contiguous to any lake stream, river or pond.
      - b) Wetlands smaller than two (2) acres in size which are not contiguous to any lake, stream, river or pond and are determined to be essential to the preservation of the natural resources of the Township
  - c. STEEP SLOPE shall mean a rise of 25 or more feet over a distance of 100 feet.
  - d. WATERCOURSE shall mean any waterway including a river, stream, lake, pond or any body of surface water having definite banks, a bed and visible evidence of a continued flow or continued occurrence of water. A watercourse may or may not be serving as a drain as defined by Act 40 of the Public Acts of 1956, as amended.
  - e. WETLAND shall mean land characterized by the presence of water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, wetland vegetation or aquatic life, and is commonly referred to as a bog, swamp or marsh.
4. Authorization and Prohibition
  - a. The natural feature setback shall be determined in accordance with the standards and provision in subsection (5), in relation to the respective types of natural features. The applicant requesting approval is responsible for determining whether natural features, as defined above, exist on the site and determining the boundaries of such natural features. This determination can be made by outside professional consultants retained by the applicant. Sources of information on natural features within Sharon Township include, but are not limited to, the Township Wetland Map, Washtenaw County Planning Commission Fragile Lands Study Maps and Washtenaw County Soil Maps. Township staff and Planning Commission will confirm these determinations during the review process.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

- b. The individual or body responsible for building permit or site plan approval shall determine the appropriate natural feature setbacks, in accordance with subsection (5) below, whenever a plan is submitted to develop property or undertake an operation in, on or adjacent to a natural feature.
  - c. Within an established natural feature setback there shall be no: construction; deposit of any material, including structures; removal of any soils, minerals and/or vegetation; dredging, filling or land balancing; constructing or undertaking seasonal or permanent operations; except as authorized pursuant to subsection (6) below.
5. Setback Standards: The following setbacks shall apply:
- a. A twenty-five (25) foot vegetated strip setback from the boundary or edge of a protected wetland, as defined and regulated in the Township Wetland Ordinance and as shown on the Township Wetland Map.
  - b. A twenty-five (25) foot vegetated strip setback from the highwater mark of any watercourse.
  - c. A one-hundred (100) foot building and construction setback from the highwater mark of any watercourse or outside of the 100 year floodplain, whichever is greater.
  - d. Construction and building activity shall be outside of any area with steep slopes or highly erodable soils, as defined by Washtenaw County Soil Maps.
6. Natural Features Setback Use Permit
- a. Under certain conditions defined below a natural features setback use permit may be authorized by the Planning Commission to allow limited construction, activity, use or operations within the natural feature setback.
  - b. Application for a natural feature setback use permit shall be made by filing an application form approved by the Township Board with the required information and the required fee with the Township Clerk. The fee shall be set by resolution of the Sharon Township Board. No part of such fee shall be returnable to the applicant. The Clerk shall transmit a copy of the application form and the required information to the Zoning Administrator and Chairperson of the Planning Commission within five (5) days of the filing date. The Zoning Administrator will determine within the following five (5) days the completeness of the application and shall inform the applicant of any additional information required to begin the process.
  - c. An application for a natural features setback use permit shall contain the following information:
    - 1) The applicant's name, address and telephone number.
    - 2) The names and addresses of all owners of record and proof of ownership.
    - 3) The applicant's interest in the property, and if the applicant is not the fee-simple owner, the owner's signed authorization for the application.
    - 4) Legal description, address and tax parcel number of the property.
    - 5) A scaled and accurate survey drawing, correlated with the legal description, and showing all existing buildings, drives and other improvements.
    - 6) A detailed description of the proposed use.
    - 7) A site plan, meeting the requirements of a preliminary site plan, as set forth in Section 4.04(B), herein.
  - d. In determining whether to grant a natural features setback use permit the Township Planning Commission shall determine if the proposed construction or operations are in the public interest. The benefit which would reasonably be expected to accrue from the proposal shall be balanced against the reasonably foreseeable detriments of the construction or other operation, taking into consideration the local, state and national concern for the protection and preservation of the natural feature in question. The following general criteria shall be applied in undertaking this determination:
    - 1) The relative extent of the public and private need for the proposed activity.
    - 2) The availability of feasible and prudent alternative locations and methods to accomplish the expected benefits from the activity.
    - 3) The extent and permanence of the beneficial or detrimental effects which the proposed activity may have on the public and private use to which the area is suited, including the benefits the natural feature and/or natural feature setback provides.
    - 4) The probable impact of each proposal in relation to the cumulative effect created by other existing and anticipated activities in the watershed.
    - 5) The probable impact on recognized historic, cultural, scenic, ecological, or recreational values, and on fish, wildlife and the public health.
    - 6) The size and quantity of the natural feature setback being considered.
    - 7) The amount and quantity of the remaining natural feature setback.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

- 8) Proximity of the proposed construction and/or operation in relation to the natural feature, taking into consideration the degree of slope, general topography in the area, soil type and the nature of the natural feature to be protected.
  - 9) Economic value, both public and private, of the proposed construction and/or operation, and economic value, both public and private, if the proposed construction and/or operation were not permitted.
  - 10) The necessity for the proposed construction and/or operation.
7. Conditions of Approval
- a. All operations permitted or approved by natural features setback use permits shall be conducted in such a manner as will cause the least possible damage and encroachment or interference within the natural feature setback and with the natural resources and natural processes within the watercourses and wetland areas in the Township as defined in this section.
  - b. The Township Planning Commission in granting authorization to conduct an activity within a natural feature setback, may:
    - 1) Impose such conditions in the manner and extent of the proposed operation/development use or structure or use activity as are necessary to ensure that the intent of this subsection (B) is carried out;
    - 2) Fix a reasonable time for the undertaking and completion of all operations; and
    - 3) Require a cash bond or irrevocable letter of credit, in such form and amount as determined necessary by the Planning Commission to ensure compliance with the use permit.
  - c. The review and approval of an application to conduct an activity within a natural feature setback may be done concurrently with the review and approval of site plans, subdivision plats, site condominiums, or Planned Unit Development. Use permits approved under this subsection (B) shall expire within twenty-four (24) months of approval of said permit by the Planning Commission, the date of issuance of such permit notwithstanding.
  - d. Prior to commencement of work on the site and continuing throughout the duration of the project, a copy of the approved use permit which contains the conditions of issuance shall be posted on the site in a conspicuous manner such that the wording of said permit will be available for public inspection.
  - e. Use permits for seasonal operations need not be renewed annually unless otherwise stated in the permit.
  - f. Any change which increases the size, scope, use or hours of operation shall be considered as a new operation and shall require the filing of a new use permit application.
  - g. Any temporary or permanent operation which is discontinued for two (2) years or any seasonal operation which is discontinued for two (2) seasons shall be considered terminated and the use permit automatically voided.
  - h. A natural features setback use permit shall be obtained prior to the issuance of any building permits necessary for construction.
8. Appeal of Approval or Denial: A decision on an application regarding a use permit application under this subsection (B) may be appealed only to the Sharon Township Board provided such appeal is received in writing by the Township Clerk within twenty-one (21) days of such decision.

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**Table 9-1  
PURPOSES of ZONING DISTRICTS**

DISTRICTS	PURPOSE
<b>ALL DISTRICTS</b>	It is the purpose of all Districts to protect environmental resources that may be part of a development site, and that all uses be adequately served by facilities and services including sewage disposal, potable water, fire protection, and roads, and recognize natural constraints where public sewer and water is not present.
<b>AGRI-CULTURE DISTRICT</b>	The <b><i>A-1 (General Agriculture) District</i></b> is to encourage and provide opportunities for agriculture and retention of land in Sharon Township which is well suited for production of food and fiber, while also providing opportunities for comparatively low density rural residential lifestyles and development patterns that encourage the preservation of open spaces, agricultural and other natural resources, and the Township's rural character. The District boundaries include land that supports farming operations due to, in part, soil and topographic conditions, the extent of and proximity of nonfarm development, and/or typical parcel sizes. Persons considering residing within this district should be aware that hunting and associated gun fire, and the traditional smells, noises, soil and plant applications, and other generally recognized agricultural activities associated with responsible farming, will continue on a long term basis in this District. This District is intended to provide the basis for land tax assessments which reflect its existing agricultural nature and owing to these regulations, its limited use for other purposes.
<b>RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT</b>	The <b><i>RC (Resource Conservation) District</i></b> is to protect special and important natural resources, the enjoyment and protection of which is of great public interest to Sharon Township and the State of Michigan. The majority of lands within this District are characterized by wetlands, woodlands, steep-sloped areas and/or floodplain environments. Together, these resources are critical in providing for wildlife habitat, water and air purification, flood control, and recreation opportunities including hunting, and support the overall rural character of the Township. In addition, some of these resources present severe limitations to development. It is the intent of this District to limit the introduction of land uses and development densities that will negatively affect the intent, quantity, quality and value of the resources contained within or otherwise be inappropriate due to the physical limitations of the District.
<b>RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS</b>	The <b><i>R-1 (Low Density Residential) District</i></b> is to provide opportunities for comparatively low density single family residential development patterns often associated with rural and suburban lifestyles, and to assure that the such development provides a stable and sound residential environment with suitable open spaces.
	The <b><i>R-2 (Medium Density Residential) District</i></b> is to provide opportunities for residential development patterns and lifestyles of somewhat greater densities than the R-1 District and often associated with suburban lifestyles, including both single family and two-family dwellings, and to assure that such development provides a stable and sound residential environment with suitable open spaces.
	The <b><i>R-3 (High Density Residential) District</i></b> is to provide opportunities for single family and two-family residential development patterns and lifestyles of a more urban character than the R-2 District, and to assure that such residential development provides a stable and sound residential environment with suitable open spaces. In light of the comparatively small lot sizes authorized in this District, this District is not intended to be established except upon evidence of public sewer availability, or to recognize such land division patterns already in existence.
	The <b><i>R-MF (Multiple Family Residential) District</i></b> is to provide alternative urban housing opportunities in the form of multiple family dwellings, and that such development provides a stable and sound residential environment with suitable open spaces. In light of the development densities associated with multiple family developments authorized by this District, this District is not intended to be established except upon evidence of public sewer availability.
	The <b><i>R-MHC (Manufactured Housing Community) District</i></b> is to provide opportunities for the development of a manufactured housing community to meet the varied housing needs of the Township's present and future residents while similarly limiting excessive public costs and demands placed on public facilities and services which may be associated with such housing developments. The regulations established by the Mobile Home Commission Act (Michigan Public Act 96 of 1987, as amended) and the Manufactured Housing Commission Rules govern all manufactured home communities and shall apply to a manufactured home community in the Township. In light of the comparative speed at which a manufactured home community can be constructed and the resulting rapid increased demands on public infrastructure and community services, it is the intent that this District be established only where development of such acreage will not outpace the Township's ability to effectively manage and accommodate these demands while preserving the current quality of life and local identity of the Township.



**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

*(Table 9-1 Continued)*

DISTRICTS	PURPOSE
<p align="center"><b>COMMER- CIAL DISTRICTS</b></p>	<p>The <b><i>C-1 (Retail Commercial) District</i></b> is primarily intended to provide opportunities for business establishments that address the day-to-day retail needs of local residents and visitors. Development must assure safe vehicular and pedestrian traffic within the project and along the public roads that it relies upon for access. This District is intended to accommodate commercial development in a manner that encourages the preservation of the community's rural character through appropriate architectural design and building scale, building materials, signage, landscaping, buffering, open spaces and lighting. This District is not generally intended to address the retail needs of the regional population or otherwise provide comparison shopping opportunities.</p> <p>The <b><i>C-2 (Office Commercial) District</i></b> is primarily intended to provide opportunities for business establishments that predominantly address office-service needs. Development must assure safe vehicular and pedestrian traffic within the project and along the roads that it relies upon for access. This District is intended to accommodate commercial development in a manner that encourages the preservation of the community's rural character through appropriate architectural design and building scale, building materials, signage, landscaping, buffering, open spaces and lighting. This District is not intended to address the retail needs of the regional population or otherwise provide comparison shopping opportunities.</p>
<p align="center"><b>INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS</b></p>	<p>The <b><i>I-1 (Light Industrial) District</i></b> is primarily intended to provide for a variety of manufacturing and other industrial uses that can be generally characterized as being of low intensity with the absence of objectionable external affects such as noise, fumes, vibrations, odors and traffic patterns, and which are characterized by activities and operations which are typically contained wholly within enclosed structures and buildings. Manufacturing uses are intended to be generally limited to those operations primarily involved in the making of products from previously prepared materials, rather than reliance on raw materials. This District is intended to accommodate industrial development in a manner that encourages the preservation of the community's rural character through appropriate architectural design and building scale, building materials, signage, landscaping, buffering, open spaces and lighting.</p>
<p align="center"><b>OTHER DISTRICTS</b></p>	<p>See Section 11.01, PUD (Planned Unit Development) District.</p>

***End of Table 9-1***

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**Table 9-2  
PERMITTED PRINCIPAL USES  
in GENERAL AGRICULTURE, RESOURCE CONSERVATION,  
and RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS**

“BR” = Use Permitted by Right; “S” = Special Land Use; “-” = Prohibited Use  
(See Section 9.06 for clarification of Uses Permitted by Right and Special Land Uses)

*Footnotes at End of this Table*

PRINCIPAL USES		ZONING DISTRICTS & PERMITTED PRINCIPAL USES <sup>1</sup>						
		A-1	RC	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-MF	R-MHC
<b>Uses of a Primarily Agricultural, Outdoor Recreation, or Natural Resource Based Character</b>								
1	Agriculture.	BR	BR	-	-	-	-	-
2	Agricultural service establishment.	S	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Greenhouses and sales of ornamental trees, shrubs, and nursery and greenhouse stock, provided such materials are grown on the premise.	S	S	-	-	-	-	-
4	Hunt clubs, outdoor shooting ranges, and campgrounds.	S	S	-	-	-	-	-
5	Public or private conservation areas, areas set aside for the protection of wildlife and natural resources, wildlife management areas, nature preserves, game refuges, and similar uses.	BR	BR	-	-	-	-	-
6	Golf courses, country clubs and driving ranges.	S	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Retreat center.	S	S	-	-	-	-	-
8	Mineral extraction, pursuant to Sharon Township Mineral Extraction Ordinance, Chapter IV, Article 2 of the Sharon Township Code of Ordinances. (amended/eff. 11/25/2020)	S	S	-	-	-	-	-
9	Recreational Facility.	S	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Seasonal Agriculture Labor Housing (Sleeping areas for 5 or fewer individuals)	BR	BR					
11	Seasonal Agriculture Labor Housing (Sleeping areas for 6 or more individuals)	S	S					
<b>Uses of a Primarily Residential Character</b>								
1	Single family dwellings.	BR	BR	BR	BR	BR	-	-
2	Two family dwellings.	-	-	-	BR	BR	-	-
3	Day care, family home.	BR	BR	BR	BR	BR	-	-
4	Day care, group home.	S	S	S	S	S	-	-
5	Foster care facility, family home.	BR	BR	BR	BR	BR	-	-
6	Foster care facility, group home.	S	S	S	S	S	-	-
7	Nursing home.	S	-	S	S	S	S	-
8	Multiple family dwelling.	-	-	-	-	-	BR	-
9	Manufactured housing community.	-	-	-	-	-	-	BR
10	Open space community (OSC)	S	S	S	S	S	-	-
<b>Uses of a Primarily Commercial Character <sup>1</sup></b>								
1	Funeral homes and mortuaries.	S	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Day care center.	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
3	Hospitals and medical clinics.	S	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Kennels, Commercial/Sport	S	S	-	-	-	-	-
5	Commercial stables.	BR	BR	-	-	-	-	-
6	Veterinarian clinics.	S	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Communication towers, Class 1.	S	S	-	-	-	-	S
8	Communication towers, Class 2. (See Footnote 2) amended/eff. 7/28/07)	BR	BR	BR	BR	BR	BR	BR
9	Bed and breakfast establishments.	S	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Landscaping businesses.	S	-	-	-	-	-	-

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

See Footnotes at End of this Table      (Table 9-2 Continued on Next Page)

(Table 9-2 Continued)

<b>Uses of a Primarily Industrial Character <sup>1</sup></b>		<b>A-1</b>	<b>RC</b>	<b>R-1</b>	<b>R-2</b>	<b>R-3</b>	<b>R-MF</b>	<b>R-MHC</b>
1	Commercial Wind Energy Conversion System	S	S	-	-	-	-	-
2	Agricultural Commercial Kitchen	S	S					
3	Agricultural Processing and Food Storage, subject to Section 20.18	S	S					
4	Small distiller, micro-brewery, small wine maker	S	S					
5	Large Solar Energy System	S	S					

<b>PRINCIPAL USES</b>		<b>ZONING DISTRICTS &amp; PERMITTED PRINCIPAL USES <sup>1</sup></b>						
		<b>A-1</b>	<b>RC</b>	<b>R-1</b>	<b>R-2</b>	<b>R-3</b>	<b>R-MF</b>	<b>R-MHC</b>
<b>Other Uses not Listed Above</b>								
1	Public assembly facilities such as, but not limited to, cemeteries, parks, schools, libraries, religious facilities, and museums.	S	S	S	S	S	-	-
2	Utility substations, jails, and public parking lots.	S	-	S	S	S	S	S
3	Public facilities not otherwise included in (1) and (2) above such as, but not limited to, fire stations; police stations; and ambulance stations, whether operated by a governmental body or a contracted service.	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
4	Clubs.	S	-	S	S	S	S	-
5	Utility Substations (amended/eff.11/17/07).	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

Footnotes for Table 9-2

1. Irrespective of the particular labeling of a cell in this table, the following uses are classified as a Special Land Use and subject to the provisions of Article 5, Special Land Use Procedures and Standards:
  - a. Any use that has a principal function or principal operational characteristic of the storage and/or sale of toxic or explosive material including, but not limited to, the storage and/or sale of fuels, pesticides, fertilizers, and fireworks.
  - b. Any non-residential use that exceeds a gross floor area of 4,000 sq. ft.
  - c. Any use that requires the extraction of water located below the surface of the earth contained in pervious soils and rock strata, including springs, in excess of 5,000 gallons annually, for irrigation, sale, fire suppression, animal or human waste handling and/or any other commercial use.
2. Communication towers, Class 2 – This use requires an application and approval by the Zoning Administrator (amended/eff. 7/28/07).

**End of Table 9-2**

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**Table 9-3**  
**PERMITTED PRINCIPAL USES**  
**in COMMERCIAL and INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS**

“**BR**” = Use Permitted by Right; “**S**” = Special Land Use; “**-**” = Prohibited Use  
 (See Section 9.06 for clarification of Uses Permitted by Right and Special Land Uses.)

*Footnotes at End of this Table*

	PRINCIPAL USES	ZONING DISTRICTS & USES PERMITTED <sup>1</sup>		
		C-1	C-2	I-1
	<b>Uses of a Primarily Commercial or Business Character<sup>1</sup></b>			
1	Any generally recognized retail business, excluding adult entertainment facilities, which supplies commodities on the premises within a completely enclosed building including, but not limited to, foods, drugs, liquor, furniture, clothing, dry goods, notions, books, flowers, jewelry or hardware.	<b>BR</b>	<b>BR</b>	-
2	Personal service establishments which perform services on the premises within a completely enclosed building, such as, but not limited to, shoe repair shops, and barber and beauty shops.	<b>BR</b>	<b>BR</b>	-
3	Agricultural service establishments.	S	-	-
4	Day care center.	-	S	-
5	Service station, standard.	S	S	-
6	Service station, multiple use.	S	S	-
7	Vehicle repair shop and Contractor Yards	S	-	S
8	Standard restaurants and other establishments which provide food or drink for consumption by persons seated within a building, but do not serve alcohol or provide entertainment.	<b>BR</b>	-	-
9	Standard restaurants and other establishments which provide food or drink for consumption by persons seated within a building, and may serve alcohol and/or provide entertainment, but excluding adult entertainment businesses.	S	-	-
10	Drive-in, drive-through, take-out, pick-up, and other forms of in-vehicle retail or service establishments including drive-through restaurants, financial institutions, dry cleaning businesses, and similar facilities.	S	-	-
11	Indoor and outdoor commercial recreation such as theaters, bowling alleys, skating rinks, shooting ranges, swimming pools, and arcades.	S	S	-
12	Adult entertainment businesses.	S	-	-
13	Hospitals and medical clinics.	-	S	-
14	Office establishments which perform services on the premises including but not limited to; financial institutions, insurance offices, real estate offices, artist offices and galleries, professional offices for accountants, doctors, lawyers, engineers, and architects, and similar office uses.	-	<b>BR</b>	-
15	Arcade.	S	-	-
16	Open air businesses, limited to sales of vehicles, landscape supplies including plant materials, and lumber.	S	-	-
17	Motels and hotels.	S	S	-
18	Funeral homes and mortuaries.	S	S	-
19	Mini-storage facilities.	-	S	S
20	Veterinarian clinics.	S	-	-
21	Communication towers, Class 1.	S	S	S
22	Communication towers, Class 2. (See Footnote 2) (amended/eff. 7/28/07).	<b>BR</b>	<b>BR</b>	<b>BR</b>
23	Towing Service.	S	-	S

See Footnotes at End of Table.

*(Table 9-3 Continued on Next Page)*

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

(Table 9-3 continued)

	PRINCIPAL USES	ZONING DISTRICTS & USES PERMITTED <sup>1</sup>		
		C-1	C-2	I-1
	<b>Uses of a Primarily Commercial Character<sup>1</sup></b> <b>(Continued)</b>			
24	Offices and showrooms of plumbers, electricians, decorator, or similar trades in connection with which not more than twenty-five (25) percent of the floor area of the building or part of the building occupied by said establishment is used for making, assembling, remodeling, repairing, altering, finishing or refinishing its products or merchandise, and provided that the ground floor premises facing upon, and visible from any abutting street shall be used only for entrances, offices, or display.	S	S	S
25	Sale of new or used cars, farm machinery, and other vehicles and equipment, including items intended for tow, and the service and repair of such vehicles and equipment provided such service and repair is an accessory use.	S	-	-
26	Athletic clubs, physical exercise establishments, health studios, self-defense clubs.	S	S	-
27	Car wash facilities.	S	S	-
28	Photographic studios.	S	S	
29	Dry cleaners.	S	S	-
30	Landscaping businesses.	<b>BR</b>		<b>BR</b>
	<b>Uses of a Primarily Industrial Character <sup>1</sup></b>			
1	Bulk storage and warehousing establishments.	-	-	<b>BR</b>
2	Assembly of electrical appliances, electronic instruments and devices, radios and phonographs, including the manufacture of small parts such as condensers, transformers, crystal holders, and the like.	-	-	<b>BR</b>
3	Building material sales yards, including retail lumber yards and incidental millwork; storage facilities for building materials, sand, gravel, stone, lumber, and contractor's equipment; storage and transfer establishments; distribution plants; and parcel delivery services.	S	-	<b>BR</b>
4	Plastic molding and extrusion, tool and die manufacturing, and monument and art stone production establishments.	-	-	S
5	Junkyards.	-	-	S
6	The manufacturing, compounding, processing, treatment, fabrication or packaging of such products as: drugs, perfumes, pharmaceuticals, toiletries, bakery goods, candy, ceramics, clothing, jewelry, hardware, instruments, optical goods, cutlery and food products (except fish, sauerkraut, vinegar, yeast, rendering or refining of fats and oils, and similar food products involving odors or other offensive impacts),.	-	-	S
7	The manufacturing, compounding, assembling or treatment of articles or merchandise from the following previously prepared materials: bone, cellophane, fur, glass, canvas, cork, felt, hair, horn, leather, paper, plastics, precious or semi-precious metals or stones, shell, textiles, tobacco, wood, sheet metal, wax, and wire. Previously prepared materials are materials that were processed, manufactured or created at another location and shipped to the manufacturers permitted in this district for assembly into new products.	-	-	S

See Footnotes at End of Table.

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

*(Table 9-3 Continued on Next Page)*

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

(Table 9-3 continued)

	PRINCIPAL USES	ZONING DISTRICTS & USES PERMITTED <sup>1</sup>		
		C-1	C-2	I-1
	<b>Other Uses Not Listed Above</b>			
1	Public assembly facilities such as, but not limited to, cemeteries, parks, schools, libraries, religious facilities, and museums.	S	S	S
2	Public facilities not otherwise included in (1) above such as, but not limited to, fire stations, police stations, substations, jails, and public parking lots.	S	S	S
3	Clubs, lodges, and similar social centered organizations.	S	S	–

Footnotes for Table 9-3

- 1 Irrespective of the particular labeling of a cell in this table, the following uses are classified as a Special Land Use and subject to the provisions of Article 5, Procedures for Special Land Use Procedures and Standards:
  - a. Any use that exceeds 4,000 sq. ft. in gross floor area in a Commercial District or 10,000 sq. ft. in gross floor area in an Industrial District .
  - b. Any use that has a principal function or operational characteristic consisting of the storage and/or sale of toxic or explosive material including, but not limited to, the storage and/or sale of fuels, pesticides, fertilizers, and fireworks.
  - c. Any use that requires the extraction of water located below the surface of the earth contained in pervious soils and rock strata, including springs, in excess of 5,000 gallons annually, for irrigation, sale, fire suppression, animal or human waste handling and/or any other commercial use.
2. Communication towers, Class 2 – This use requires an application and approval by the Zoning Administrator (amended/eff. 7/28/07).

***End of Table 9-3***

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**Table 9-4  
SITE DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS (1)**

Zoning District	Minimum Lot Area	Minimum Lot Width & Frontage (2)	Maximum Building Height	Minimum Floor Area Per Dwelling	Maximum Lot Coverage	Minimum Yard Setback		
						Front(3)	Side	Rear
<b>A-1</b>	10 acres	300 ft.	35 ft. (4)	1,000 sq. ft.	10%	75 ft.	50 ft.	50 ft.
<b>RC</b>	10 acres	300 ft.	35 ft. (4)	1,000 sq. ft.	5%	75 ft. (9)	50 ft. (9)	50 ft. (9)
<b>R-1</b>	43,560 sq. ft. (1 acre)	150 ft.	35 ft.	1,000 sq. ft.	15%	50 ft.	10 ft.	35 ft.
<b>R-2</b>	43,560 sq. ft. (1 acre) without public sewer, otherwise 20,000 sq. ft. (5)	150 ft. without public sewer, otherwise 90 ft.	35 ft.	1,000 sq. ft. (6)	15% without public sewer, otherwise 30%	30 ft.	10 ft.	35 ft.
<b>R-3</b>	43,560 sq. ft. (1 acre) without public sewer, otherwise 10,000 sq. ft. (5)	150 ft. without public sewer, otherwise 70 ft.	35 ft.	1,000 sq. ft. (6)	20% without public sewer, otherwise 35%	20 ft.	10 ft.	30 ft.
<b>R-MF</b>	1 acre for the first six dwelling units, plus an additional 2,500 sq. ft. for each additional unit.	100 ft. for six or less dwelling units, otherwise 150 ft.	35 ft. (8a)	See Footnote (8b)	30%	40 ft.	15 ft. (8c)	50 ft.
	See Footnote (8) for additional Multiple Family development standards							
<b>R-MHC</b>	See Section 9.08(A)							
<b>C-1</b>	10,000 sq. ft. with public sewer, otherwise 1 acre.	100 ft. with public sewer, otherwise 150 ft.	35 ft.	NA	30%	35 ft.	10 ft. (7)	10 ft. (7)
<b>C-2</b>	43,560 sq. ft. (1 acre)	150 ft.	35 ft.	NA	30%	35 ft.	20 ft. (7)	20 ft. (7)
<b>I-1</b>	2 acres	200 ft.	35 ft.	NA	30%	50 ft.	20 ft. (7)	50 ft. (7)
<b>I-2</b>	See Section 9.08(B)							

*Footnote Numbers in ( \_\_ ). See Following Page for Footnotes*



**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**Footnotes for Table 9-4**

1. See other Articles of this Ordinance for additional applicable standards.
2. The following additional minimum lot width, lot depth and frontage provisions shall apply:
  - a. The minimum required lot width shall be maintained for the entire lot depth.
  - b. The depth of a lot shall comply with the following:
    - 1) The lot depth shall not be more than four (4) times longer than its width except that, in the case of lots of ten (10) acres or more in size, lot depth shall not be more than four and a quarter (4.25) times longer than its width.
    - 2) The lot depth shall not be less than the minimum required lot width nor shall the lot depth be less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the actual width of the lot.
3. Front yard setback shall be measured from the front lot line. A front yard setback shall be maintained on a corner lot on both sides of the lot that abut a public road. The minimum front yard setback along M-52 shall be 75 feet.
4. The maximum height of farm buildings and structures shall be 75 feet.
5. In the case of two-family dwellings in the R-2 District, the minimum lot area shall be 60,000 sq. ft. without public sewer and 30,000 sq. ft. with public sewer. In the case of two-family dwellings in the R-3 District, the minimum lot area shall be 60,000 sq. ft. without public sewer and 15,000 sq. ft. with public sewer.
6. In the case of two-family dwellings in the R-2 or R-3 District, the minimum floor area for each dwelling unit comprising the two-family structure shall be 800 sq. ft.
7. Minimum setback to be increased by 30 feet where the yard abuts a General Agriculture, Resource Conservation, or Residential District.
8. The following additional site development standards shall apply to multiple family dwellings:
  - a. Maximum building heights shall not exceed thirty-five (35) feet, except that maximum building heights shall not exceed twenty-five (25) feet where such buildings exceed two-hundred (200) feet in length.
  - b. The minimum floor area of dwelling units shall comply with the following: Efficiencies: 400 sq. ft.; One bedroom units: 600 sq. ft.; Two bedroom units: 750 sq. ft.; Three bedroom units: 950 sq. ft.; Four or more bedroom units: 1,250 sq. ft.
  - c. The minimum fifteen (15) foot side yard required for a multiple family dwelling shall be increased beyond fifteen (15) feet at a rate of one (1) foot for each ten (10) feet or part thereof by which the length of the multiple family building exceeds forty (40) feet in overall dimension.
  - d. The distance between any two (2) multiple family structures shall be not less than thirty (30) feet if both of the walls facing each other contains windows, and not less than twenty (20) feet for all other situations.
  - e. There shall be provided easily accessible and usable open space in the development in an amount of ten percent (10%) or more of the site area or five hundred (500) square feet per four dwelling units, whichever is greater, but in no case shall less than ten thousand (10,000) square feet be provided.
9. Setbacks in the RC District may be reduced to no less than fifty (50) feet from the front lot line and no less than twenty-five (25) feet from the side or rear lot line upon review and recommendation of the Resource Conservation Board and approval by the Sharon Township Board. The Resource Conservation Board shall be composed of the Zoning Administrator, the Chair of the Planning Commission, and the Township Board Planning Commission Representative.

*End of Footnotes*

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

***End of Article 9***

**Article 10**  
**OPEN SPACE COMMUNITY (OSC)**

**Section 10.01 Purpose**

It is the purpose of this Article to establish the review procedures and standards for an Open Space Community (OSC). The provisions of this Article provide opportunities for residential development which, because of the more flexible standards available to OSCs under this Article, more effectively encourage the preservation of the Township's agricultural land and other natural resources, sensitive environmental areas, open spaces, and rural character. The regulations of this Article propose to accomplish these purposes, in part, by providing for the grouping or clustering of new homes on smaller lots than typically required by the District within which the OSC is proposed to be located, so that the remainder of the site can be largely undisturbed or available for agricultural or other open space preservation purposes. Required dedicated open space shall be provided in large contiguous areas.

**Section 10.02 Special Land Use**

An OSC is classified as a special land use and permitted in districts according to Table 9-2 of Article 9.

**Section 10.03 Procedures For Open Space Communities**

**A.** Approval of an OSC must be obtained before any construction is performed. The process for application, review, and action on an OSC application shall follow the procedures and requirements of Article 5, Special Land Uses, except as provided below:

1. **Conventional Plan:** At the time the applicant submits a preliminary site plan for the OSC, the applicant shall also submit a conventional plan which shall illustrate a practical and reasonable manner for developing the project parcel according to the underlying District provisions. Conventional plans shall identify the total number of lots and dwellings reasonably attainable. The Planning Commission shall review the conventional plan and, as part of its recommendation on the preliminary plan application to the Township Board, the Planning Commission shall advise the Township Board regarding what the Commission believes to be the number of dwellings and lots reasonably attainable by conventional design. The Township Board shall be the determining body regarding the number of dwellings and lots reasonably attainable by conventional design after considering the recommendation of the Planning Commission. This information shall be used when determining the number of lots and dwellings permissible in the OSC plan (See Section 10.05(A)(1)).
  - a. The conventional plan need not be an engineered set of construction drawings, but shall be of such detail and clarity to demonstrate conformity with fundamental site development requirements such as adequate lot areas and widths, sewage disposal, storm water management including necessary detention and retention ponds, road design and construction, and the feasibility of each lot as a home site without the reliance on variances. The conventional plan shall demonstrate the feasibility of the proposed plan both in regard to its construction and its negligible impact upon sensitive environmental resources including wetlands and drainage courses and, in doing so, shall include the following: natural features such as wetlands, woodlands, flood plains, streams, rivers, county drains, lakes, ponds, and topography (at two-foot intervals); and man-made features such as existing roads, structures, utilities, easements, and adjacent land use conditions. In no case shall a conventional plan rely on year-round submerged wetlands or other year-round submerged land to comply with the underlying District's lot area requirements. A conventional plan shall not be considered by the Planning Commission or Township Board if such body determines that it does not provide the necessary level of detail or information to assess such conventional plan for the purposes of subsection (1) above.
2. **Recording of Approval Action and Permit Issuance:** The applicant shall record an affidavit with the County Register of Deeds containing the full legal description of the project site, specifying the date of final Township approval, and declaring that all improvements will be carried out in accordance with the approved OSC plan unless a change is approved by the Township Board. In addition, all deed restrictions and easements shall be duly filed with the Register of Deeds of the County. Copies of recorded documents shall be presented to the Township Clerk. Upon final project approval by the Township Board, and upon receipt of the recorded documents by the Township Clerk, the Township Clerk shall direct the Zoning Administrator to issue a Zoning Permit for the OSC project.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

### **Section 10.04 Approval Standards**

#### **A. Site/Parcel Standards:**

1. Unified Control: The proposed development shall be under single ownership or control, such that there is a single person or entity having proprietary responsibility for the full completion of the project. The applicant shall provide sufficient documentation of ownership or control in the form of agreements, contracts, covenants, and/or deed restrictions that indicate that the development will be completed in its entirety as proposed.
2. Minimum Project Size. The minimum size of an OSC shall be ten (10) acres in the R-1, R-2 and R-3 District, twenty (20) acres in the RC District, and forty (40) acres in the A-1 District.

#### **B. Design and Compatibility Standards:** An application for an OSC shall place emphasis on the following:

1. Compliance with OSC Concept: The proposed development shall be consistent with the purpose of this Article, as prescribed in Section 10.01.
2. Section 4.05(B), Site Plan Approval Standards.
3. Section 5.06, General Approval Standards for Special Land Uses.
4. Section 10.05, OSC Design Standards.

### **Section 10.05 OSC Design Standards:**

A proposed OSC shall comply with the following design standards:

**A. Regulatory Flexibility:** To encourage flexibility and creativity consistent with the OSC concept, modifications from the regulations of the base District may be permitted, subject to review and approval by the Township Board. For example, such modifications may include but are not limited to lot dimensional standards, setback requirements, and lot area requirements. However, in no case shall such modifications exceed the standards of this Section except as may be authorized by Section 10.06. Modifications may be permitted only if the proposed OSC shall result in a higher quality of development than would be possible without the modifications, and that the proposed OSC shall be a recognizable and substantial benefit to the ultimate users of the project and to the community. All proposed modifications shall be specified in the OSC application materials. However, in no case shall such modifications exceed the standards below:

1. Number of Lots/Dwellings: In no case shall the number of dwellings and lots exceed that number attainable by the Conventional Plan, according to Section 10.03(A)(1).
2. Building Setbacks: Setbacks shall comply with the conventional standards of the District in which the OSC is located except along lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and wetlands, where setbacks shall be a minimum of one hundred (100) feet.
3. Lot Size: The minimum lot size for a dwelling shall be two (2) acres in A-1 and RC Districts and, when located in a Residential District, shall comply with the minimum lot size typically required by such District. However, in the case where public sewer is available in Residential Districts, lots may be one-half (1/2) the minimum lot size typically required by such District.

**B. Permitted Principal Uses:** The following principal uses shall be permitted within an OSC:

1. Dwellings, as authorized by the base District's requirements.
2. Dedicated open space for agriculture, resource conservation and/or preservation in an undeveloped state.

**C. Permitted Accessory Uses:**

1. Accessory buildings, structures and uses on a residential lot shall be limited to uses customarily incidental and subordinate to a dwelling.
2. Accessory buildings, structures and uses on dedicated open space shall be limited to uses customarily incidental and subordinate to the intended purpose of such open space as delineated on the approved site plan.

**D. Location of Lots:** The arrangement of lots on the OSC parcel shall be clustered or grouped on the site to maximize continuous areas of open space, based upon the following standards:

1. Preservation of land resources for agriculture, resource conservation, wildlife habitat, and/or other open space preservation purposes.
2. Minimize visual impact of new dwellings on surrounding properties.
3. Preservation of the rural character of existing public roads abutting the OSC parcel.
4. Minimize interruptions of scenic vistas, as viewed from abutting public roads.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

**E. Guarantee of Open Space:** An OSC shall include permanently dedicated open space. The dedicated open space shall forever remain open space, subject only to uses approved by the Township Board on the approved site plan. Further subdivision of open space land or its use for other than conservation, or agricultural uses or preservation in an undeveloped state, except for easements for utilities, shall be strictly prohibited. The applicant shall guarantee to the satisfaction of the Township that all open space portions of the development will be maintained in perpetuity and in the manner approved. Documents shall be presented that bind all successors and future owners in fee title to commitments made as a part of the proposal. This provision shall not prohibit a transfer of ownership or control, provided notice of such transfer is provided to the Township and the land uses continue as approved in the OSC plan.

1. The OSC shall include permanently dedicated open space consisting of a minimum of sixty percent (60%) of the OSC parcel in the A-1 and RC District, and a minimum of fifteen percent (15%) in the R-1, R-2, and R-3 District.
2. All land within a development that is not devoted to a building, dwelling unit, required yard, an accessory use, vehicle access, vehicle parking, a roadway, or an approved land improvement, shall be set aside as permanently dedicated open space for conservation, agricultural uses, or preservation in an undeveloped state.
3. The dedicated open space shall be set aside by the owner through an irrevocable conveyance that is found acceptable to the Township Attorney, such as recorded deed restrictions, covenants that run perpetually with the land, transfer to a non profit land trust, or a conservation easement established per the State of Michigan Conservation and Historic Preservation Act, Public Act 197 of 1980, as amended. Such conveyance shall assure that the open space will be protected from all forms of development, except as specifically delineated on an approved site plan. All subsequent use and improvements to the dedicated open space shall comply with the approved site plan. Changes to the authorized uses or improvements to the open space are prohibited except where the Township Board approves a revised site plan upon finding that the applicant's proposed changes shall not alter the essential character of the open space or undermine the purpose and spirit of the OSC concept as presented in this Article. Such conveyance shall:
  - a. Indicate the proposed allowable use(s) of the dedicated open space.
  - b. Require that the dedicated open space be maintained by parties who have an ownership interest in the open space.
  - c. Provide standards for scheduled maintenance of the open space.
  - d. Provide for maintenance to be undertaken by the Township in the event that the dedicated open space is inadequately maintained, or is determined by the Township to be a public nuisance, with the assessment of costs upon the property owners.
4. Dedicated open space may include flood plain areas, but dedicated open space established to meet the minimum open space area requirements of this Article shall not include required yard setback areas; road rights-of-way; year round submerged lands irrespective of their wetland status; above or below ground utility easements and right-of-ways except those established for storm water management purposes; or land subject to oil, gas, or mineral extraction rights whether by lease, easement, or other manner.

### F. Utilities:

1. The OSC shall provide for underground installation of all utilities.
2. An OSC permit shall not be issued unless public water and sanitary sewer service is provided to the development if such service is available.
3. Provisions shall be made for appropriate storm water management, including the construction of necessary storm water facilities. The storm water system may include the establishment of detention or retention basins, and associated infrastructure. Storm water management systems shall minimize alterations to the natural topography and drainage patterns of the site.
4. Fire protection measures shall be provided in all OSCs which provide public water, and in OSCs which are generally characterized by lots of approximately one half (1/2) acre or less in size where such lots are clustered or otherwise generally adjacent to one another. Fire protection measures shall include an adequate on-site source of water for use by the local fire department and associated infrastructure to enable the local fire department to effectively respond to a fire emergency.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

### G. Access and Circulation:

1. Access:
  - a. The nearest edge of any entrance or exit drive for a OSC shall be located no closer than two hundred (200) feet from any existing street or road intersection (as measured from the nearest intersection right-of-way line).
  - b. All dwellings shall gain access from an interior road within the OSC.
  - c. An OSC may include private roads provided such roads meet the review and approval requirements of this Ordinance (see Section 19.05 ).
2. Pedestrian Circulation: A pedestrian circulation system may be required along one or both sides of the internal roads of the OSC. The exact location, alignment and design features of the pedestrian ways shall be jointly agreed upon by the applicant and the approving body, and shall be coordinated with existing or planned pedestrian ways and roads in the area. The pedestrian circulation network shall assure ease of access from residences to the designated open space areas.

**H. Natural Features:** The development shall be designed to promote the preservation of natural features such as mature woodlands, wetlands, floodplains, stream corridors, and special plant and animal habitats.

### I. Scheduled Phasing:

1. Scheduled Phasing: When proposed construction is to be phased, the project shall be designed in a manner that allows each phase to fully function on its own regarding services, utilities, circulation, facilities, and open space. Each phase shall contain the necessary components to insure protection of natural resources and the health, safety, and welfare of the users of the open space development and the residents of the surrounding area.
2. Timing of Phases: Each phase of the project shall be commenced within twelve (12) months of the schedule set forth on the approved final site plan. If construction of any phase is not commenced within the approved time period, an extension may be granted following review of a formal request for extension by the owner and approval of same by the Township Board. Such approval may be withheld only where harm to adjacent lands or uses would occur, there have been significant changed conditions in the area, or in the case of fraud or violation of the terms of the original approval.

### **Section 10.06 Waiver of Standards**

A. The Township Board may waive any of the Article 10 standards for an OSC where the applicant can demonstrate, within the discretion of the Township Board, the following:

1. No good public purpose will be achieved by requiring conformance with the standards sought by the applicant to be waived.
2. The spirit and intent of the open space development provisions will still be achieved.
3. No nuisance will be created.

The Township Board shall not consider any waiver of standards unless the applicant has submitted written justification for those standards to be waived, according to 10.06(A)(1),(2), and (3) above. Such justification shall address each requested waiver individually.

***End of Article 10***

**Article 11**  
**PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) DISTRICT**

**Section 11.01 Purpose**

The provisions of this Article provide enabling authority and standards for the submission, review and approval of applications for planned unit developments (PUD). It is the intent of the Article to authorize the use of PUD regulations for the purpose of: encouraging the use of land in accordance with its character and adaptability; conserving natural resources and natural features and energy; encouraging innovation in land use planning; providing enhanced housing, employment, shopping, traffic circulation and recreational opportunities for the people of the Township; and bringing about a greater compatibility of design and use between neighboring properties. The provisions of this Article are not intended as a device for ignoring this Ordinance or the planning upon which it is based. To that end, the provisions of this Article are intended to result in land use development substantially consistent with the underlying zoning, with modifications and departures from generally applicable requirements made in accordance with standards provided in this Article to insure appropriate, fair, and consistent decision making.

**Section 11.02 PUD Is A Separate District**

A PUD is permitted as a separate zoning district only when determined to be in compliance with the regulations of this Article. The approval of a PUD shall require an amendment of the Zoning Map constituting a part of this Ordinance so as to designate the property "PUD" and subject of the approved application for PUD.

**Section 11.03 Minimum Eligibility Criteria**

- A.** The following minimum eligibility criteria shall be met in order for PUD approval:
1. **Recognizable and Substantial Benefit:** The PUD shall result in a recognizable and substantial benefit to the ultimate users of the project and to the community, where such benefit would otherwise be unfeasible or unlikely to be achieved. Such benefit must otherwise be unfeasible or unlikely under the regulations of the existing or other District.
  2. **Availability and Capacity of Public Services:** The proposed type and intensity of use shall not result in an unreasonable burden in the use of existing public services, facilities, and utilities.
  3. **Compatibility with the Land Use Plan:** The proposed development shall be in accordance with the goals and policies of the Sharon Township Land Use Plan.
  4. **Compatibility with the PUD Intent:** The proposed development shall be consistent with the intent and spirit of these regulations, as stated in Section 11.01.
  5. **Economic Impact:** The proposed development shall not impede the continued use or development of surrounding properties for uses that are permitted in the existing District.
  6. **Unified Control of Property:** The proposed development shall be under single ownership or control such that there is a single person or entity having responsibility for completing the project in conformity with this Ordinance and the specifications of the PUD approval.

**Section 11.04 Project Design Standards**

PUDs shall comply with the following project design standards:

**A. General Site Development Requirements and Waivers:** The site development standards for all proposed individual land uses and facilities in a PUD shall conform to this Ordinance, including such standards pertaining to lot area and dimensions, density, lot coverage, setbacks, parking, loading, landscaping and screening, signage and similar requirements, except that the Township Board may waive such standards for any, or all, of the specific uses and facilities proposed to be part of the PUD where such modifications will result in a higher quality of development than would be possible without the modifications. The waiving of development standards may be authorized only upon a finding by the Township Board that there are adequate features or planning mechanisms designed into the project to achieve the objectives intended to be accomplished with respect to each of the standards from which a departure is sought.

1. In the absence of such waivers, the following site development regulations shall apply:
  - a. Residential components of a PUD shall comply with the regulations of the R-1 District.
  - b. Commercial retail components of a PUD shall comply with the regulations of the C-1 District.
  - c. Commercial office components of a PUD shall comply with the regulations of the C-2 District.
  - d. Industrial components of a PUD shall comply with the regulations of the I-1 District.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

**B. Permitted Uses and Mix of Uses:** Any land use authorized in this Ordinance is permitted in a PUD as a principal or accessory use, irrespective of the existing zoning of the proposed PUD site, provided that public health, safety, and welfare are not impaired and the essential character of the proposed PUD meets the general intent of the existing District and/or the Sharon Township Land Use Plan.

### **Section 11.05 Approval Standards**

- A.** Each application for a PUD shall conform to the following:
1. The use and design standards of this Article.
  2. Site Plan Approval Standards, Section 4.05.
  3. General Approval Standards for Special Land Uses: Section 5.06.

### **Section 11.06 Procedure for Review and Approval**

PUD applications shall be submitted in accordance with the following procedures and requirements.

**A. Optional Preapplication Conference:** Prior to the submission of a preliminary site plan for PUD approval, the applicant may request a meeting with the Chairperson of the Planning Commission and the Township Supervisor, together with such consultants and local officials and staff as either the Township or the applicant deem appropriate. The purpose of the meeting is to inform township officials of the general theme for the proposed development and to provide the potential applicant with information regarding land development policies, procedures, standards and requirements of the Township in terms of the proposed development. Statements made in the course of a preapplication conference shall not be legally binding commitments. At the preapplication conference (or conferences), the applicant may present a general sketch plan of the proposed PUD which provides an overview of the proposed project.

**B. Preliminary Site Plan/Rezoning: Application, Public Hearing, and Action:**

1. The applicant shall submit to the Township Clerk twenty (20) copies of a preliminary site plan and a application form available from the Township Clerk. The Township Clerk shall forward copies to the Planning Commission. The preliminary site plan shall comply with the requirements of Section 4.04(B) and include a detailed text description of the proposed development and all Ordinance standards that the applicant is seeking a waiver for.
2. Following review of the preliminary site plan submittal, the Planning Commission shall act on the preliminary plan as if it were an application for rezoning, and in doing so, shall follow the rezoning procedures of Section 7.04.
3. Following the public hearing required by Section 7.04 and any fact finding and additional studies, the Planning Commission shall prepare written findings regarding the preliminary plan's conformance with the applicable requirements of this Article and Ordinance, including the approval standards of Sections 4.05 and 5.06.
4. The Planning Commission shall review the preliminary plan and shall be entitled to make reasonable inquiries of and receive answers from the applicant. The Planning Commission shall recommend to the Township Board to approve, deny, or approve with conditions the preliminary plan and proposed PUD District rezoning. The Planning Commission shall prepare and transmit a report to the Township Board stating its conclusions and recommendation, the basis for its decision, and any recommended conditions relating to an affirmative decision.
5. The Township Board shall take final action to approve, deny, or approve with conditions the preliminary plan and proposed PUD District rezoning. In reviewing the preliminary plan, the Township Board shall consider the applicable requirements of this Article and Ordinance, including Sections 4.05 and 5.06. The Township Board shall prepare and transmit a report to the applicant stating its conclusions and decision, the basis for its decision, and any recommended conditions relating to an affirmative decision. The effect of a Township Board approval shall be:
  - a. to authorize the fundamental PUD character and layout embodied in the preliminary plan, including any conditions applied to the approval, prior to the preparation of a final site plan; and
  - b. to authorize a change on the Zoning Map to classify the subject property as "PUD District".



## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

### C. Final Plan and Permit Issuance

1. Within eighteen (18) months following receipt of preliminary site plan approval, the applicant shall submit to the Township Clerk twenty (20) copies of a final plan, or phase one of a final plan, including a final site plan conforming with Section 4.04(D) and including a detailed text description of the proposed development and all Ordinance standards that the applicant is seeking a waiver for. If the final plan has not been submitted within such period, the preliminary plan approval shall become null and void unless the Township Board extends the time for submission of the final plan upon a showing by the applicant that no material change of circumstances has occurred.
2. The Township Clerk shall forward copies to the Planning Commission and any other public agency or consultant for the purposes of determining compliance of the submitted plan with the standards and regulations of this Article and Ordinance and the approved preliminary site plan.
3. The Planning Commission shall review the final plan and shall be entitled to make reasonable inquiries of and receive answers from the applicant. The Planning Commission shall recommend to the Township Board to approve, deny, or approve with conditions the final plan. In reviewing the final plan, the Planning Commission shall consider the applicable requirements of this Article and Ordinance, including Sections 4.05 and 5.06. The Planning Commission shall prepare and transmit a report to the Township Board stating its conclusions and recommendation, the basis for its decision, and any recommended conditions relating to an affirmative decision.
4. The Township Board shall take final action to approve, deny, or approve with conditions the final plan. In reviewing the final plan, the Township Board shall consider the applicable requirements of this Article and Ordinance, including Sections 4.05 and 5.06. The Township Board shall prepare and transmit a report to the applicant stating its conclusions and decision, the basis for its decision, and any recommended conditions relating to an affirmative decision.
5. If and when the final site plan is approved, all improvements and use of the property shall be in conformity with the final site plan and any conditions imposed. The applicant shall record an affidavit with the Register of Deeds containing the legal description of the entire project, specifying the date of approval, and declaring that all future improvements will be carried out in accordance with the approved PUD unless a site plan amendment is approved by the Township Board upon request or approval of the applicant or applicant's transferee and/or assignees. Upon receipt of the recorded documents, the Zoning Administrator shall issue a permit for that portion of the PUD project receiving final site plan approval. No construction activities shall be initiated for a PUD prior to the receipt of such permit.

### Section 11.07 Phasing

**A. Scheduled Phasing:** When proposed construction is to be phased, the project shall be designed in a manner that allows each phase to fully function on its own regarding services, utilities, circulation, facilities, and open space. Each phase shall contain the necessary components to insure protection of natural resources and the health, safety, and welfare of the users of the open space development and the residents of the surrounding area.

1. In developments which include separate residential and nonresidential components where the residential component is intended to be the principal use of the PUD site, the phasing plan shall provide for completion of at least fifty percent (50%) of all proposed residential units prior to the initiation of any nonresidential construction; and the completion of at least seventy-five percent (75%) of all proposed residential construction prior to such nonresidential facilities being occupied. For purposes of carrying out this provision, the percentages shall be approximations as determined at the discretion of the Township Board. Such percentages may be modified should the Township Board determine that the applicant has presented adequate assurance that the residential component or components of the project shall be completed within specified time periods.

**B. Timing of Phases:** Each phase of the project shall be commenced within twelve (12) months of the schedule set forth on the approved final site plan. If construction of any phase is not commenced within the approved time period, an extension may be granted following review of a formal request for extension by the owner and approval of same by the Township Board. Such approval may be withheld only where harm to adjacent lands or uses would occur, there have been significant changed conditions in the area, or in the case of fraud or violation of the terms of the original approval.

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

***End of Article 11***

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**Article 12**  
***(Reserved For Future Use)***

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

***End of Article 12***

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**Article 13**  
***(Reserved for Future Use)***

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

***End of Article 13***

**Article 14**  
**NONCONFORMING LOTS, USES of LAND, and STRUCTURES**

**Section 14.01 Purpose**

It is recognized that there exist lots, structures and uses of land and structures within the districts established by this Ordinance and subsequent amendments, which were lawful before this Ordinance was passed or amended, which would be prohibited, regulated or restricted under the terms of this Ordinance or amendment thereto. It is the purpose of this Article to permit legal nonconforming lots, structures and uses to continue until they are removed, as provided under the terms of this Article, but not to encourage their survival.

**Section 14.02 District Changes**

Whenever the boundaries of a District shall be changed so as to transfer an area from one district to another district of another classification, the provisions of this Article shall also apply to any existing lots, uses, and structures that become nonconforming as a result of the boundary changes.

**Section 14.03 Nonconforming Lots**

A principal use and structure and associated accessory uses and structures may be erected on any single lot recorded with the Register of Deeds at or before the effective date of adoption or amendment of this Ordinance, even though such lot fails to meet the minimum requirements for area and/or width that are generally applicable in the District, provided such uses and structures are authorized by the District in which such lot is located (see Table 9-2 and 9-3) and provided that yard dimensions, setbacks and other requirements not involving lot area or width shall conform to the regulations for the District, unless a yard requirement variance is obtained through approval of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).

**Section 14.04 Nonconforming Uses of Land**

**A.** Where, at the effective date of adoption or amendment of this Ordinance, a lawful use of land exists that is made no longer permissible under the terms of this Ordinance as enacted or amended, such use may be continued, so long as it remains otherwise lawful, subject to the following provisions:

1. No such nonconforming use shall be enlarged, expanded, nor extended to occupy a greater area of land than was occupied at the effective date of adoption or amendment of this Ordinance.
2. No such nonconforming use shall intensify in its operational characteristics including, for example purposes, the degree of vehicular traffic, general hours of operation, signage, and lighting.
3. No such nonconforming use shall be moved in whole or in part to any other portion of the lot or parcel occupied by such use at the effective date of adoption or amendment of this Ordinance.
4. A change of tenancy or ownership of a nonconforming use is allowed provided there is no increase in the degree of nonconformance of the nonconforming use.
5. Any structure, or structure and land in combination, in or on which a nonconforming use is superseded by a permitted use, shall thereafter conform to the regulations for the district in which such structure is located, and the nonconforming use may not thereafter be resumed.
6. Irrespective of other requirements of this Article, if no structural alterations are made, any nonconforming use of a structure and premises may be changed to another nonconforming use of less nonconformance, provided that the ZBA, by making findings in the specific case, shall find that the proposed use is more appropriate to the District than the existing nonconforming use. In permitting such change, the Board of Appeals may require appropriate conditions and safeguards in accord with the purpose and intent of this Article. Where a nonconforming use, structure, or use and structure in combination is hereafter changed to a less nonconforming character, it shall not thereafter be changed to a greater nonconforming character.
7. If a nonconforming use of a parcel or lot ceases for any reason for a period of more than one hundred and eighty (180) consecutive days, the subsequent use of such parcel or lot shall conform to the regulations and provisions of this Ordinance for the District in which such lot or parcel is located.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

### **Section 14.05 Nonconforming Structures**

A. Where a lawful structure exists at the effective date of adoption or amendment of this Ordinance that could not be built under the terms of this Ordinance or subsequent amendment by reason of restrictions on area, lot coverage, height, yards or other characteristics of the structure or location on the lot, such structure may be continued so long as it remains otherwise lawful, subject to the following provisions:

1. No such structure may be enlarged or altered in any way which increases its nonconformity, but the use of a structure and/or the structure itself may be changed to a use permitted in the district in which it is located, provided that all changes are also in conformance with the requirements of the District in which it is located. Furthermore, any nonconforming use may be extended throughout any parts of a building which were manifestly arranged or designed for such use, and which existed at the time of adoption or amendment of this Article, but no such use shall be extended to occupy land outside such building.
2. Should such structure be destroyed by any means to an extent of more than fifty percent (50%) of its replacement value, exclusive of foundations, it shall not be reconstructed except in conformity with the provisions of this Ordinance, including the site development standards for the District in which it is located. This subsection shall not apply in the case where the replacement of the nonconforming structure is commenced within eighteen (18) months of the damage, the replacement is pursued diligently, and the replacement structure's location and form is to generally be the same, or less nonconforming, than the previous structure.
3. Should such structure be moved for any reason for any distance, it shall thereafter conform to the regulations for the district in which it is located after it is moved.
4. Where nonconforming status applies to a structure and use in combination, and upon removal or destruction of the structure, all subsequent uses and structures on the land shall conform to the applicable District regulations. For the purposes of this subsection, "destruction" shall mean "destroyed to an extent of more than fifty percent (50%) of its replacement value, exclusive of foundations."

### **Section 14.06 Repairs and Maintenance**

On any building devoted in whole or in part to any nonconforming use, work may be done in any period of twelve (12) consecutive months on ordinary repairs, or on repair or replacement of nonbearing walls, fixtures, wiring or plumbing to an extent not exceeding ten percent (10%) of the nonconforming structure's, or nonconforming portion of said structure's, replacement value exclusive of foundations, as of the effective date of this Ordinance, provided that the cubic content of the building as it existed at the time of passage or amendment of this Article, or the number of families housed therein, shall not be increased. No structural alterations shall be made, except that nothing in this Article shall be deemed to prevent the strengthening or restoring to a safe condition of any building or part thereof declared to be unsafe by any official charged with protecting the public safety, upon order of such official.

### **Section 14.07 Hardship Cases**

Limitations established by this Article on structural changes, alterations, enlargements and expansions of nonconforming uses and structures may be waived by the ZBA, through the issuance of a variance, when the ZBA finds that the request is a case of exceptional hardship in which failure to grant the relief requested would unreasonably restrict continued use of the property or would restrict valuable benefits that the public currently derives from the property as used in its nonconforming status. However, no such variance shall be granted except upon a finding by the ZBA that approval will not have an adverse affect on surrounding property, that it will be the minimum necessary to relieve the hardship, and that the public health, safety and welfare shall be maintained. Issuance of such a variance does not relieve the applicant of the necessity to seek and acquire an approved plot plan or site plan pursuant to Article 4.

***End of Article 14***



**Article 15 (eff. 12/27/2018)**  
**SIGNS**

**Section 15.01 Purpose**

The purpose of this Article is to provide a framework within which the identification and informational needs of all land uses can be harmonized with the desires and aesthetic standards of the general public. It is intended through the provisions contained herein to give recognition to the legitimate needs of business, industry and other activities, in attaining their identification and informational objectives. It is a basic tenet of this Article that unrestricted signage does not support the existing character of the Township and does not benefit either private enterprise or the community-at-large as it creates traffic safety hazards, visual clutter, confusion for vehicle drivers and visual blight. It is similarly the purpose of this Article to protect the character of residential neighborhoods by discouraging the encroachment of signage which undermines the intended character of such areas.

**Section 15.02 Definitions**

- A. A-Frame Sign:** A freestanding sign ordinarily in the shape of an "A" or some variation thereof, which is readily moveable and not permanently attached to the ground or any structure. Also commonly referred to as sandwich board signs or sidewalk signs.
- B. Air-Activated Graphic:** A sign, all or any part of, which is designed to be moved by action of forced air so as to make the sign appear to be animated or otherwise have motion. Air-activated graphics include balloon signs.
- C. Balloon Sign:** A sign that is an air-inflated object, which may be of various shapes, made of flexible fabric, resting on the ground or a structure and equipped with a portable blower motor that provides a constant flow of air into the device. Balloon signs are restrained, attached, or held in place by a cord, rope, cable, or similar method. Also commonly referred to as inflatable devices.
- D. Banner Sign:** A temporary sign composed of cloth, canvas, plastic, fabric, or similar lightweight, nonrigid material that can be mounted to a structure with cord, rope, cable, or a similar method or that may be supported by stakes in the ground.
- E. Blade Sign:** A temporary sign constructed of cloth, canvas, plastic fabric, or similar lightweight, nonrigid material and supported by a single vertical pole mounted into the ground or on a portable structure. Also commonly referred as feather signs, teardrop signs, and flag signs
- F. Center:** A grouping of two or more establishments on one (1) or more parcels of property which may share parking and access and are linked architecturally or otherwise developed as a unified grouping. A center shall be considered one use for the purposes of determination of the maximum number of free-standing signs.
- G. Changeable Copy Sign:** A sign designed to allow for message changes, either automatically or manually.
- H. Flag:** A piece of cloth, canvas, plastic, fabric, or similar lightweight, non-rigid material not containing a commercial message, official flags of national, state or local government and any other flag adopted or sanctioned by government or organization.
- I. Freestanding Sign:** Any permanent, interim or temporary sign placed on the ground or attached to a supporting structure, posts, or poles, that is not attached to any building. Definition includes center pole signs, posts and panels, or monument signs, but excludes off-premises signs.
- J. Interim Sign:** A sign of a construction and attachment of semi-permanent nature.
- K. Interior Sign:** Any words, lettering, parts of letters, figures, numerals, phrases, sentences, emblems, devices, designs, trade names or marks, or other representation, or combination thereof, located upon any land or on or in any building, in such manner as to convey information to pedestrians or motorists on the lot on which the sign is located.
- L. Kiosk Sign:** A freestanding sign constructed to provide information to pedestrians, not motorists.
- M. Off-Premises Advertising Sign (Billboards):** A sign which identifies goods, services, facilities, events, or attractions which are available or provided at a location other than the lot or parcel upon which such sign is located (commonly referred to as "billboards").

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

- N. On-Premises Sign:** A sign related to the premises on which such sign is located.
- O. Pennants:** A triangular or irregular piece of fabric or other material, whether or not containing a message of any kind, commonly attached by strings or strands, or supported on small poles, intended to flap in the wind.
- P. Permanent Sign:** A sign of a construction and attachment permanent in nature.
- Q. Poster Sign:** A sign tacked, nailed, posted, pasted, glued, or otherwise attached to trees, poles, fences, or other objects.
- R. Ranch-style Entrance Gateway Sign:** A sign on a structure that spans a driveway with an arch or lintel.
- S. Roof Sign:** A sign mounted on the roof of a building or structure, lying either flat against the roof or upright at an angle to the roof pitch.
- T. Shingle Sign:** A sign constructed of shingles attached to the roof of a building or structure.
- U. Sign:** Any words, lettering, parts of letters, figures, numerals, phrases, sentences, emblems, devices, designs, trade names or marks, or other representation, or combination thereof, which is located upon any land or on or in any building, in such manner as to attract attention from outside the premises.
- V. Temporary Sign:** Any sign not intended or designed for permanent display or attachment to the ground or a structure, including but not limited to "A-frame", "T-frame", or inverted "T-shaped" structures, window signs and banners.
- W. T-Frame Signs:** A freestanding sign ordinarily in the shape of an upside down "T" or some variation thereof, which is readily moveable and not permanently attached to the ground or any structure.
- X. Wall Sign:** A sign which faces an adjacent parking area and/or public street and is attached directly to a building wall, or rigid or nonrigid fabric marquee or awning-type structure attached to a building, and is generally parallel to the building wall, including signs painted on any building wall, or extending from the wall in the case of a canopy, awning, or marquee-type structure.
- Y. Window Sign:** A sign located in or on a window which is intended to be viewed from the outside.

### **Section 15.03 General Standards**

- A. Sign Area:** The area of a sign shall be computed by calculating the square footage of a sign face as measured by enclosing the most protruding points or edges of all sign faces of the sign within a single parallelogram, rectangle, triangle, or circle, including any framing, with the following exceptions:
1. Where a sign has two (2) or more faces, the area of all faces shall be included in determining the area of the sign, except that where (2) such similarly shaped faces are placed back-to-back, parallel to one another and less than eighteen (18) inches apart from one another, the area of the sign shall be the area of one (1) face.
  2. When a sign is engraved in a boulder or rock as a freestanding sign, the area of the sign shall be computed by calculating the square footage of the engraving as measured by enclosing the most protruding points or edges of all engraving within a single parallelogram, rectangle, triangle, or circle.
- B. Sign Setbacks:** Unless otherwise specified, the following setback requirements shall apply:
1. All setbacks shall be measured from the nearest edge of the sign, measured at a vertical line perpendicular to the ground, to the right-of-way or property line.
  2. No sign for a commercial or industrial use shall be located closer than one hundred (100) feet from any A-1, RC, or Residential District.
  3. No signs shall be located in a road right-of-way, except for those permitted by the Washtenaw County Road Commission.
- C. Sign Dimensions:**
1. The height of a freestanding sign shall be measured from the highest point of the sign, including all frame and structural members of the sign, to the ground elevation directly below the sign. Berms or other artificial means intended to increase the height of a sign by increasing the ground elevation below the sign is prohibited.
  2. No wall sign shall extend more than one (1) foot from a wall nor have the lowest portion of the sign less than eight (8) feet above the ground surface below except where such sign extends less than three (3) inches from the wall.
- D. Lighting:**

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

1. The source of illumination upon a sign shall be shielded from traffic and adjacent properties and shall not be visible beyond the property line of the parcel on which the lighted sign is located.
2. Beacon and search lights are prohibited as signs.
3. All lighting must comply with the regulations in Section 18.04.

**E. Sign Materials and Maintenance:** Signs shall be designed to be compatible with the character of building materials and landscaping to promote an overall unified and aesthetic effect in accordance with the standards set forth herein, and shall be appropriate in appearance with the existing and intended character of their vicinity. Signs shall not be constructed from materials that are remnants or manufactured for a different purpose. Every sign shall be constructed and maintained in a manner consistent with building code provisions and maintained in good structural and aesthetic condition at all times. All signs shall be kept neatly painted, stained, sealed or preserved including all metal parts and supports.

**F. Window Signs:** Window signs shall constitute a wall sign and the area of such window signs shall be counted in the determination of the above referenced maximum wall sign area standards. However, in no case shall the area of a window sign exceed ten percent (10%) of the window area on which it is attached or faces.

**G. Changeable Copy Signs.** Changeable copy signs may be wall or freestanding signs of a temporary, interim or permanent construction. Wheel mounted changeable copy signs are regulated as interim signs. Changeable copy signs may not include flashing, blinking or moving copy, in compliance with Section 15.06.

**H. Exempt Signs:** Except as otherwise provided in this ordinance, the following signs, shall be permitted in all zoning districts and are exempt from all regulations, including permit requirements, of this Ordinance:

1. Sign identifying the address of parcel, freestanding or affixed to a mailbox, posted along the abutting road for postal and emergency identification purposes.
2. Regulatory, direction, and street signs erected by a public agency.
3. Flags.

### **Section 15.04 Signs Permitted in All Districts**

**A. Temporary Signs:** Temporary freestanding and wall signs are permitted without a zoning permit, provided they meet the regulations in table 15-1:

1. Decorative flags or flags with the insignia of a nation, state, community organization, college, university, or corporation, provided such flags include an English translation of any words that are visible from the abutting road, and provided that where such flags exceed twelve square feet in area, either individually or collectively, such flags shall be subject to site plan approval except where the flag is a national flag on residentially-used property.
2. Miscellaneous signs affixed to vending machines, gas pumps, and ice containers indicating the contents or announcing on-premises sales, provided each sign does not exceed two (2) square feet in area.
3. Political advertising signs are subject to the regulations provided in Section 15.11 (amended/ eff. 7/5/12).
4. Warning signs such as no trespassing and warning of electrical current or animals, provided that such signs do not exceed six (6) square feet, or if more than one such sign is posted, each sign shall not exceed two (2) square feet and shall be spaced no closer than necessary to alert the public of the restriction.
5. Regulatory, direction, and street signs erected by a public agency.
6. Residential identification signs provided only one (1) sign shall be permitted per dwelling unit and shall not exceed two (2) square feet in sign area. The subsection shall not prohibit the display of an additional address identification sign posted along the abutting road for postal and emergency identification purposes where such sign complies with the guidelines published by the U.S. Postal Service.
7. Residential development consisting of a platted subdivision, condominium subdivision, multiple family development, mobile home park, or other unified residential development consisting of at least five (5) dwelling units is permitted one (1) sign per vehicle entrance, no closer than fifteen (15) feet to the right-of-way of a street, and having a sign area not exceeding eighteen (18) square feet and a height not exceeding five (5) feet. Such sign shall be subject to site plan approval.
8. Real estate signs advertising the sale or lease of a single lot or residence not exceeding an area of six (6) square feet. A platted subdivision, condominium subdivision, multiple family development, mobile home park, or other unified residential or non-residential development consisting of at least five (5) dwelling units, or three (3) acres of land in the case of a non-residential development, is permitted one real estate sign no closer than fifteen (15) feet to the right-of-way of a street, and having a sign area not exceeding eighteen (18) square feet and a height not exceeding five (5) feet. Such sign shall be removed within one (1) year after the sale of ninety percent (90%) of all lots, units, or buildings within said development.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

9. Construction signs are permitted in any district with a maximum height of six (6) feet and not exceeding eighteen (18) square feet in area for all districts, and provided only one (1) such sign per lot. Such signs shall be setback a minimum of fifteen (15) feet from any property line or street right-of-way and shall be erected only during the construction period and removed within fourteen (14) days of the issuance of an occupancy permit.
10. Signs directing the public to a model home or unit, or the rental office in a multiple family development, provided no more than two (2) signs shall be placed upon a single lot or parcel and each sign does not exceed six (6) square feet.
11. Signs carved into stone, concrete, or similar material, or made of bronze, aluminum, or other noncombustible material, which identify the name of a building, a building's date of erection, or monumental citations, provided such signs do not exceed ten (10) square feet in area and are an integral part of the structure.
12. Historical markers, plaques, or signs describing state or national designation as an historic site or structure and/or containing narrative, not exceeding sixteen (16) square feet in area.
13. Any temporary signs announcing any government or governmental body, or public, charitable, educational, or religious event or function, located entirely on the premises of that institution and set back not less than fifteen (15) feet from all property lines. Maximum sign area shall be twenty-four (24) square feet and such sign shall be allowed no more than twenty-one (21) days prior to the event or function and must be removed within seven (7) days after the event or function. Wall signs shall not project above the roof line. Freestanding signs shall not exceed six (6) feet in height.
14. Garage sale and estate sale signs provided such signs shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area, are not erected more than seven (7) days prior to the sale, and are removed within one (1) business day of such sale.
15. One bulletin board sign is permitted on a site in any District which is used for a church or other religious institution, school, museum, library, or other similar institution. Such sign shall have a maximum height of six (6) feet and shall not exceed forty-eight (48) square feet. Such sign shall be setback a minimum of ten (10) feet from any property line or street right-of-way.
16. Seed identification signs specifying the type and/or manufacturer of seed products being harvested, provided such signs are located on a farm utilizing such seed and no sign is greater than four (4) square feet in area.
17. Signs for county and township parks, state recreation areas, nature conservancies, land trusts and organizations for recreational use shall be limited to 1 (one) identification sign no more than 6' (feet) high and 24 square feet in size. One kiosk sign will be allowed for associated information and maps. This kiosk sign will be no more than 18 square feet in size. No sign or portion thereof shall be located within the road right of way (eff. 12/13/08).

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**Table 15-1**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR TEMPORARY SIGNS NOT REQUIRING A ZONING PERMIT**

Temporary Sign Type	Allowed Location	Maximum Area	Maximum Height	Maximum # per lot	Maximum Duration	Required Setback
<b>Freestanding</b>	Agriculture use in Agricultural zoning districts	2 square feet	4 feet	No maximum but minimum spacing of 30 feet apart	3 months	Not in ROW
<b>Freestanding</b>	All zoning districts	4 square feet	5 feet	1	45 days	Not in ROW
<b>Freestanding banner</b>	Commercial districts	32 square feet	5 feet	1	30 days	15 feet from all property lines
<b>Wall, including window</b>	Commercial districts	32 square feet	5 feet	1	30 days	Building setback

**B. Permanent Signs:** The following permanent signs are allowed without a zoning permit, provided they meet the regulations in table 15-2:

**Table 15-2**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR PERMANENT SIGNS NOT REQUIRING A ZONING PERMIT**

Permanent Sign Type	Allowed Location	Maximum Area	Maximum #	Other Regulation
<b>Wall</b>	Residential use in agriculture, resource conservation and residential districts	2 square feet	1 per address	--
	Non-residential use in agriculture, resource conservation and residential districts	10 square feet	1 per building	Sign is integral part of structure and carved into stone, concrete, or similar material, or made of bronze, aluminum, or other noncombustible material.
	Commercial and industrial districts	10 square feet	1 per building	
<b>Freestanding</b>	Agriculture use in agricultural zoning districts	16 square feet	2 per farm operation	6 foot height maximum
<b>Interior (freestanding, window, wall)</b>	Non-residential use in agriculture, resource conservation and residential districts; commercial and industrial districts	2 square feet	--	2 foot minimum setback from all property lines
<b>Shingle</b>	Agriculture use in agricultural and resource conservation districts	2/3 of roof area of the roof side on which sign is located	2 per building	--
<b>Ranch-style Entrance Gateway Signs</b>	Agriculture and resource conservation districts	If attached to archway or lintel, lettering maximum height 15 inches  See other regulation	1 per address	If attached to support, no wider than 2/3 of the width of the face of support, no taller than 1/3 the height of support and top edge of sign maximum height of 6 feet.  If attached to archway, the sign may not infringe on the unobstructed minimum height for driveways in Section 19.03.A.3

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**C. Non-compliance with Regulations:** Any sign exceeding the maximum standards in this section shall be out of compliance with this Ordinance and subject to penalty. Temporary signs exceeding the maximum standards on size, number or duration may be removed by the Township.

**Section 15.05 Signs in Commercial and Industrial Districts**

**A.** All interim and permanent signs, except those listed in Table 15-2, require a zoning permit prior to erection and/or placement. If site plan review is required for a proposed project of which a proposed sign shall be part, the site plan reviewing bodies shall review the proposed signage as part of the site plan review procedure for the entire project, pursuant to Article 4. If the proposed sign is to be part of an existing development for which site plan approval has already been granted or was not necessary, the Zoning Administrator shall review the application to assure all applicable ordinance standards have been met prior to issuing a sign permit. The Zoning Administrator may refer action on proposed signage to the Township Board.

**B. Interim Signs:** Upon receiving a zoning permit, interim signs may be in place for up to one (1) year. Per the request of the zoning permit holder, the Planning Commission may grant an extension of up to one (1) year. All interim signs must meet the regulations in table 15-3:

**Table 15-3**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERIM SIGNS REQUIRING A ZONING PERMIT**

<b>Interim Sign Type</b>	<b>Allowed Location</b>	<b>Maximum Area</b>	<b>Maximum Dimensions</b>	<b>Maximum # per lot (Interim &amp; Permanent)</b>	<b>Required Setback</b>
<b>Freestanding</b>	Agriculture, resource conservation and residential districts	18 square feet	Height: 6 feet	1	15 feet from all property lines
	Commercial and industrial districts	18 square feet	Height: 6 feet	1	15 feet from all property lines, 100 feet from A-1, RC, or Residential District
<b>Wall, including window</b>	Agriculture, resource conservation and residential districts	10% of the area of such façade, but not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet	Vertical: 1/3 of the building height Horizontal: 1/2 of the building width	No limit but area of all wall signs must not exceed the maximum area	Building setback
	Commercial and districts	1 square foot for each foot of length or height of the wall to which signs are affixed, whichever is the greater, but not exceed ten percent (10%) of the wall area	Vertical: 1/3 of the building height Horizontal: 2/3 of the building width	No limit but area of all wall signs must not exceed the maximum area	

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**A. Permanent Signs:** The following permanent signs are allowed with a zoning permit and must meet the regulations in table 15-4:

**Table 15-4**

**REQUIREMENTS FOR PERMANENT SIGNS REQUIRING A ZONING PERMIT**

<b>Permanent Sign Type</b>	<b>Allowed Location</b>	<b>Maximum Area</b>	<b>Maximum Dimensions</b>	<b>Maximum # per lot (Interim &amp; Permanent)</b>	<b>Required Setback</b>
<b>Freestanding</b>	Agriculture, resource conservation and residential districts	8 square feet	Height: 5 feet	1	15 feet from all property lines
	Center in commercial and industrial districts	48 square feet	Height: 6 feet, or 12 feet if visible from M-52 and located within one-hundred (100) feet of the M-52 right-of-way	1	15 feet from all property lines, 100 feet from A-1, RC, or Residential District.
	All other buildings in commercial and industrial districts	36 square feet			
<b>Wall, including window</b>	Agriculture, resource conservation and residential districts	10% of the area of such façade, but not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet	Vertical: 1/3 of the building height  Horizontal: 1/2 of the building width	No limit but area of all wall signs must not exceed the maximum area	Building setback
	Commercial and districts	1 square foot for each foot of length or height of the wall to which signs are affixed, whichever is the greater, but not exceed ten percent (10%) of the wall area	Vertical: 1/3 of the building height  Horizontal: 2/3 of the building width	No limit but area of all wall signs must not exceed the maximum area	
<b>Kiosk Sign</b>	Non-residential use in agriculture, resource conservation and residential districts; commercial and industrial districts	18 square feet	Height: 5 feet	1	15 feet from all property lines

**Section 15.06 Signs in A-1 and RC Districts**

In addition to the signs permitted pursuant to Section 15.04, signs for institutions, public facilities, special land uses and businesses authorized in the A-1 District, and signs for agricultural uses authorized in the RC District, shall be permitted in such Districts for such uses subject to the following restrictions, except where otherwise regulated by this Ordinance.

**A. Type and Usage:** Signs shall be wall signs and shall pertain exclusively to the business(s) or use(s) located on the lot on which the sign is located.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

### B. Wall Signs:

1. **Number:** There is no limitation on the number of wall signs placed upon a building provided all maximum sign area requirements are met, and all such signs are located on a single building unless expressly authorized otherwise in association with an approved site plan.
2. **Area:** The maximum total sign area of all wall signs upon a building facade shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the area of such façade, but in no case shall exceed thirty-two (32) square feet.
3. **Dimensions:** The maximum vertical dimension of any wall sign shall not exceed one third (1/3) of the building height, and shall not project above the roof line or cornice of the building to which it is attached. The maximum horizontal dimension of any wall sign shall not exceed one half (1/2) of the building width.

### **Section 15.07 Signs Prohibited**

#### A. The following signs are prohibited in all Districts:

1. Any sign not expressly permitted.
2. Signs that incorporate flashing or moving lights.
3. Pennants, festoons, spinners and streamers.
4. Signs affixed to a parked vehicle or truck trailer that is being used principally for advertising purposes, rather than for transportation purposes.
5. Poster signs.
6. Any sign which revolves or has any visible moving parts, visible revolving parts or visible mechanical movement of any type, or other apparent visible movement achieved by electrical, electronic or mechanical means. Blade signs, pennants, air-activated graphics, balloon signs or any sign, which moves due to wind or mechanical devices and which are intended to draw attention to a location are considered moving signs and are prohibited.
7. Any sign that obstructs free and clear vision, or at any location where by reason of the position, shape or color, it may interfere with, obstruct the view of or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device; or which makes use of the words "stop", "look", "danger" or any word, phrase, symbol or character in such manner as to interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic.
8. Any sign that includes flashing, blinking or moving illumination.
9. Any sign that projects into any air space so as to interfere with public safety, including vehicular or pedestrian movement.
10. Any wall sign on a building that is nonconforming in terms of setbacks.

### **Section 15.08 Off-Premises Signs**

A. Off-premises signs are permitted provided such signs comply with all provisions of the Highway Advertising Act, P.A. 106 of 1972, as amended, and all rules promulgated pursuant to such Act, and the following provisions:

1. Outdoor advertising signs shall be permitted on a parcel in a Commercial or Industrial District where such parcel abuts the M-52 right-of-way.
2. The following setbacks shall apply:
  - a. Except where otherwise required by this Section, outdoor advertising signs are required to have the same setback as other principal buildings in the District in which they are located, and shall be set back a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from all right-of -ways.
  - b. No off-premises sign shall be located within three hundred (300) feet of a park, school, church, hospital, cemetery, government building, or a General Agriculture, Resource Conservation, or Residential District.
3. There shall be a minimum of one-thousand (1,000) feet between any two off-premise advertising signs along the same side of the highway. A double face (back-to-back) to a V-type structure shall be considered a single sign.
4. An outdoor advertising sign's total surface area shall not exceed three hundred (300) square feet, nor exceed a height of twenty (20) feet.
5. No outdoor advertising sign shall be erected on or over the roof of any building, nor have a sign above another sign.



## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

### **Section 15.09 Nonconforming Signs**

It is the intent of this Section to permit the continuance of a lawful use of any sign or outdoor advertising structure existing at the effective date of adoption of this Section, although such sign or outdoor advertising structure may not conform with the provisions of this Article. It is also the intent that nonconforming signs and outdoor advertising structures shall not be enlarged upon, expanded or extended. Further, it is the intent that nonconforming signs and outdoor advertising structures shall be gradually eliminated and terminated upon their natural deterioration or accidental destruction. The continuance of all nonconforming signs and outdoor advertising structures within the Township shall be subject to the conditions and requirements set forth herein.

**A. Structural Changes:** The faces, supports, or other parts of any nonconforming sign or outdoor advertising structure shall not be structurally changed, altered, substituted, or enlarged unless the resultant changed, altered, substituted, or enlarged sign or outdoor advertising structure conforms to the provisions of this Article for the use it is intended, except as otherwise provided for.

**B. Damages:** Should such structure be destroyed by any means to an extent of more than fifty (50) percent of its appraised replacement cost, it shall not be reconstructed except in conformity with the provisions of this Ordinance.

### **Section 15.10 Signs Requiring Permits (amended/eff. 7/12/12)**

**A. The following signs shall require a zoning permit prior to erection and/or placement:**

1. All signs in an industrial district except as otherwise provided in this ordinance.
2. All signs in a commercial district except as otherwise provided in this ordinance.
3. All signs larger in area than twenty (20) square feet, including wall signs.

**B.**

1. If site plan review is required for a proposed project of which a proposed sign shall be part, the site plan reviewing bodies shall review the proposed signage as part of the site plan review procedure for the entire project, pursuant to Article 4.
2. If the proposed sign is to be part of an existing development for which site plan approval has already been granted or was not necessary, the Zoning Administrator shall review the application to assure all applicable ordinance standards have been met prior to issuing a sign permit.

**C.** The Zoning Administrator may refer action on proposed signage to the Township Board.

### **Section 15.11 Political Signs (Eff. 7/5/12)**

**A.** Except as otherwise provided in this ordinance political signs shall be permitted in all zoning districts subject to the following regulations.

1. Political signs shall comply with all regulations herein regarding physical placement on the property.
2. A political sign may be erected no more than thirty (30) days prior to the election for which it advocates.
3. A political sign must be removed no more than forty-eight (48) hours following the election for which it advocated.
4. A political sign may be no more than sixteen (16) square feet nor more than five (5) feet on any side.
5. Political signs shall not be located in, project into or overhang a public right-of-way or dedicated public easement and must be located at least ten (10) feet apart.
6. Political signs may only be erected by the landowner or with the permission of the landowner.
7. Political signs shall not create any problem of visibility between vehicles and/or between pedestrians.

**B.** The provisions of this section shall not apply to billboards-for-hire. See Section 15.08.

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**  
*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

***End of Article 15***

SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

Article 16  
OFF-STREET PARKING and LOADING

**Section 16.01 Purpose**

It is the purpose of this Article to establish standards and requirements to assure that parking spaces shall be adequately provided and maintained by each property owner in every zoning district for the off-street storage of motor vehicles as may be necessary, including in association with the receiving and distribution of goods by motor vehicle, and to prevent undue interference and hazards with the public use of such parking areas, receiving and distribution areas, roads, and other vehicle access areas.

**Section 16.02 General Requirements**

**A. Fractional Space:** When units of measurement determining the number of required parking spaces result in a fractional space, any fraction to and including one-half (1/2) shall be disregarded and fractions over one-half (1/2) shall require one (1) parking space.

**B. Requirements for a Use Not Mentioned:** In the case of a use not specifically mentioned, the requirements of off-street parking for a use which is mentioned and which is most similar to the use not listed shall apply. The Township Board shall make this determination during site plan review proceedings following a recommendation by the Planning Commission, and a record of the rationale applied shall be documented in a file established for that purpose.

**C. Use of Off-Street Parking Areas:** Off-street parking areas shall be reserved for the parking of vehicles used to service the establishment to which it is accessory and by its patrons. No commercial repair work, servicing, storage or selling of any kind shall be conducted in an off-street parking area.

**D. Building Additions or Other Increases in Floor Area:** Whenever a use requiring off-street parking is increased in area, or when interior building modifications result in an increase in capacity for any premise use, additional parking shall be provided and maintained in the proper ratio to the increased floor area or capacity.

**E. Location and Joint Use of Parking Areas:** All off-street parking areas shall be located on the same lot, or on the adjacent premises in the same district as the use they are intended to serve. The joint use of parking facilities by two or more uses may be granted by the Township Board whenever such use is practical and satisfactory to each of the uses intended to be served, and when all site development requirements of Section 16.04 are met.

1. **Computing Capacities:** In computing capacities of any joint use, the total space requirement is the sum of the individual requirements that will occur at the same time. If space requirements for individual uses occur at distinctly different times, the total of such off-street parking facilities required for joint or collective use may be reduced below the sum total of the individual space requirements.
2. **Record of Agreement:** A copy of a proposed agreement between joint users shall be filed with the application for a zoning permit and a copy shall be recorded with the Register of Deeds of the Washtenaw County upon approval of the application. The agreement shall include a guarantee for continued use of the parking facility by each party and a provision requiring written approval by all joint users and the Township Board for termination of such agreement.

**F. Queued Vehicles:** There must be a minimum of fifty (50) linear feet of on-site storage to accommodate queued vehicles waiting to park or exit the site without using any portion of a public street right-of-way or in any other way interfering with road traffic. The Township Board may increase this length where it feels the minimum required fifty (50) foot distance will not adequately address public safety issues due to anticipated traffic patterns and/or types of vehicles. This subsection shall not apply to single family and two family dwellings.

**G. Decrease in Parking Areas:** No off-street parking area which exists at the time this Ordinance becomes effective, or which subsequent thereto is provided for the purpose of complying with this Ordinance, shall thereafter be relinquished or reduced in any manner below the requirements established by this Ordinance unless additional parking area or space is provided sufficient to meet the requirements of this Article and Section 4.07.

**H. Barrier-Free Parking Spaces:** Barrier-free parking spaces shall be provided in accordance with the most current standards and rules of the Michigan Department of Labor, Construction Code Commission, Barrier Free Design Division. Such spaces shall be placed in the most convenient locations to facilitate access into a building. Such spaces shall be clearly identified by both adequate paint striping and wall or post signs.

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**Section 16.03 Site Development Requirements for Off-Street Parking**

All off-street parking areas, except for single family and two family dwellings, shall be designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with the following standards and requirements.

**A. Marking and Designation:** Parking areas shall be so designed and marked as to provide for orderly and safe movement and storage of vehicles.

**B. Driveways:** Adequate ingress and egress to the parking area by means of clearly limited and defined drives shall be provided. Two-way drives for ingress and egress to a parking area shall be not less than twenty-five (25) feet wide and all turning radii shall comfortably accommodate vehicle turning patterns. Each entrance to and exit from an off-street parking area shall be at least twenty-five (25) feet from any adjacent lot within a residential district.

**C. Surface:** All required off-street parking areas shall be paved with concrete, bituminous asphalt or similar material, approved by the site plan approval body. The site plan approval body may waive this requirement for special land uses in General Agriculture, Resource Conservation and Residential Districts upon its determination that such paving is not in character with the surrounding and intended land use pattern, and the lack of paving will not cause a nuisance to current and future residents. Paved parking spaces shall be marked with striping.

**D. Drainage:** All required off-street parking areas shall provide adequate surface drainage facilities to collect and properly discharge storm water runoff. Off-street parking areas shall be drained so as to prevent direct drainage onto abutting properties and public streets. See Section 18.02(D)(3).

**E. Location/Setback:** No off-street parking area shall be located in a required front, side or rear yard setback. This requirement shall not prohibit the placement of a driveway crossing such setback areas in a generally perpendicular manner.

**F. Lighting:** All parking lot lighting shall comply with the applicable provisions of Section 18.04.

**G. Parking Spaces and Maneuvering Lanes:** Each parking space within an off-street parking area shall be provided with adequate access by means of maneuvering lanes. Backing directly onto a public road right-of-way shall be prohibited. The layout of off-street parking areas shall be in accord with the following minimum standards:

Parking Pattern	Maneuvering Lane Width	Parking Space Width	Parking Space Length
0° (Parallel)	10 ft.	9 ft.	23 ft.
30° to 53°	13 ft.	9 ft.	20 ft.
54° to 74°	18 ft.	9 ft.	20 ft.
75° to 90°	22 ft.	9 ft.	18 ft.

1. All maneuvering lane widths shall permit one-way traffic movement only, except for ninety (90) degree and parallel parking patterns which may provide for two-way traffic movement.

**H. Number of Spaces:** See Section 16.04.

**I. Landscaping/Screening:** See Section 17.05.

**Section 16.04 Parking Space Requirements**

**A. Compliance with Required Number of Parking Spaces:**

1. This Section identifies the number of required off-street parking spaces in all districts, by land use type. Such parking spaces shall be located on the lot or parcel upon which the land use is located unless joint use of parking areas is permitted according to Section 16.02(E).
2. In recognition that certain commercial uses generate significantly heightened demands for parking spaces during seasonal or holiday shopping periods, the Township Board may, upon request by the applicant, waive up to twenty-five percent (25%) of the required number of parking spaces as a reserved parking area for possible future use. However, the Township Board may subsequently require the applicant to construct such parking spaces upon a determination by the Township Board that the reduced number of parking spaces is not adequate to meet the parking needs of the use and public safety and welfare is at risk. Upon such a determination by the Township Board, the applicant shall convert the reserve parking area into available parking spaces, meeting all requirements of this Article, within 6 months of such determination. The approved site plan shall clearly identify the location of this reserve parking area including parking spaces and aisles, and no buildings, structures, or similar improvements shall be established in the reserve parking area. This subsection shall apply only to commercial uses that are required to provide more than thirty (30) parking spaces.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

### B. Residential Uses:

1. **One and Two Family Dwellings:** Two (2) spaces for each single family dwelling unit.
2. **Multiple Dwellings:** Two (2) spaces for each multiple family dwelling unit plus one space per five (5) units for guest parking, and one (1) additional parking space shall be provided for each employee of the largest work shift.
3. **Manufactured Housing Community:** Two (2) spaces for each mobile home site plus one (1) space per three (3) units for guest parking.
4. **Group Homes (adult foster care):** One (1) space for every three (3) residents of the home, and one (1) additional parking space shall be provided for each employee of the largest work shift.

**C. Commercial Uses:** In addition to the parking spaces required below, an additional one (1) parking space shall be provided for each employee of the largest work shift.

1. Housing, Lodging, and Care Facilities:
  - a. **Hospital, Nursing Facility, Home for the Aged:** One (1) space for each two (2) beds.
  - b. **Motels, Hotels, and Bed and Breakfasts:** One (1) space for each sleeping unit, plus spaces required by this Section for accompanying bars, restaurants, banquet rooms, and other associated facilities.
  - c. **Day Care Centers, Child Care Center, Nursery School, School of Special Education:** One (1) parking space for each 350 square feet of usable floor space or one (1) space for each seven children, whichever is greater.
2. Recreation:
  - a. **Miniature or Par 3 Golf Courses:** Three (3) spaces for each hole.
  - b. **Par 4 or Greater Golf Courses:** Four (4) spaces for each hole.
  - c. **Roller Skating Rinks and Pool and Billiard Rooms:** One (1) space for every three (3) persons allowed based on the maximum capacity of the facility as determined by the State Fire Marshall.
  - d. **Bowling Alleys:** Three (3) spaces for each alley.
  - e. **Athletic Clubs, Physical Exercise Establishments, Health Studios, Self-Defense Clubs:** One (1) parking space per three (3) patrons based on the occupancy load established by the State Fire Marshall.
3. Retail Sales:
  - a. **Automobile or Machinery Sales:** One (1) space for each 200 square feet of showroom floor area. Spaces used for storage of vehicles for sale shall not be used to meet parking requirements.
  - b. **Clothing, Furniture, Appliance, Hardware, Automobile, and Machinery Sales.** One (1) space per four hundred (400) feet of gross floor area.
  - c. **Service Stations:** Two (2) spaces for each repair and service stall (a service stall is not considered a parking space).
  - d. **Restaurant, Standard:** One (1) space for every four (4) seats, plus an additional one (1) space for each 75 square feet of usable floor area.
  - e. **Restaurant, Drive-Through:** One (1) space for every four (4) seats, plus sufficient area for eight (8) stacking spaces for drive-in windows.
  - f. **Restaurant, Drive Through (no indoor eating facilities):** One (1) space for every 15 square feet of usable floor area except that a minimum of ten (10) spaces is provided.
  - g. **Restaurant, Carry-Out (no indoor eating facilities):** One (1) space for every fifteen (15) square feet of usable floor area, provided a minimum of five (5) spaces are provided.
  - h. **Supermarket, Self-Service Food Store:** One (1) space for every one-hundred (100) square feet of gross floor area, excluding walk-in refrigeration units.
  - i. **Retail Stores and Facilities, (not otherwise specified above):** One (1) space for every two hundred (200) square feet of gross floor area.
4. Services:
  - a. **Banks and Financial Institutions:** One (1) parking space for every 250 square feet of usable floor area plus sufficient area for eight (8) stacking spaces for the first drive-through window and two (2) spaces for each additional window.
  - b. **Barber Shops and Beauty Parlors:** Two (2) spaces for each beauty/barber chair.
  - c. **Automobile or Machinery Service Garages:** Two (2) spaces for each service bay, provided at least ten (10) spaces are provided.
  - d. **Car Wash, Automatic:** For those systems which do not operate as a continuous conveyor system accommodating multiple vehicles at a single time, reserve parking or storage for eighty (80) percent of the manufacture's hourly rated capacity for the system in use shall be required.

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

- e. **Car Wash, Self-Service:** Reserve parking required to accommodate up to five (5) times the maximum number of vehicles able to be undergoing some phase of washing at the same time, determined by dividing the awaiting wash line(s) by twenty (20) feet.
- f. **Medical Clinics:** Two (2) spaces for each examination or treatment room.
- g. **Funeral Homes and Mortuaries:** One (1) space for every fifty (50) square feet of floor area of chapels and assembly rooms.
- h. **Kennels:** One (1) space for each five (5) animals of the facility's capacity.
- i. **Laundromat:** One (1) space for every three (3) washing or drying machines.
- j. **Offices and Professional:** One (1) space for every two hundred (200) square feet of gross floor area.
- k. **Personal Service Establishments (not otherwise specified above):** One (1) space per four hundred (400) feet of gross floor area.

**D. Industrial Uses:**

- 1. **Industrial or Manufacturing Establishments:** One (1) space for every employee of industry's largest working shift.
- 2. **Warehouses, Wholesale Stores:** One (1) space for every eight-hundred (800) square feet of floor area.

**E. Other Uses:** In addition to the parking spaces required below, an additional one (1) parking space shall be provided for each employee of the largest work shift.

- 1. **Church, Synagogue, Chapel, Temple:** One (1) space for each three (3) seats or five (5) linear feet of pew or bench seating in the main unit of worship.
- 2. **Auditorium, Theater, Assembly Hall:** One (1) space for each three (3) seats or five (5) linear feet of bench seating, or one (1) space for each three (3) persons based on the occupancy load as established by the State Fire Marshall, which ever is greater.
- 3. **Private Civic, Fraternal Club or Lodge:** One (1) space for each three (3) members, based upon the load capacity as determined by the State Fire Marshall.
- 4. **Elementary and Middle Schools:** See requirements for auditoriums.
- 6. **High Schools:** One (1) space for each five (5) students (based on the capacity of the facility as determined by the Fire Marshall), plus one (1) space for every four (4) seats where the school contains an auditorium and/or stadium or gym.
- 8. **Libraries, Museums, Post Offices:** One (1) space for every five hundred (500) square feet of floor area.
- 9. **Outdoor Theaters and Other Outdoor Entertainment Facilities:** One (1) space for every four fixed seats and one (1) additional space for every five hundred (500) square feet available to accommodate additional attendees not otherwise restricted to a fixed seating area.

**Section 16.05 Loading and Unloading Space Requirements**

**A. Additional Parking Space:** Loading space required under this Section shall be provided as area additional to off-street parking space as required under Section 16.04 and shall not be considered as supplying off-street parking space.

**B. Space Requirements:** There shall be provided an adequate space for standing, loading, and unloading service adjacent to the building opening for loading and unloading. Each space shall be a minimum of twelve (12) feet in width and twenty-five (25) feet in length, and fifteen (15) feet in height, open or enclosed. The Township Board may require a greater space length where the anticipated type of truck traffic will not be adequately accommodated by a twenty-five (25) foot space.

Institutional, Commercial, and Industrial Uses	Spaces Required
Up to 5,000 square feet of gross floor area:	1 space, if determined necessary during site plan review.
5,001 to 60,000 square feet of gross floor area:	1 space, plus 1 space per each 20,000 sq. ft.
60,001 square feet of gross floor area and over:	4 spaces, plus 1 space per each additional 20,000 square feet.

Industrial Uses	Spaces Required
Up to 1,400 square feet of gross floor area:	0 spaces.
1,401 to 20,000 square feet of gross floor area:	1 space.
20,001 to 100,000 square feet of gross floor area:	1 space, plus 1 space per each 20,000 sq. ft. of gross floor area in excess of 20,000 sq. ft.

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**C. Access:** Access to a truck standing, loading, and unloading space shall be provided directly from a public road or alley and such space shall be so arranged to provide sufficient off-street maneuvering space as well as adequate ingress and egress to and from a road or alley.

**D. Screening:** All loading and unloading areas which are adjacent to another District or residential property, or face or are visible from residential properties or public thoroughfares, shall be screened.

**E. Location:** A loading-unloading area shall not be located within any front yard. A loading-unloading area may be located within a required side or rear yard setback where such yard adjoins a Commercial or Industrial District. However, in no case shall the loading-unloading area be located closer than fifty (50) feet to a residential lot line.

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

***End of Article 16***



**Article 17**  
**LANDSCAPING and SCREENING**

**Section 17.01 Purpose**

It is the purpose of this Article is to establish standards and requirements to assure adequate provisions are made for landscaping and screening so that land uses minimize noise, air, and visual pollution; improve the appearance of off-street parking and other vehicular use areas; assure adequate buffering between incompatible uses; support the desired community character along property adjoining public rights-of-way; prevent soil erosion and soil depletion; and protect and preserve the appearance, character, and value of the community as a whole and its residential and business areas.

**Section 17.02 Application**

The requirements of this Article shall apply to only those uses for which site plan approval is required under Article 4, Procedures for Site Plan & Plot Plan Review, and any other use so specified in this Ordinance. No site plan shall be approved unless said site plan shall show landscaping, buffer areas, and screening consistent with the requirements set forth in this Article. This Article shall not apply to single family and two-family dwellings.

**Section 17.03 Landscape Plan Required**

**A.** A detailed landscape plan is required to be submitted as part of a site plan (see Article 4). The landscape plan shall be prepared at a minimum scale of 1" = 50' and shall identify all buffer areas (see Section 17.04) and parking lot landscaping (see Section 17.05). The landscape plan shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following items:

1. Proposed plant location, spacing, and size and descriptions for each plant type proposed for use to meet the requirements of this Article.
2. Identification of grass and other proposed ground cover and method of planting.
3. Existing and proposed contours on-site and 150 feet beyond the site at intervals not to exceed two (2) feet.
4. Significant construction details to resolve specific site conditions, such as tree wells to preserve existing trees or culverts to maintain natural drainage patterns.
5. Planting and staking details in either text or drawing form to ensure proper installation and establishment of proposed plant materials.
6. Identification of existing trees and vegetative cover to be preserved and those areas of trees six (6) inches or larger in diameter, measured five (5) feet from ground surface, to be removed.

**Section 17.04 Buffer Areas**

**A. Side and Rear Yard Buffer Areas:** All uses for which a site plan is required shall be screened by a buffer area along all adjoining side and rear yard boundaries. The buffer area shall not be used for storage purposes or used in any other manner except for the purposes of a buffer.

1. The buffer area shall be equal to the minimum required setback for the District, but in no case shall such buffer yard be less than ten (10) feet in width. The buffer yard shall include a berm or solid wall or fence or a combination thereof, and be of at least (5) feet in height. The buffer area shall be planted and maintained with evergreens such as spruce, pines, or firs, and deciduous trees. While such plantings need not be evenly spaced, the trees shall be provided at a rate of at least one (1) evergreen tree per fifty (50) linear feet and one (1) deciduous tree per one hundred fifty (150) linear feet. Heights of walls shall be measured on the side of the proposed wall/fence having the higher grade. At the time of their planting, evergreen trees shall be a minimum of five (5) feet in height and deciduous trees shall have a caliper of at least two and a half (2 1/2) inches, measured five (5) feet above the ground surface, and be a minimum of twelve (12) feet in height.
  - a. A buffer area need not include a berm, wall or fence where the abutting parcel is in the same District as the buffer yard, except where such a measure is determined necessary during site plan review proceedings. However, all plant material required by (1) above shall be provided.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

**B. Front Yard Buffer Areas:** A buffer area with a minimum width equal to the front yard setback of its zoning classification shall be located adjoining the right-of-way of a public road, and shall be landscaped with a minimum of one (1) tree meeting the minimum size requirements specified in Section 17.04(A) above for each seventy-five (75) lineal feet, or portion thereof, of frontage adjoining said right-of-way. The remainder of the front yard buffer area shall be landscaped in grass, shrubs, trees and/or other ground cover. Access ways from public rights-of-way through required buffer areas shall be permitted, but such access ways shall not be subtracted from the lineal dimension used to determine the minimum number of required trees.

### **Section 17.05 Parking Lot Landscaping and Screening**

**A.** Parking lots shall be landscaped and screened as follows:

1. There shall be provided a minimum of one (1) deciduous tree of at least two and a half (2 1/2) inch caliper for every eight (8) parking spaces. Such trees shall be located within parking islands or within fifteen (15) feet of the edge of the parking lot. A minimum distance of three (3) feet shall be established between proposed tree or shrub plantings and the edge of curbing and pavement.
2. Where a parking lot contains six (6) or more parking spaces and is within two hundred (200) feet of a General Agriculture, Resource Conservation or Residential District, or is within view from a residence or public road, a berm, fence, wall and/or vegetative screen shall be installed to screen views to the parking area. All shrub materials shall be a height of at least three (3) feet at the time of their planting.

### **Section 17.06 Minimum Standards of Landscape Elements**

**A. Quality:** Plant material and grasses shall be of generally acceptable varieties and species, free of insects and diseases, hardy to the climate, conform to the current minimum standard of the American Association of Nurserymen, and shall have proof of any required governmental regulations and/or inspections. Plant species which are generally considered undesirable due to limited disease tolerance, low wood strength, and/or high tendencies toward splitting of wood, such as boxelder, mulberry, and willows, are not permitted unless specifically authorized otherwise by the site plan approving body.

**B. Composition:** A mixture of plant material, such as evergreen, deciduous trees and shrubs, shall be required as a protective measure against insect and disease infestation. A limited mixture of native hardy species shall be required to produce a more aesthetic, cohesive design and avoid a disorderly appearing arrangement.

**C. Existing Trees:**

1. If existing plant material is labeled "To Remain" on site plans by the applicant or required by the site plan approval body, protective techniques, such as, but not limited to, fencing or barriers placed at the dripline around the perimeter of the plant material, shall be installed during construction. No vehicle or other construction equipment shall be parked or stored within the dripline of any plant material intended to be saved. Other protective techniques may be used provided such techniques are approved by the site plan approving body.
2. In the event that existing healthy trees which are used to meet the minimum requirements of this Ordinance, or those labeled to remain are cut down, destroyed, damaged, or excavated at the dripline, as determined by the Planning Commission, the applicant shall replace them with trees which meet Ordinance requirements.

### **Section 17.07 Installation, Maintenance And Completion**

**A.** All landscaping required by this Ordinance shall be planted prior to obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy or, where the applicant can demonstrate to the Township Board that seasonal conditions prohibit the installation of the plant material prior to desired occupancy, the plant material shall be installed within six months of receipt of such Certificate.

**B.** All landscaping and landscape elements shall be planted, and earth moving or grading performed, in a sound workmanlike manner and according to accepted good planting and grading procedures.

**C.** The owner of property required to be landscaped by this Ordinance shall maintain such required landscaping in a reasonably healthy condition, free from refuse and debris. All unhealthy and dead material shall be replaced within one (1) year of damage or death or the next appropriate planting period, whichever comes first.

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**Section 17.08 Fencing and Walls Construction**

- A. Fencing:** Required fencing shall consist of solid board fences with wood posts not less than three and one half inches (3 1/2" x 3 1/2") and solid board cover not less than three quarters (3/4) inch thick. Masonry piers may be substituted for wood posts. Posts or piers shall be spaced not more than eight (8) feet on center. The finished side of fencing shall face adjacent properties. Fencing consisting of tree trunks and/or limbs anchored into the ground is not permitted. All fencing materials shall be weather/rot resistant.
- B. Walls:** Required walls shall be of masonry design and constructed to facilitate maintenance and not modify natural drainage in such a way as to endanger adjacent property. The faces of such walls are to be of face brick, poured-in-place simulated face brick, precast brick panels having simulated face brick, stone, embossed or pierced concrete block, or other decorative masonry material.

**Section 17.09 Waivers and Modifications**

Any of the requirements of this Article may be modified through site plan review proceedings, provided the approving body first makes a written finding that specifically identifies characteristics of the site or site vicinity that would make required buffer areas, fencing, or screening unnecessary, inappropriate, or ineffective, or where it would impair vision at a driveway or street intersection.

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

***End of Article 17***

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**Article 18  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Section 18.01 Purpose**

The purpose of this Article is to promote a healthy environment in Sharon Township as it relates to the Township's natural resources; sensitive ecosystems; the integrity of the Township's land, water, and air; the quality of the Township's visual environment, including the management of outdoor lighting and its impact upon traffic safety, adjacent land uses and the night sky; and the provision of adequate sewage disposal and potable water. All provisions of this Article apply to all structures and uses unless otherwise noted.

**Section 18.02 Natural Resources**

**A. Compliance with Local, County, State, and Federal Regulations:** All land uses and construction activities shall conform with the provisions of this Ordinance and all county, state and federal regulations including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Applicable fire safety and emergency vehicle access requirements of the state construction code and State Fire Marshall.
2. Requirements of the Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services and the Washtenaw County Health Department.
3. Requirements of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality including those applying to air and water quality protection, wetlands, stream crossings, fills in or near water bodies or in flood plains, and waste disposal.
4. All local, county, state and federal regulations related to loading/unloading, transport, storage, use and/or disposal of hazardous substances.
5. Applicable rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission.

**B. Discharges (eff. 12/27/2018)**

1. No dust, fumes, or noxious, odorous matter shall be discernible at or beyond the property line. Any atmospheric discharge requiring a permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality or federal government shall have said permit(s) as a condition of approval for any use in this district. The escape of or emission of any gas which is injurious or destructive or explosive is prohibited. This subsection shall not apply to farm operations in compliance with most current published Generally Accepted Agricultural Management Practices of the Michigan Commission of Agriculture.
2. It shall be unlawful for any person, company or other entity to release, drain, or cause to be released or drained any polluted or harmful water, liquid, sewage or any other polluted or harmful substance from any pipe, sink, septic tank or any other source or object, onto the surface of any land or into any open ditch, creek, lake or stream, or into any pipe or other conduit which directly or indirectly empties, deposits or causes to accumulate any such described substance onto the surface of any land or into any open ditch, creek, lake or stream. In addition any owner, part owner, lessee, lessor, occupant or other person, company or other entity having control of or other interest in any premises from, through or onto which any such described substance is released, drained, or deposited, and who authorizes, permits, or acquiesces in the same, shall be liable for the violation of this Ordinance.

For purposes of this Ordinance, a polluted or harmful liquid or other polluted substance shall include, but is not limited to, any contaminated water, sewage, industrial waste, crude oil or other petroleum-related liquid or substance, brine, water-chemical mixture or any other liquid or fluid containing chemicals or other contaminating substances.

3. The storage of any soil, fertilizer, or similar loosely packaged materials, in association with commercial outdoor landscape supply operations, shall be sufficiently contained to prevent any adverse affect on adjacent properties, water bodies, wetlands, groundwater and drainage ways.

**C. Sensitive Lands:**

1. Where a portion of a parcel is characterized by sensitive or fragile environmental features, including marshes, hydric soils, or flood plains, new development on the parcel shall only occur on those portions of the parcel void of such features where reasonably feasible.
2. Except where required to do so by state or federal law, the Township shall not approve any land use which requires a county, state, or federal permit until such permit has been obtained and satisfactory evidence

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

has been submitted verifying the acquisition of the necessary permits, or satisfactory evidence has been submitted to the Township's approving body verifying the acquisition of such permit is not necessary.

3. The Township may require mitigation measures be taken to replace those resources disturbed or destroyed by a land use, or to otherwise lessen the impact of a new land use upon natural resources and sensitive areas.

**D. Clearing, Grading, and Drainage:** In order to protect soil resources, adjacent properties, public roads, and public watercourses, and to provide for adequate drainage of surface water, the following rules shall apply to all construction activities requiring permits pursuant to this Ordinance.

1. Removal of Topsoil: Stripping and removal of topsoil from a site is prohibited prior to the completion of all approved site improvements and the seeding, sodding, and landscaping of all disturbed areas except where expressly authorized pursuant to an approved site plan. "Disturbed areas" shall be interpreted to mean any area of a lot which is altered by grading or other construction activities and which area is not proposed to be paved or otherwise built upon.
2. Flow Restrictions: The final grade surface of ground areas surrounding a building or structure shall be designed and landscaped such that surface waters flow away from the building or structure and are managed in a manner which avoids increased flow onto adjacent properties or public roads, the erosion or filling of a roadside ditch, the blockage of a public watercourse, or the creation of standing water over a private sewage disposal drainage field.
3. Drainage: All lots shall retain storm water runoff on-site, or detain it so as to allow discharge without any impact on adjacent lands, streams or water bodies above the existing pre-development runoff impact. No land uses shall be permitted which will increase the rate of runoff discharge from a lot or parcel or otherwise cause erosion or direct sedimentation upon adjacent properties including an adjacent street. No land uses shall be permitted which will reduce the level of service currently being provided by existing storm water management infrastructure or existing drainage patterns unless necessary improvements to such infrastructure or natural drainage pattern are first made.

### **Section 18.03 Potable Water And Sewage Disposal**

Any structure intended for human occupancy and used for dwelling, businesses, industrial, recreational, institutional, or mercantile purposes shall not be erected, altered, used or moved upon any premises after the effective date of this Ordinance unless said structure shall be provided with a potable water supply and waste water disposal system that ensures a safe and effective means of collection, treatment, and disposal of generated wastes. All on-site sewage disposal and potable water facilities shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the requirements and standards of the Washtenaw County Public Health Department as well as those of other applicable local, county, state, or federal agencies.

### **Section 18.04 Lighting**

- A. No lighting shall in any way impair the safe movement of traffic on any road or highway.
- B. In a commercial, industrial, or other non-residential use, a wall, fence, or berm, at least five (5) feet in height shall be erected to prevent headlight glare from commercial or industrial land uses from shining onto adjacent residential property. No wall/fence shall in any way impair safe vertical or horizontal sight distance for any moving vehicles.
- C. In all zoning districts:
  1. Lighting shall be designed and constructed to insure that direct and reflected light is confined to the lot or parcel upon which the light source is located and to insure that it minimizes light spilling onto adjacent properties and producing glare.
  2. Exterior lighting shall be so installed that the surface of the source of light shall be hooded or shielded so that the light source shall not be directly visible and shall be so arranged and constructed to shield or deflect light away from adjacent properties.
  3. No light source shall exceed the height of the tallest structure on the lot or parcel, and in no case shall a light source exceed a height of twenty-five feet, measured from the ground or pavement closest to the light source.
  4. No light fixture shall have a light source that is greater than 400 watts or the equivalent thereof.
  5. Maximum light intensity within any site shall not exceed:
    - a. 25 footcandles directly under a light fixture.
    - b. 0.1 footcandles at any lot boundary abutting any residential district, rural district or residential property.
    - c. 0.3 footcandles at any other boundary or road right-of-way
  6. Prohibited lighting. The following types of exterior lighting shall be prohibited:

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

- a. Exterior lighting sources and fixtures of a flashing, moving, animated or intermittent type.
- b. Building or roof-mounted lighting intended to attract attention to the building or use and not strictly designed for security purposes.
- c. Subdivision or site condominium streetlighting, except where authorized by the Township Board, after recommendation from the Planning Commission and a determination that such lighting is necessary for safety, security or aesthetic purposes.
- d. Exterior illumination of buildings, parking lots or signs beyond the minimum necessary for security purposes during nighttime hours when the premises are unoccupied.

(eff. 12/27/2018)

**D.** Neon lighting and other bare-bulb lighting associated with an approved sign need not comply with the standards of (A), (B) and (C) above.

### **Section 18.05 Noise and Vibration (eff. 12/27/2018)**

**A. Intent:** The Township finds and declares that excessive sound and or vibration is a serious hazard to the public health, welfare, safety and quality of life; that a substantial body of science and technology exists by which excessive sound may be substantially abated; and that people have a right to and should be ensured an environment free from excessive sound and/or vibration that may jeopardize their health, welfare or safety or degrade the quality of life. Therefore, it is the policy of the township to prevent excessive sound and vibration which may jeopardize the health, welfare or safety of the citizens of the township or degrade the quality of life.

**B. Definitions:** The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

1. **Amplified sound** means sound augmented by any electronic means that increases the sound level or volume.
2. **Business establishment** means any commercial establishment, including establishments that are required to obtain an entertainment license.
3. **Daytime/evening** means the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.
4. **Dwelling unit** means one or more rooms connected together and containing sleeping facilities, which facilities are occupied, whether or not for temporary or overnight rental, by one or more persons.
5. **Emergency** means any occurrence or set of circumstances involving actual or imminent physical trauma or property damage which demands immediate action. Economic loss shall not be a factor in the determination of an emergency. It shall be the burden of an alleged violator to prove an emergency.
6. **Emergency work** means any work performed for the purpose of preventing or alleviating the physical trauma or property damage, but not economic loss, threatened or caused by an emergency.
7. **Holiday** means New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas.
8. **Impulsive sound** means a sound of short duration, usually less than one second, with an abrupt onset and rapid decay. Examples of sources of impulsive sound include explosions and the discharge of firearms.
9. **Live music** means any sound comprised of instrumental music, song, or a combination of instrumental music and song, produced in whole or in part by a singer vocalizing or by a musician playing a musical instrument on the same premises as the sound source.
10. **Nighttime** means the hours between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
11. **Noise** means any sound which annoys or disturbs humans or which causes or tends to cause any adverse psychological or physiological effect on humans.
12. **Noise nuisance** means any loud, irritating, vexing or disturbing sound originating from a nearby property under separate ownership which causes injury, discomfort or distress of a person of reasonable sensibilities.
13. **Plainly audible sound** means any amplified sound for which the information content of the sound is unambiguously communicated to the listener, including (without limitation) understandable words, comprehensible musical rhythms, beat or cadence.
14. **Public right-of-way** means any street, avenue, boulevard, highway, sidewalk, or alley, or similar place normally accessible to the public which is owned or controlled by a governmental entity.
15. **Public space** means any property or structures thereon normally accessible to the public.
16. **Real property line** means any imaginary line along the surface, and its vertical plane extension, which separates the real property owned, rented or leased by one person from that owned, rented or leased by another person, excluding intra-building real property divisions.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

17. **Receiving property** means any lot, parcel of land, public space, institution or dwelling unit to which sound, not originating therefrom, travels.
18. **Recorded music** means any sound comprised of instrumental music or song, or a combination, produced and generated by a speaker, loudspeaker, radio, television, tape, record player, compact disc player, jukebox or other sound producing device.
19. **Sound source** means the place from which amplified sound emanates, including, without limitation, a speaker, loudspeaker, or other sound-producing instrument or person.
20. **Vibration** means an oscillatory motion of solid bodies of deterministic or random nature described by displacement, velocity or acceleration with respect to a given reference point.

### C. Unreasonably loud or disturbing amplified noise; complaint procedure:

1. **Definition:** Unreasonably loud noise" means any amplified sound that crosses real property boundaries at such a volume as to: (1) Disrupt the normal daily activities including, but not limited to, sleeping, studying, and dining of persons within a residence, or disrupt the normal daily activities including, but not limited to, working of persons within a place of business; or (2) Cause adverse psychological or physiological effects on humans.
2. **Prohibited.** It shall be unlawful for any person to make or to cause to allow any unreasonably loud or disturbing amplified noise of a character, intensity, raucousness or duration as to be detrimental to the life, health or welfare of any person or as to annoy, disturb, injure or endanger the comfort, repose, peace or safety of any person, whether on a steady or intermittent basis. At all times, amplified sound that is plainly audible and that meets either of the following criteria is prohibited:
  - (a) Noise that is unreasonably loud or disturbing; or
  - (b) Noise that crosses real property boundaries and interferes with the peace, comfort or enjoyment of persons residing in a dwelling unit or a residence or persons located at a receiving property.
3. **Complaint procedure.** Complaints under this division may be made by telephone contact with the local law enforcement agency or a code enforcement officer of the Township. The complainant shall identify himself by name, address and telephone number, and shall identify the general direction or vicinity of the apparent sound source, but shall not be required to meet personally with the investigating officer to sign a written complaint, or otherwise participate in the investigation of the complaint. The investigating officer is authorized to verify information provided by the complainant. This subsection provides no right of entry except as is available to the public generally, or except as is provided by law.

### D. Noise nuisance enumeration: The following acts, among others not enumerated in this section, are declared to be noise nuisances and are unlawful and in violation of the provisions of this division when such acts are done or accomplished or carried on in such a manner, or with such volume, intensity, or with continued duration, so as to annoy, to distress, or to disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of any person of reasonable sensibilities within the vicinity or hearing thereof, or so as to endanger or injure the safety or health of humans or animals; or so as to interfere with the physical well-being of humans or animals; or so as to endanger or injure personal or real property:

1. Radios, television sets, musical instruments and similar devices. Operating, playing or permitting the operation or playing of any radio, television, phonograph, drum, musical instrument, sound amplifier or similar device which produces, reproduces or amplifies sound:
  - (a) Between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. the following day in such a manner as to create a noise disturbance across a real property boundary or within a noise sensitive zone, except for activities open to the public and for which a permit has been issued by the township;
  - (b) In such a manner as to create a noise disturbance at 50 feet from such device, when operated in or on a motor vehicle on a public right-of-way or public space, or in a boat on public waters; or
  - (c) In such a manner as to create a noise disturbance to any person other than the operator of the device, when operated by any passenger on a common carrier.
2. Loudspeakers and public address systems. Using or operating loudspeakers and public address systems:
  - (a) For any noncommercial purpose between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. the following day, such that the sound therefrom creates a noise disturbance across a residential real property boundary.
  - (b) For any commercial purpose:
    - (1) Such that the sound therefrom creates a noise disturbance across a real property boundary; or



## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

(2) Between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. the following day on a public right-of-way or public space.

3. Animals and birds. Owning, possessing or harboring any animal or bird which frequently or for continued duration howls, barks, meows, squawks or makes other sounds which create a noise disturbance across a residential real property boundary.
4. Motor vehicle horns and signaling devices. The sounding of any horn or other signaling device on or in any motor vehicle on any public right-of-way or public space, except as a warning of danger.
5. The operation of any motor, equipment and/or device on either public or private property, at any time, of such a duration or in such a manner that causes loud and unnecessary grating, grinding, hammering, pounding, rattling or other unreasonable noise that is clearly audible from nearby properties;

**E. Vibration:** It shall be unlawful to operate, or to permit or to cause the operation of, any device or equipment that creates vibration which is above the vibration perception threshold of an individual at or beyond the property line of the source, if on private property, or at 50 feet from the source, if in a public space or public right-of-way. For the purposes of this section, the term "vibration perception threshold" means the minimum ground or structure-borne vibrational motion necessary to cause a reasonable person to be aware of the vibration by such direct means as, but not limited to, sensation by touch or visual observation of moving objects.

**F. Additional sound limitations:**

1. No person shall, on any public sidewalk, street, highway, park, beach, or other public property, or in any motor vehicle located on any public street or property, use, operate, or play any radio, photograph, stereo set, tape or CD player, television, sound amplifier, or other electronic audio device which produces or reproduces amplified sound at a level which is plainly audible at a distance of more than 30 feet from the sound source. This section shall not apply to live music.
2. Under this division, measurements of distance from a sound source to a receiving property shall be measured in a straight line from the property line of the property on which the sound source is located to the property line of the receiving property. If the sound source is within a walled and roofed structure, the measurement shall be taken from the exterior of that structure, and if one or more open doors or windows are present, from any of such open doors or windows, at the point closest to the receiving property in a straight line to the property line of the receiving property.

**G. Exceptions.** The following shall not constitute a violation under this division:

1. Sound levels from burglar alarms, provided that such alarms shall terminate operation within 15 minutes after activation. Nonemergency testing of such alarms must occur between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
2. Sound levels from any emergency signaling device, public or private, that alerts persons to the existence of an emergency, or the emission of sound in the performance of emergency work.
3. Sound levels from equipment used in the collection of refuse, the control of mosquitoes, or the emergency installation and maintenance of utilities, provided that such equipment is muffled and maintained equivalent to the functional standards of the industry.
4. The unamplified human voice.
5. Routine maintenance of public service utilities.
6. Sound produced by emergency vehicles.
7. Sound produced by any governmental body in the performance of a governmental function.
8. Sound levels from equipment used by police, fire, and other city department radio equipment, and from like equipment used by other government agencies in performance of official duties.
9. Sound levels from public address broadcast systems utilized in public stadiums and ballfields.
10. Agricultural operations. Noise created by agricultural operations permitted by the Right to Farm Act, being Public Act 1981, No. 93.

**H. Enforcement of division; penalties for violation of division.**

1. Investigation and enforcement. Investigation of and enforcement of this division shall commence upon the complaint of any affected property owner, tenant or other person.
2. Identification of violator. The persons responsible for violations of this division are identified as follows:
  - (a) At private residences, any adult resident present at the time of the offense, and any adult guest or adult trespasser with the ability to control the level of noise at the time of the offense when no adult resident is present at the time of the offense.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

- (b) At business locations, any business owner, operator, manager, employee in charge, and all persons in control or in possession of the noise nuisance generating instrument or property at the time of the offense.
  - (c) At any location with an unattended noise nuisance producing machine, device, instrument, child, animal or combination of same. Any person who leaves unattended any machine, instrument, device, child, animal, or any combination of same, which thereafter commences producing noise in violation of this division.
3. **Notice to appear.** Any person or business violating any provision of this division shall be cited through a notice to appear in district court. A notice to appear shall be issued only after a person or business violating this division receives a warning of such violation and refuses to comply within a reasonable period of time.
4. **Penalty for violation of division.** Any person violating any provision of this section shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00 or imprisoned for not more than 30 days. Each day such violation shall continue or exist shall constitute a separate offense.

### **Section 18.06 Glare and Heat**

Any operation which produces intense glare or heat shall be conducted within an enclosure so as to completely obscure and shield such operation from direct view from any point along the lot lines. If heat is a result of an operation, it shall be so insulated as to not raise the temperature at any property line at any time.

***End of Article 18***

## Article 19 ACCESS PROVISIONS

### **Section 19.01 Purpose**

The purpose of this Article is to provide standards which will facilitate safe and efficient traffic movement and vehicular access in the Township. The standards contained herein are intended to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, including minimizing congestion and potential for accidents, and better assuring accessibility to property under emergency conditions. The regulations and standards of this Article apply to all properties in the Township. The requirements and standards of this Article shall be applied in addition to the requirements of the Michigan Department of Transportation, Washtenaw County Road Commission, and other provisions of this Ordinance.

### **Section 19.02 Lots To Have Access**

All parcels and lots and every use, building, or structure created or established hereinafter in the Township shall have frontage on a public road, private road, or have access to a public or private road by means of an access easement. Such access easement shall be a least sixty-six (66) feet wide unless a lesser width was established and recorded prior to the effective date of this Ordinance. All private roads, driveways, and shared driveways shall be constructed and approved according to this Ordinance, and take their access from such frontage so as to provide safe, convenient access for fire protection, other emergency vehicles, and any required off-street parking.

### **Section 19.03 Driveways**

**A. Driveways:** All plans for structures to be erected, altered, moved or reconstructed, and use of premises within the Township shall contain a plan for the proposed driveway access to the premises which shall be part of the plot plan or site plan pursuant to Article 4. Said plan shall be approved prior to the issuance of a zoning permit. No such plan shall be approved unless such driveway access is onto a public road or approved private road. Driveways and curb cuts shall, at a minimum, meet the following standards:

1. Driveways shall be within ten (10) degrees of perpendicular to the road.
2. No driveway shall serve more than one (1) single family dwelling or more than one (1) dwelling unit in a two family dwelling unless specifically otherwise approved.
3. Residential driveways shall be a minimum of twelve (12) feet in clear unobstructed width, be clear and unobstructed to a minimum height of fifteen (15) feet, and have a surface designed and maintained to permit emergency access.
4. Non-residential driveway ingress and egress points shall not be closer than one-hundred (100) feet to the intersection of any two (2) public streets, or closer than one hundred (100) feet to an adjacent driveway within a Commercial or Industrial district.
5. No driveways providing access to non-residential uses or structures shall cross residentially-zoned property.
6. A driveway providing access to more than one (1) Industrial or Commercial Use must meet road standards as required by the Township Board.

### **Section 19.04 Shared Driveways**

**A. Zoning Permit Required:** No shared driveway as defined in this Ordinance, including a new shared driveway or a shared driveway existing on the effective date of this Ordinance, shall be established, extended, or relocated after the effective date of this Ordinance unless a Zoning Permit has been issued for such activity by the Zoning Administrator.

#### **B. Application and Review:**

1. **Application:** Shared driveways require approval, subject to an application. An application for a shared driveway shall include the following:
  - a. A plot plan drawn to a scale of not less than one inch equals 50 feet (1" = 50') delineating the proposed alignment of the driveway and the lots it is to serve, soil conditions, and existing and proposed grades.
  - b. Draft maintenance agreement signed by applicant/owner(s) to be recorded with the Township Clerk and County Register of Deeds providing for:
    - 1) A method of financing such shared driveway in order to keep the shared driveway up to the specifications of this Section.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

- 2) A workable method of apportioning the costs of maintenance and improvements to current and future lots along such shared driveway.
- c. Draft easement agreement signed by the applicant/owner(s) to be recorded with the Township Clerk and County Register of Deeds providing for:
  - 1) Easements to the public for purposes of emergency and other public vehicles for whatever public services are necessary.
  - 2) A provision that the owners of any and all of the property using the shared driveway shall refrain from prohibiting, restricting, limiting or in any manner interfering with normal ingress and egress, public utilities, and use by any of the other owners. Normal ingress and egress and use shall include use by family, guests, invitee, vendors, tradesman, delivery persons, and others bound to or returning from any of the properties having a need to use the driveway. In all cases there should be no obstructions within twelve (12) feet on either side of the driveway's center line.
2. Review: The approving body for an application for a shared driveway shall be the Zoning Administrator. The Zoning Administrator shall forward all relevant application materials for review and comment to the Fire Chief and Township Attorney and, where the Zoning Administrator considers necessary, to the Township Engineer.
3. Action: Upon a finding that the application materials conform to the requirements and standards of this Section and Ordinance, the Zoning Administrator shall approve, or approve with conditions, the application. No approval shall be granted until the Zoning Administrator has received copies of the approved shared driveway easement agreement and maintenance agreement recorded with the Washtenaw County Register of Deeds.

**C. Standards:** Shared driveways shall comply with the following standards in addition to all other applicable standards of this Ordinance:

1. The shared driveway surface shall be a uniform minimum twelve (12) feet wide, measured edge to edge, with segments twenty (20) feet wide and forty (40) feet long, every three hundred (300) feet, to accommodate passing vehicles, and have a surface designed and maintained to permit emergency access.
2. Shared driveways shall not serve more than four (4) dwelling units.
3. All addresses served by the shared driveway shall be clearly marked at its point of intersection with a road, and such addresses shall also be clearly marked at any location a private driveway splits from the shared driveway.
4. No shared driveway shall be posted with a name.

### **Section 19.05 Private Roads**

**A. Private Roads Permitted:** Private roads are permitted in Sharon Township provided such roads comply with the regulations and standards of this Ordinance.

#### **B. Zoning Permits Required:**

1. No private road, including a new private road or a private road existing on the effective date of this Ordinance, shall be constructed, extended, improved, or relocated after the effective date of this Ordinance unless a Zoning Permit has been issued for such construction by the Zoning Administrator, after approval of the Township Board.
2. No building or zoning permits shall be issued for any use, structure or building that relies upon a private road for access until such road has received final approval from the Township Board through the issuance of a zoning permit for the use of such road.

**C. Application:** Application for a private road shall require site plan approval according to Article 4. In addition to the data required by Article 4 for site plan approval, the following additional information shall be provided:

1. A general property development plan identifying the following:
  - a. Project description, in both narrative and map form, including the location of the proposed private road easement and approximate location of proposed land divisions to gain access from said private road.
  - b. The legal description of the proposed private road easement.
  - c. Construction plans and drawings illustrating the proposed design and construction features of the proposed private road and easement, including existing and proposed elevation contours within all areas to be disturbed or altered by construction of the private road. Proposed traffic control measures (including signs) and proposed road names shall also be indicated.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

- d. A signed statement by a civil engineer licensed in Michigan certifying that the plans and drawings for the private road, submitted for review, meet or exceeds the provisions of the Sharon Township Zoning Ordinance.
2. Road easement agreement signed by the applicant/owner(s) to be recorded with the Township Clerk and Washtenaw County Register of Deeds providing for:
  - a. Easements to the public for purposes of emergency and other public vehicles, and easements for utilities.
  - b. A provision that the owners of any and all of the property using the road shall refrain from prohibiting, restricting, limiting or in any manner interfering with normal ingress and egress and use by any of the other owners. Normal ingress and egress and use shall include use by family, guests, invitees, vendors, tradesman, delivery persons, and others bound to or returning from any of the properties having a need to use the road.
  - c. A provision that substantially conforms to the following:

"This parcel of land has private road access across a permanent easement which is a matter of record and a part of the deed. This notice is to make Purchaser aware that this parcel of land has egress and ingress over this easement only. Neither Washtenaw County nor Sharon Township has any responsibility for maintenance or upkeep of any improvement across this easement, except as may be provided by an established special assessment district. Maintenance is the responsibility of the owners of record. The United States mail service and the local school district are not required to traverse this private improvement and may provide service only to the closest public access. (Michigan P.A. 134 of 1972, as amended.)"
  - d. Draft road maintenance agreement signed by applicant/owner(s) to be recorded with the Township Clerk and County Register of Deeds providing for:
    - 1) A method of initiating and financing of such road in order to keep the road up to properly engineered specifications and free of snow or debris.
    - 2) A workable method of apportioning the costs of maintenance and improvements to current and future uses.
    - 3) A notice that no public funds of the Township are to be used to build, repair, or maintain the private road.

**D. Zoning Permit for Use of Private Road Required:** Upon completion of the construction of a private road as authorized by an approved site plan and zoning permit, the Township Board shall grant final approval for the use of the private road to provide access to structures and uses when the following conditions have been met:

1. The applicant's civil engineer shall certify to the Township Board, in writing, that the required improvements were made in accordance with this Article and Ordinance and all approved plans. The applicant's engineer shall be registered in the State of Michigan.
2. The Township Board has received copies of the approved road easement agreement and road maintenance agreement recorded with the Washtenaw County Register of Deeds.

**E. Design Standards:** All private roads shall be designed and constructed to the most current standards of the Washtenaw County Road Commission. However, the Township Board may waive one or more of such standards where the following findings are documented along with the rationale for the decision:

1. No good public purpose will be achieved by requiring conformance with the standards sought by the applicant to be waived.
2. The spirit and intent of this Section will still be achieved.
3. No nuisance will be created.

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

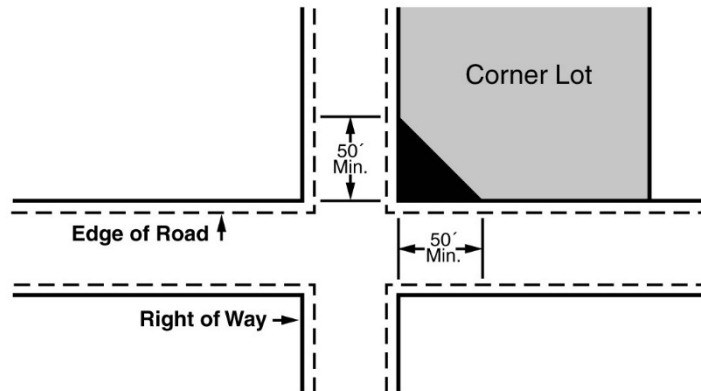
April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

**Section 19.06 Clear Vision Zone**

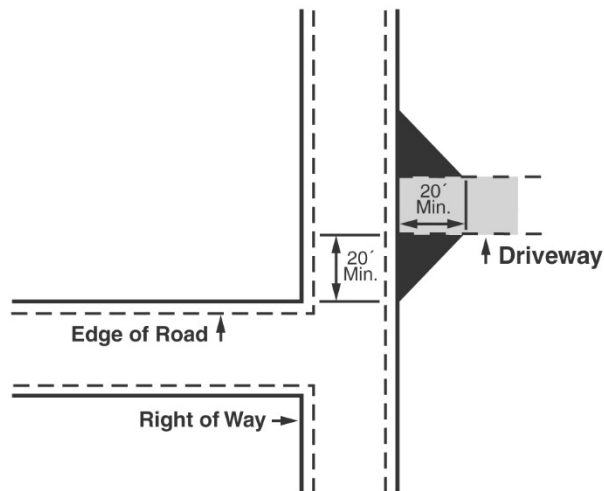
**A. Roads:** No fence, wall, hedge, screen, sign, structure, vegetation or other obstruction shall be located so as to impede vision between the height of two and one-half (2 1/2) and ten (10) feet above road grade on any corner lot within the triangular area formed by the intersection of any road right-of-way lines and a diagonal line connecting them at points fifty (50) feet from their intersection (See Figure 19.04-1).

**B. Driveways:** No fence, wall, hedge, screen, sign, structure, vegetation or other obstruction shall be located so as to impede vision between the height of two and one-half (2 1/2) and ten (10) feet above road grade on any lot or parcel within the triangular area formed by the intersecting lines of a driveway edge and road right-of-way line and a diagonal line connecting them at points twenty (20) feet from their intersection (See Figure 19.04-2).

**Figure 19.04-1  
Clear Vision Area Along Road Intersections**



**Figure 19.04-2  
Clear Vision Area for Driveways**



**End of Article 19**

SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

Article 20  
GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Section 20.01 Purpose**

The purpose of this Article is to recognize that there are certain conditions concerning land uses that warrant specific exceptions, regulations, or standards in addition to the requirements of the zoning district which they are permitted to be located. The following general provisions establish regulations which are applicable to all zoning districts unless otherwise indicated.

**Section 20.02 Conditional Approvals**

**A. Conditions on Discretionary Decisions:** The Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Township Board may attach conditions to the approval of a site plan, special land use, variance or other discretionary approval. Such conditions shall be based upon standards in this Ordinance and may be imposed to:

1. Insure that public services and facilities affected by a proposed land use or activity will be capable of accommodating increased service and facility loads caused by the land use or activity.
2. Protect the natural environment and conserve natural resources and energy.
3. Insure compatibility with adjacent uses of land.
4. Promote the use of land in a socially and economically desirable manner.

**B. Requirements for Valid Conditions:** Conditions imposed shall meet all of the following requirements:

1. Be designed to protect natural resources, the health, safety, and welfare and the social and economic well being of those who will use the land use or activity under consideration, residents and landowners immediately adjacent to the proposed land use or activity, and the community as a whole.
2. Be related to the valid exercise of the police power, and purposes which are affected by the proposed use or activity.
3. Be necessary to meet the intent and purpose of the Zoning Ordinance, be related to the standards established in the Ordinance for the land use or activity under consideration, and be necessary to insure compliance with those standards.

**C. Record of Conditions and Changes:** Any conditions imposed shall be recorded in the record of the approval action. These conditions shall not be changed except upon the mutual consent of the approving authority and the property owner.

**D. Performance Guarantees:** Performance guarantees may be required to insure compliance with conditions on discretionary decisions pursuant to the requirements of Section 3.07.

**Section 20.03 Essential Services**

Essential services shall be permitted as authorized and regulated by law and other ordinances of the Township, it being the intention hereof to exempt such essential services from the application of this Ordinance. This provision shall not apply to administrative buildings, communication towers, public utility storage yards, and similar above-ground structures and uses associated with such essential services. See Article 21 for definition of "essential services."

**Section 20.04 Temporary Dwellings**

**A. Authorization:** Temporary dwellings are prohibited except as provided for by this Section.

**B. Emergency Housing and New Home Under Construction:** The Zoning Administrator shall have the authority to approve a Temporary Structure Permit to use a mobile home, recreational vehicle or an existing dwelling as a temporary dwelling. Said permit shall be in effect for twelve (12) months and the Planning Commission may grant extensions upon a finding that, in the case of (1) and (2) below, the applicant has made a good faith effort to initiate and complete construction. Such permit shall be issued only on the following basis:

1. Emergency Housing: When a dwelling is destroyed by fire, collapse, explosion, Acts of God, or acts of a public enemy to the extent that it is no longer safe for human occupancy, as determined by the Building Official, a temporary zoning permit may be issued to allow a mobile home or recreational vehicle to be placed on the property upon the request of the owner. In no case shall a garage or accessory structure be used or authorized as a temporary dwelling.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

2. **New Home Under Construction:** When a new dwelling is being constructed on a vacant lot, a temporary zoning permit may be issued to allow a mobile home or recreational vehicle on the same lot. In no case shall a garage or accessory structure be used or authorized as a temporary dwelling. When a new dwelling is being constructed on the same lot as an existing dwelling, the Zoning Administrator may approve a Temporary Structure Permit with the same timing and bonding requirements. This permit shall only be issued after a contract is executed between the applicant and Sharon Township to insure the removal of the original dwelling.

**C. Exception for Use of Recreational Vehicle:** A recreation vehicle may be used as a temporary dwelling on a parcel void of a dwelling under construction or repair as otherwise permitted by (B) above, where the following conditions are met:

1. The parcel is a minimum of ten (10) acres in area.
2. The vehicle is registered to the owner of the parcel.
3. No more than one (1) recreational vehicle may be present on the parcel at any single time and the parcel shall not be used for the storage or parking of the same or different recreational vehicle for more than thirty (30) days in any twelve month period.

**D. Temporary Dwellings:** Temporary dwellings authorized by this Section shall comply with the following standards. A temporary zoning permit shall not be granted unless the Zoning Administrator determines compliance with these standards.

1. The mobile home or recreational vehicle shall comply with all setback requirements of the District for a principal dwelling and shall not interfere with emergency access to the principal dwelling.
2. Adequate measures are available for potable water and sewage disposal, in compliance with all applicable county and state health department rules and regulations.
3. A performance guarantee in the amount established by the Township Board is made available from the property owner prior to placing the temporary dwelling, to ensure removal of the temporary dwelling at termination of the permit.

**E. Recreation Vehicles:** Nothing in this Section shall prohibit the use of a recreational vehicle as a temporary dwelling for a period not to exceed four (4) days in any fourteen (14) day period where such vehicle is parked on a residential lot on which a permanent dwelling is located and to which the occupants of the recreational vehicle have access for potable water and sewage disposal needs. Where parked in a side or rear yard, such vehicle shall comply with all applicable setback standards for the District for principal dwellings.

### **Section 20.05 One Single-Family Dwelling to a Lot**

No more than one (1) single family dwelling unit may be permanently established on a lot or parcel, unless specifically provided for elsewhere in this Ordinance.

### **Section 20.06 Moving Buildings**

No existing building or structure within or outside of the Township shall be relocated upon any parcel or lot within the Township unless the building or structure meets all applicable provisions of this Ordinance, including but not limited to required setbacks, and the building and all materials therein are approved by the Building Inspector.

### **Section 20.07 Height Requirement Exceptions**

**A.** The following are exempted from height limit requirements of this Ordinance, provided that no portion of the exempted structure may be used for human occupancy:

1. Those features that are purely ornamental in purpose such as church spires, belfries, cupolas, domes, ornamental towers, flagpoles and monuments, and the resulting structure does not exceed a total height of seventy-five (75) feet.
2. Those necessary appurtenances to mechanical or structural functions, such as chimneys and smokestacks, water tanks, elevator and stairwell penthouses, ventilators, bulkheads, radio towers, masts and aerials, television antennas, fire and hose towers, wire transmission structures, cooling towers, or other structures where the manufacturing process requires a greater height but do not exceed seventy-five (75) feet in height.

### **Section 20.08 Earth Sheltered Homes**

The bottom edge of an earth berm abutting a wall or roof of a dwelling shall meet the height and setback requirements for the District in which it is located.



## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

### Section 20.09 Fences

**A. Residential Fences:** Fences erected on residential properties shall be subject to the following provisions:

1. Fences within or along any rear or side yard shall not exceed six (6) feet in height as measured from the surface of the ground.
2. Fences located within or along the required front yard shall not exceed four (4) feet in height as measured from the surface of the ground.
3. The finished side of a fence shall face the adjoining lot when such fence is within twenty (20) feet of a lot line.

**B. Non-residential Fences:** Fences that are proposed as part of a commercial, industrial, institutional, or other non-residential use shall be subject to review as part of the normal site plan review proceedings for the use, at which time the Township Board shall determine the appropriateness of any proposed fencing in regard to height, setbacks, materials, and design.

**C. Dangerous Fences:** No fence with barbs, spikes, nails, or other sharp or electrified devices shall be permitted in any District except for the purpose of confining farm animals, or otherwise approved during site plan review proceedings.

### Section 20.10 Home Occupations

**A.** The regulation of home occupations as provided herein is intended to secure flexibility in the application of the requirements of this Ordinance; but such flexibility is not intended to allow the essential residential character of residential districts, in terms of use and appearance, to be changed by the occurrence of non-residential activities. Class 2 Home Occupations, as defined in Article 21 of this Ordinance, shall be permitted pursuant to Article 5, Special Land Uses, and Section 5.22. Class 1 Home Occupations, as defined in Article 21, shall comply with the following conditions:

1. The home occupation shall be conducted entirely within the dwelling and shall not occupy more than twenty (20) percent of the total floor area of the dwelling.
2. No equipment or process shall be used in such home occupation which creates noise, vibration, glare, fumes, odors or electrical interference detectable to the normal senses off the lot. No equipment or process shall be used which creates visual or audible interference in any radio or television receivers off the premises, or causes fluctuations in line voltage off the premises.
3. The operation of the home occupation shall not involve the presence of more than one (1) person not residing in the home.
4. All activities shall be carried on indoors. No outdoor storage or display shall be permitted.
5. There shall be no change in the exterior appearance of the dwelling, or other visible evidence of the conduct of such home occupation.
6. Traffic generated by a home occupation shall not be greater in volume than is normally associated with a single family dwelling. Any need for parking generated by the home occupation shall be met off the street, and other than in a required front yard, although motor vehicles may be parked in an existing driveway if it is of sufficient size. No additional off-street parking demand shall be created.
7. No article shall be sold or offered for sale on the premises except such as is produced within the dwelling, or is provided as an incidental activity associated with the principal service offered by the home occupation.
8. The home occupation shall not entail the use or storage of explosive, flammable, or otherwise hazardous materials or waste in excess of quantities normally customary and incidental to a single family dwelling and lot.

### Section 20.11 Condominium Subdivisions

**A. Intent:** The intent of this Section is to provide regulatory standards for condominium subdivisions similar to those required for projects developed under other forms of ownership. This section is not intended to prohibit or treat proposed or existing condominium projects different than projects developed under another form of ownership.

**B. Applicability of District Regulations:** A condominium unit, including single family detached units, shall comply with all applicable site development standards of the district within which it is located, including use, setback, height, coverage and area requirements, and all other provisions of this Ordinance. A condominium unit in a condominium subdivision is that portion of the project intended to function generally similar to a platted subdivision lot and shall comply with the minimum lot area, width and yard setbacks of the District within which it is located.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

### C. Review and Approval Procedures:

1. Zoning Permit Required: No grading or any other form of construction shall be initiated for a condominium subdivision prior to the approval of a final site plan and issuance of a zoning permit. The future erection of any dwelling or other structure or building in the site condominium, not expressly approved as part of and illustrated on the final site plan, shall require an additional zoning permit prior to erection.
2. Site Plan Approval Required: The issuance of a zoning permit shall require the submittal and approval of a preliminary and final site plan pursuant to Article 4, Plot Plan and Site Plan Review, and master deed and bylaw documents. The Township Board shall be the approving body and shall act after receiving a recommendation from the Planning Commission.
3. Condominium Subdivision Plan Required: In addition to the preliminary and final site plan information required by Article 4, the applicant shall also submit information constituting a condominium subdivision plan, including the size, location, area, width, and boundaries of each condominium unit; building locations; the nature, location, and approximate size of common elements; and other information required by Section 66 of Michigan Public Act 59 of 1978, as amended.
4. Master Deed/Bylaws Approval Required: The applicant shall furnish the Planning Commission with fifteen (15) copies of the proposed master deed and bylaws. These shall be reviewed for compliance with Township ordinances and to ensure that an assessment mechanism has been included to guarantee adequate funding for maintenance of all common elements. The common area funding responsibility of the association shall include any necessary drainage ways and the cost to periodically clean out such drainage ways to keep them functioning as intended in the approved plans. The master deed shall clearly state the responsibility of the owner and co-owners and shall state that all amendments to the master deed must conform with Township, county, and state laws and regulations. The master deed shall also include any variances granted by Township, county, or state authorities and include a hold harmless clause from these variances. All provisions of the condominium subdivision plan which are approved by the Township Board shall be incorporated, as approved, in the master deed for the condominium subdivision.
5. Issuance of Zoning Permit: Upon approval of the final site plan, by-laws and master deed, the applicant shall furnish the Township Clerk a copy of the final bylaws and master deed, and a copy of the approved site plan on a mylar sheet of at least twenty-four inches by thirty-six inches (24" x 36"). Upon the satisfactory submittal of these documents, the Clerk shall direct the Zoning Administrator to issue a zoning permit.
6. Changes: Any changes to an approved site condominium including changes in the by-laws, master deed, or site plan, including changes in lot line or road configuration and the addition or relocation of buildings, shall require approval by the Township Board prior to such change.

**D. Building Permit:** No building shall be erected prior to the issuance of a zoning permit by the Zoning Administrator, and a building permit by the Building Inspector.

**E. Utilities:** The condominium subdivision shall provide for dedication of easements to the appropriate public agencies for the purposes of construction, operation, maintenance, inspection, repair, alteration, replacement and/or removal of pipelines, conduits, mains and other installations of a similar character for the purpose of providing public utility services, including conveyance of sewage, potable water and storm water runoff across, through and under the property subject to said easement, and excavation and refilling of ditches and trenches necessary for the location of such installations.

**F. Roads:** All roads within a condominium subdivision shall be designed and constructed in conformance with the adopted Private Road Standards of the Washtenaw County Road Commission and shall conform to the provisions and standards of the Sharon Township Private Road Ordinance.

**G. As-Built Plan and Occupancy:** Submission of an as-built plan of a condominium subdivision is required. The Zoning Administrator may allow occupancy of the project before all required improvements are installed provided that a financial performance guarantee in the form of a cash deposit or irrevocable letter of credit is submitted to the Township Clerk, sufficient in amount and type to provide for the installation of improvements. The amount of the financial guarantee shall be determined by the Township Board based on an estimate by the Township Engineer.

**H. Monuments:** All condominium units which are building sites shall be marked with monuments as if such units were lots within a platted subdivision, and such monuments shall comply with the requirements of the P.A. 591 of 1996, the Land Division Act, as amended.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

### **Section 20.12 Single Family Dwelling Standards**

A. All single family detached dwellings shall comply with the following standards, provided that the following standards shall not apply to temporary dwellings, or mobile homes located in a licensed mobile home park, except to the extent required by state and federal law.

1. A single family dwelling shall have a minimum floor area of one thousand (1,000) square feet, excluding basement and garage areas, and a minimum front, side, and rear elevation of twenty-four (24) feet in length.
2. A single family dwelling shall comply in all respects with the state construction code, including minimum heights for habitable rooms. Where a dwelling is required by law to comply with federal or state standards or regulations for construction (as in the case of mobile homes) and where such standards or regulations for construction are different than those imposed by the state construction code, then and in that event such federal or state standard or regulation shall apply.
3. A single family dwelling shall be firmly attached to a permanent foundation constructed on the site in accordance with the state construction code.
  - a. In the event that the dwelling is a mobile home, as defined herein, such dwelling shall be installed pursuant to the manufacturer's setup instructions and shall be secured to the premises by an anchoring system or device, and shall be set on a concrete footing with a masonry wall extending from perimeter to ground, or on a concrete footing with fireproof supports and shall have a continuous skirt extending from perimeter to ground, made of commercial quality or equivalent, and comply with the rules and regulations of the Michigan Mobile Home Commission, the Public Health Department, and HUD Regulations 24 CFR 3280, being the "Mobile Home Construction and Safety Standards".
  - b. In the event that a dwelling is a mobile home as defined herein, each mobile home shall be installed with the wheels removed. Additionally, no dwelling shall have any exposed towing mechanism, undercarriage or chassis.
  - c. In the event that a dwelling is a mobile home as defined herein, such mobile home shall not be removed from a foundation unit until a permit therefor has been issued by the building official, in accordance with the state construction code.
4. A single family dwelling shall be connected to a public sewer and water supply or to such private facilities approved by the Washtenaw County Health Department.
5. A single family dwelling shall contain storage capability area in a basement located under the dwelling, in an attic area, in closet areas, or in a separate structure similar to or of better quality than the principal dwelling, which storage area shall be equal to ten (10) percent of the square footage of the dwelling or one-hundred (100) square feet, whichever shall be less.
6. A single family dwelling shall contain either a roof overhang of not less than twelve (12) inches on all sides, or alternatively, window sills and roof drainage systems concentrating roof drainage at collection points along the sides of the dwelling.
7. A single family dwelling shall be aesthetically compatible in design and appearance with other single family dwellings in the vicinity. The compatibility of design and appearance shall be determined by the Zoning Administrator upon review of the plans submitted for a particular dwelling. Any determination of compatibility shall be based upon the standards set forth in this Section as well as the character, design and appearance of one or more residential dwellings located in the Township within three hundred (300) feet of the subject dwelling where such area is developed with dwellings; or, where said area is not so developed, by the general character, design and appearance of residential dwellings located in the Township. The foregoing shall not be construed to prohibit innovative design concepts involving such matters as solar energy, view, unique land contour, or relief from the common or standard designed home.
8. All subsequent additions to a dwelling shall be of similar quality workmanship as the original structure, including construction of a foundation as required herein.
9. All construction required for a single family dwelling shall be commenced only after a building permit has been obtained in accordance with the applicable state construction code provisions and requirements.

### **Section 20.13 Outdoor Storage**

**A. Commercial Display and Sales:** Outdoor display and sales of merchandise intended for sale shall be permitted only where expressly authorized pursuant to an approved site plan for a business predominantly characterized by retail sales.

1. In the case of the display and sales of motor vehicles, items intended for tow, retail and wholesale landscape materials, or other items customarily requiring outdoor display and sales, the display and sales shall not extend beyond the District's required setbacks for principal buildings nor be located in a front

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

yard. In all other cases, the display and sales shall not extend beyond (30) feet from the principal building but in no case extend beyond the District's required setbacks for principal buildings.

2. Except in the case of the display and sales of motor vehicles, items intended for tow, retail and wholesale landscape materials, or other items customarily requiring outdoor display and sales, the maximum permitted outdoor display or sales area shall be a total of ten percent (10%) of the use's indoor retail sales floor area.

**B. Commercial and Industrial Storage:** All storage of materials or products in association with a commercial or industrial use that are not intended for display or sales, including lumber piles, crates, boxes, building materials, discarded materials, and junk shall be completely enclosed or otherwise screened by an opaque fence or wall of not less than six (6) feet in height. The height of the wall or fence shall be increased to equal the height of any equipment, vehicles, or materials within the enclosed area. Such enclosure or screen shall be subject to site plan approval. This subsection (B) shall not apply to the storage of motor vehicles, items intended for tow, or retail and wholesale landscape materials, or other items customarily requiring outdoor storage, but in no case shall such storage area extend beyond the District's required setbacks for principal buildings.

**C. Residential Storage:** There shall be no outdoor storage in association with a residential lot except for those items customarily incidental to the continued maintenance and operation of the dwelling or otherwise for use by the occupants of the dwelling, and designed and intended for outdoor use and storage. In no case shall this provision be interpreted to permit the outdoor accumulation or storage of unlicensed inoperative vehicles, appliances, toys or furniture, or wood or other building materials not actively being used on the lot for construction purposes. Such storage shall comply with all setbacks applicable to dwellings in the District except as provided below in (1). In no case shall the total area occupied by such storage exceed fifty percent (50%) of the ground floor area of the dwelling.

1. Storage of Recreational Equipment: Recreation vehicles, boats and boat trailers, snowmobiles, trail-cycles, all terrain vehicles and similar equipment, and trailers, cases, and boxes used for transporting recreational equipment whether occupied by such equipment or not, shall not be parked or stored in any required front yard setback of a residential lot except that such equipment may be parked on a driveway for a period not to exceed four (4) days in any fourteen (14) day period. Such equipment shall not be used for living, sleeping, or housekeeping purposes except as may be authorized by Section 20.05(E). Such items shall be licensed, insured, and in operating condition.
2. Storage of Unlicensed Operative Vehicles: No more than one (1) unlicensed operative vehicle shall be located on a residential lot except where such additional vehicles are contained within a fully enclosed building.

### **Section 20.14 Limitations on Vehicles in A-1, RC and Residential Districts**

**A.** No more than one (1) commercial vehicle may be stored on a lot in a Residential District. "Commercial vehicle" shall be defined as a vehicle primarily designed or used to transport goods, materials, equipment, tools, or other items. Under no conditions are tow-trucks, semi-tractors or trailers, sand and gravel hauling trucks, bulldozers, graders and similar earth moving equipment permitted to be stored in a Residential District, indoors or outdoors, except in association with a home occupation in conformance with a valid zoning permit, or upon a lot currently under construction according to a valid zoning permit and such construction requires the use of such vehicles.

**B.** Vehicles used for commercial purposes, including tow-trucks, semi-tractors or trailers, sand and gravel hauling trucks, bulldozers, graders and similar earth moving equipment, are permitted to be stored in an A-1 and RC District within a fully enclosed building.

**C.** This Section shall not prohibit the parking or storing of agricultural vehicles and machinery on a parcel devoted to agriculture for which the vehicles and/or machinery is used, nor shall this provision prohibit the storing of buses for school or church use on lots or parcels upon which the school or church is located.

### **Section 20.15 Temporary Uses**

**A.** The following temporary uses and buildings are permitted according to the regulations of this Section.

1. Transient and Amusement Enterprises: Circuses, carnivals, other transient amusement enterprises, music festivals, rodeos, and similar temporary gatherings of people, may be permitted in any District upon approval by the Township Planning Commission and issuance of a zoning permit for such temporary use. The applicant shall submit a detailed description of the proposed activity including a drawing clearly identifying how the site is to be used including parking areas, location of all proposed equipment, stages, seating, restroom facilities, and similar features of the proposed use. Such enterprises shall be permitted

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

only on the finding by the Planning Commission that the activity and its location will not adversely affect adjoining properties or the public health, safety, or general welfare, including a finding that the activity will be adequately served by potable water, sewage disposal, and emergency services. For the purposes of this subsection, a large public gathering shall be defined as a gathering of more than one-hundred (100) persons for the purposes of entertainment of an outdoor nature such as, but not limited to circuses, carnivals, theatrical exhibitions, public shows, displays, and musical festivals, but shall not include gatherings devoted to family functions including reunions.

### 2. Roadside Stands:

- a. For the purposes of this Section, a roadside stand shall be interpreted as a structure operated only for the purpose of the retail sale of produce raised or produced on the farm where such stand is situated. A roadside stand is classified as an accessory use to such farm and in no case shall a roadside stand constitute a rezoning of land nor be deemed a commercial activity.
- b. Roadside stands shall be permitted according to the following:
  - 1) A roadside stand shall be seasonal in nature and shall not operate for more than six (6) months out of any calendar year.
  - 2) Adequate parking spaces shall be provided outside of the road right-of-way.
  - 3) A single sign advertising the roadside stand is permitted on the parcel and shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in area nor six (6) feet in height.

### 3. Garage Sales: Garage sales, rummage sales, yard sales, moving sales, and similar activities shall be considered temporary accessory uses within any General Agriculture, Resource Conservation or Residential District subject to the following conditions:

- a. Any single garage sale, rummage sale or similar activity shall not to exceed four (4) days in operation.
- b. In no instance shall more than three (3) garage sales, rummage sales or similar activity be held on any one lot within any twelve (12) month period.
- c. All such sales shall be conducted a minimum of thirty (30) feet from the front lot line and fifteen (15) feet from a side lot line.
- d. No garage sale or similar activity shall be conducted before 8:00 a.m. or continue later than 9:00 p.m.
- e. Items purchased specifically for the sale are prohibited.
- f. All signs advertising a garage sale shall be removed within twenty-four (24) hours of the conclusion of said garage sale or similar activity.

## **Section 20.16 Keeping of Animals (eff. 12/27/2018)**

**A. Vicious Animals:** No vicious animal shall be kept permanently or temporarily in any District in the Township. For the purposes of this Section, a "vicious animal" shall be defined as any animal that attacks, bites, or injures human beings or domesticated animals without adequate provocation, or which because of temperament, conditioning, or training, has a known propensity to attack, bite, or injure human beings or domesticated animals.

**B. Household Pets:** The keeping of household pets, including dogs cats, fish, birds, hamsters and other animals generally regarded as household pets is permitted as an accessory use in any Residential District provided such activities do not constitute a kennel as defined in this Ordinance, and the keeping of such animals does not constitute a nuisance due to excessive noise or the lack of adequate containment and supervision.

**C. Private Stables and Livestock:** The raising and keeping of livestock or other animals generally not regarded as household pets and that do not meet this Ordinance's definition for "vicious animal," may be conducted as accessory to the principal residential use of a lot according to the following conditions. This subsection (C) shall apply only to the keeping of livestock or other animals as accessory to the principal residential use of a lot, including private stables, in the R-1, R-2, R-3, and R-MF zoning districts and shall not apply to a farm operation.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

1. General Requirements
  - a. Animals shall be managed by the occupants of the premises. Animals kept for livestock must be completely enclosed in a fenced area that is of suitable height and construction to contain the animals, subject to the limitations in Section 20.09.
  - b. All such raising and keeping or killing and dressing of poultry and animals processed upon the premises shall be for the use or consumption by the occupants of the premises.
  - c. The occupants of the premises shall keep the odor, sounds and movement of the animals from becoming a nuisance to adjacent properties.
  - d. Manure piles shall be stored, removed, and/or applied to the soil in accordance with the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices of the Michigan Agriculture Commission for manure management and utilization, and with Michigan Department of Agriculture and County Health Department regulations. No storage of manure, odor, or dust producing materials, shall be permitted within one hundred (100) feet of any adjoining lot line.
  - e. All animal facilities shall be constructed and maintained so that dust and drainage from the facilities shall not create a nuisance or hazard to adjoining property or uses.
  - f. No living quarters shall be located in any private stable.

### D. Dog ownership, confinement and control

The Township of Sharon acknowledges that a dog not under reasonable physical and audio control may be inhumane to the dog, as well as have a negative impact on the health, safety and well-being of the township's citizens, domestic animals, livestock and wildlife. It is therefore; considered a nuisance, per se to not have a dog under reasonable control within the township of Sharon. The keeping of a dog is permitted as an accessory use in any residential district provided such ownership does not constitute a commercial/sport kennel and the keeping of the dog does not constitute a nuisance.

Unless otherwise stated, a violation of this ordinance is a nuisance per se, and the citation for the violation is a Municipal Civil Infraction.

#### 1. Definitions

- a. **Dog:** A domestic carnivorous mammal (*Canis lupus familiaris*.) For this ordinance, a dog crossed with a wild canine (i.e. wolf [*Canis lupus*], or any other non-domesticated canine) is not considered a domesticated dog unless there is proof of five generations between the cross generation and the current dog. A dog may be kept for the purpose of companionship, pleasure, sport, and work, such as on a farming operation, or for a specific legitimate certified task such as service dogs and dogs used for law enforcement and search and rescue.
- b. **Owner:** In conjunction with and specifically applied to this ordinance, a dog owner means any person having a documented right of property to the dog (I.E license or contract), whether permanent or temporary for any length of time, or any person who permits the dog to remain on or about his or her property, is considered the dog's owner. When there is a question as to who owns the dog, the property owner where the dog is confined, or was to be confined is considered, by this ordinance, the dog owner.
- c. **Law Enforcement Officer:** Any person elected by the people of the State of Michigan or any person employed or appointed by the state, its municipalities, counties, or townships, who has the lawful authority to preserve the peace and enforce its laws.
- d. **Reasonable Control:** A dog shall be deemed under "reasonable control" when it does not have the ability to:
  - i. Harm or injure another person or animal, except when in defense of itself, its owner, its property or individuals lawfully on said property,
  - ii. Damage the property of another, including private and public property and the livestock and/or wildlife therein,
  - iii. Infringe on the peace and repose of others by having its bark or any other sound produced by the dog, project beyond the property lines in which it is being held and subsequently, onto a location where a person finds that sound to be objectionable.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

- e. **Lost Dog:** A dog that escapes from the control of its owner, either from the confines of its property, vehicle, or the direct control of its owner, is considered a lost dog. A dog is not defined as lost if the owner is actively seeking the whereabouts of the dog within the first 48 hours of its escape; after which time, the dog is considered a stray.
  - f. **Stray Dog:** A dog that is not under reasonable physical control, that is not being actively sought by its owner, and that roams freely with no regard for the boundaries of private property or public land.
  - g. **Vicious Dog:** Any dog that attacks, bites, or injures a human being, wildlife, livestock or domestic animal without provocation, or which, due to temperament, conditioning or training has a known propensity to attack, bite, or injure human beings, wildlife, livestock, or domesticated animals and such vicious temperament is displayed when not under direct order and control by its owner.
- 2. Commercial/Sport and private kennels:** Commercial/sport and private kennels must comply with the requirements in Section 5.17.
- 3. Control and prohibitions**
- a. **Reasonable Control:** It shall be unlawful for the owner of a dog, not to have said dog under reasonable physical and vocal control at all times, whether on or off the premises of the owner.
    - i. **Barking Dog:** It is unlawful for an owner to allow his or her dog's vocalization or other sound produced by the dog to be projected into the human habitat of another and where any reasonable person finds that sound to infringe on their peace and repose. A violation of this ordinance is a civil infraction.
    - ii. **Stray Dog:** It is unlawful for the owner of any dog, located within the township to allow said dog to stray beyond the premises of its owner, unless the dog's owner has received permission by the encroached property owner. A violation of this ordinance is a civil infraction.
    - iii. **Vicious Dog:** It is unlawful for any person in the township to own a vicious dog. A violation of this ordinance is a misdemeanor.
  - b. **Wolf Hybrid Canine:** It is unlawful to own or breed a wolf hybrid dog. A violation of this ordinance is a State of Michigan misdemeanor. Wild wolves in Michigan are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act and under the State's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Part 365. Thus, they cannot be "taken" or possessed in the state. Possession, importation or breeding of wolf-dog crosses is prohibited in the state. (See M.C.L.A 287.1004)
  - c. **Kennel Violation:** It is unlawful for an owner to build, house or maintain a private or commercial/sport kennel in violation of the specified requirements delineated in Ordinance Article 20.16, Sections B, C & D. A violation of this ordinance is a civil infraction.
- 4. Licensing of dogs:** All residents of Sharon Township shall abide by the Washtenaw County ordinance on the licensing of dogs, to include proof of current rabies vaccination.
- 5. Sanctions and regulatory action**
- a. Any person or other entity who violates any provision of this article is responsible for a municipal civil infraction, except Section E. 1 (c) Vicious Dog, which is a misdemeanor, and shall be subject to civil fines as provided in the civil infraction ordinance.
  - b. Any person who takes charge of a lost or stray dog shall make a reasonable attempt to locate the owner of such dog. If the finder cannot locate the owner within a reasonable time, the dog should be taken to the county shelter or turned over to the Washtenaw County animal control officer.
  - c. The Sharon Township Ordinance Officer may request, at any time, as a last resort or if mandated by court order, that the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department and/or an animal control officer assist in the removal of a dog from its owner if the dog is found in violation of this ordinance or in need of medical intervention due to abuse or neglect. Such dog will be confined and disposed of in accordance with the procedures, rules and regulations adopted by Washtenaw County.

**E. Compliance with Regulations:** The keeping, maintaining, and/or raising of animals shall comply with all county, state, and federal regulations.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

### **Section 20.17 Accessory Uses, Buildings, and Structures**

**A. Scope:** Accessory buildings, structures and uses, except as otherwise permitted in this Ordinance, shall be subject to the regulations of this Section. This Section shall not apply to accessory uses, buildings and structures part of a farm operation.

**B. Placement/Setbacks:**

1. An accessory building or structure, including carports which are attached to the principal building, shall comply in all respects with the requirements of this Ordinance applicable to the principal building, including yard setbacks.
2. Breezeways, as an attachment between the garage or carport and the main building, shall be considered a part of the main building.
3. An accessory building or structure, unless attached and made structurally a part of the principal building, shall not be closer than five (5) feet to any other building on the lot.

**C. Height:**

1. In Residential Districts, and on lots in a platted or condominium subdivision in General Agriculture and Resource Conservation Districts, accessory buildings and structures shall not exceed twenty-two (22) feet in height.
2. In General Agriculture and Resource Conservation Districts, but excluding lots in a platted or condominium subdivision, accessory buildings and structures shall not exceed thirty-five (35) feet in height.
3. Detached accessory structures in Commercial or Industrial Districts may be constructed to equal the permitted maximum height of principal structures in said Districts, subject to site plan approval.

**D. Lot Coverage (amended/eff. 7/5/12):**

1. In Residential Districts, and on lots in a platted or condominium subdivision in General Agriculture and Resource Conservation Districts, accessory buildings and structures shall not occupy more than a cumulative total of twenty-five (25) percent of the rear or side yard in which they are located, and in no case shall the total area of such accessory buildings or structures exceed the ground floor area of the dwelling.

**E. Habitation of Accessory Structures:** No accessory building or structure shall be used or occupied as a dwelling. See Section 20.04 (amended/eff. 7/5/12), Temporary Dwellings.

**F. Prior to a Principal Structure:** Accessory buildings and structures may be erected on a lot or parcel prior to the establishment of a principal structure provided the landowner submits a plot plan or site plan to the Zoning Administrator pursuant to Article 4 and the Zoning Administrator finds that such building or structure will not hinder the future erection of a principal building(s) in conformance with all setback and other site development requirements of this Ordinance. Accessory buildings and structures approved for erection on a lot or parcel prior to the establishment of the principal structure shall be appropriately landscaped to be harmonious in appearance and character with surrounding properties. Such landscaping shall be identified on the plot plan or site plan and shall be installed within four (4) months of substantial completion of construction of the accessory buildings or structures.

**G. Storage in Vehicles Prohibited:** The use of a vehicle or parts thereof, including a mobile home, trailer, truck or car, for the purposes of storage of building materials, household items, scrap materials, garments, garbage, refuse and similar materials is prohibited as an accessory use, structure or building except as may be expressly authorized during site plan approval for non-residential uses. This subsection shall not apply in the case of storage of materials for construction activities on the same parcel and for which a zoning permit has been issued for new construction. However in no case shall such vehicles or parts thereof be of a structurally unsound condition or reflect exterior conditions that would prohibit its safe and lawful use for the purpose of its original design.

### **Section 20.18: Vicinity Maps, General Requirements**

**A. Scale:** "The map" shall be of such a scale that the boundaries of the subject property, lot, or parcel and nearby roadways, public and/or private, are clearly depicted. The map should depict, at a minimum, the surrounding area within ½ mile, but not more than 1 mile, of the boundaries of the proposed development.

**B. Neighboring uses:** "The map" shall identify the existing uses of land and structures on adjoining properties. Examples of uses include cultivated field, woods, gas station, general farming, gravel extraction, residence, etc.



**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**C. Location identified:** The GPS coordinates (latitude and longitude) of at least one intersection of the property with an existing road shall be depicted; if the property doesn't intersect a road, the corner nearest to a road (at least) shall be so identified.

**D. "The map"** should include at least one road intersection.

**E. Aerial photos:** A vicinity map may be supplemented with an aerial image but an aerial image is not a substitute for a vicinity map.

**Section 20.19 Communication Towers: Class 3, Receive-Only Antennae (eff. 11/25/2020)**

**A. Class 3 Communication Towers/Receive Only Antennas/Towers:** Class 3 Communication Towers/Receive only antennas/towers shall meet the following conditions:

1. A tower/antenna is permitted only as an accessory use in the A-1 and RC Zoning Districts.
2. The height of a tower/antenna or the combined height of a tower with a Class 2 or Class 3 Communications tower antenna does not exceed one hundred (100) feet. FAA maximum height regulations may require a lower tower height.
3. If the structure is a stand-alone tower:
  - a. It shall be setback from all property lines the minimum of the tower height or the underlying setbacks of the district, whichever is greater.
  - b. No ground equipment or additional buildings are permitted to accommodate the tower.
4. If the structure is an antenna:
  - a. It shall be setback from all property lines the minimum of the height of the combined structures or the underlying setbacks of the district, whichever is greater.
  - b. No antenna or part thereof shall extend more than six (6) feet horizontally from the tower.
5. A Certificate of Zoning Compliance is required prior to constructing the tower or antenna.
6. The antenna or tower shall not be used to retransmit a data signal to multiple individuals' locations.
7. Class 2 Communication towers may be affixed to Class 3 Communication towers when they meet the following regulations:
  - a. The proposed antenna does not extend the height of the tower by greater than 20% or fifteen (15) feet, whichever is less, and the combined height of the antenna and tower does not exceed one hundred (100) feet.
  - b. Documentation is provided that the tower can structurally support the addition.

*Balance of Page Purposefully Blank*

**SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE**

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

***End of Article 20***

# SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

## Article 21 DEFINITIONS

### Section 21.01 Construction of Language

For the purpose of this Ordinance, certain rules of construction apply to the text as follows:

- A. Words used in the present tense include the future tense; and the singular includes the plural, unless the context clearly indicates the contrary.
- B. The word "person" includes a corporation, association, partnership, trust, firm, or similar activity as well as an individual.
- C. The word "building" includes the word "structure" and both include any part thereof.
- D. The word "lot" includes the word "plot", "tract", or "parcel".
- E. The term "shall" is always mandatory and not discretionary; the word "may" is permissive.
- F. The word "used" or "occupied" as applied to any land or building shall be construed to include the words "intended to be used or occupied," "arranged to be used or occupied," "maintained to be used or occupied," or "designed to be used or occupied."
- G. The words "this Ordinance" means the text of this Ordinance as well as all maps, tables, graphics, and schedules, as included or attached as enacted or subsequently amended.
- H. Unless the context clearly indicates the contrary, where a regulation involves two or more items, conditions, provisions, or events connected by the conjunction "and," "or," "either...or," the conjunction shall be interpreted as follows:
  - 1. "And" indicates that all the connected items, conditions, provisions, or events shall apply.
  - 2. "Or" indicates the connected items, conditions, provisions or events may apply singly or in any combination.
  - 3. "Either/or" indicates that the connected items, conditions, provisions, or events shall apply singly, but not in combination.
- I. The "Township" is the Township of Sharon in the County of Washtenaw, State of Michigan; the "Township Board", "Zoning Board of Appeals" and "Planning Commission" are, respectively, the Township Board of Trustees, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Planning Commission of the Township.
- J. Any word or term not interpreted or defined by this Ordinance shall be used with a meaning of common or standard utilization. A dictionary may be consulted.
- K. Where a specific agency, department, law, or rule is referred to in this Ordinance, such reference shall include any successor agency, department, law or rule.

### Section 21.02 DEFINITIONS

**Accessory Building or Structure:** A building or structure customarily incidental and subordinate to the principal structure and located on the same lot as the principal building.

**Accessory Use:** A use customarily incidental and subordinate to the principal use of the land or building and located on the same lot as the principal use.

**Adult Entertainment Business:** Any business, club or organization where one or more persons display "*specified anatomical areas*" or engage in "*specified sexual activities*", either in person or by photograph, motion picture, television or other type of image. This definition includes the following: "*adult book store*," "*adult cabaret*," "*adult motel*," "*adult novelty shop*," "*adult theater*," "*massage parlor*," "*public bath*" and "*taxi dance hall*." Additional terms and definitions applicable to "adult entertainment business" shall be as follows:

- 1. **Adult Book Store:** An establishment partly or wholly devoted to the display, sale or rental of books, magazines or other periodicals, video tapes, photographs or motion picture films which are distinguished or characterized by their emphasis on matter depicting, describing or relating to "*specified sexual activities*" or "*specified anatomical areas*" as defined by this Section, where the floor area or shelf space devoted to such material and accessible to customers exceeds fifteen percent (15%) of the total floor area or shelf space accessible to customers, or where more than thirty percent (30%) of the total floor area is devoted to such material, irrespective of the public's ability to access all such floor area or shelf space.
- 2. **Adult Cabaret:** A nightclub, bar, restaurant, or similar commercial establishment which regularly features:

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

- a. persons who appear in a state of semi-nudity or nudity; or
  - b. live performances which are characterized by the exposure of "specified sexual activities" or by "specified anatomical areas;" or
  - c. films, motion pictures, video cassettes, slides, or other photographic reproductions which are characterized by the depiction of "specified sexual activities" or by "specified anatomical areas;" or
  - d. persons who engage in lewd, lascivious or erotic dancing or performances that are intended for the sexual interests or titillation of an audience or customers.
3. Adult Motel: A hotel, motel or similar commercial establishment which:
- a. offers accommodations to the public for any form of consideration and provides patrons with closed-circuit television transmission, films, motion pictures, video cassettes, slides, or other photographic reproductions which are characterized by the depiction or description of "specified sexual activities" or "specified anatomical areas", and has a sign visible from the public right of way which advertises the availability of this adult type of photographic reproductions; or
  - b. offers a sleeping room for rent for a period of time that is less than twelve (12) hours; or
  - c. allows a tenant or occupant of a sleeping room to sub-rent the room for a period of time that is less than twenty-four (24) hours.
4. Adult Novelty Shop: Any establishment where the floor area or shelf space devoted to the sale of devices which stimulate human genitals or devices designed for sexual stimulation accounts for more than fifteen percent (15%) of the total floor area or shelf space accessible to customers, or where more than thirty percent (30%) of the total floor area is devoted to such material, irrespective of the public's ability to access all such floor area or shelf space.
5. Adult Theater: Any establishment where, for any form of consideration:
- a. films, motion pictures, video cassettes, slides, or similar photographic reproductions are regularly shown which are characterized by the depiction or description of "specified sexual activities" or "specified anatomical areas;" or
  - b. regularly features persons who appear in a state of nudity or live performances which are characterized by the exposure of "specified sexual activities" or "specified anatomical areas".
6. Massage Parlor: An establishment in which a substantial or significant portion of the business conducted involves the administration of non-therapeutic massage, erotic touching, or fondling of such body areas as human genitals, pubic region, buttock, or breasts. The term "*massage parlor*" does not include medical or therapeutic massage services or any state licensed practitioners or medical or related services such as chiropractors or physical therapists.
7. Nudity or State of Nudity: The appearance of less than completely and opaquely covered human genitals, pubic region, buttock, anus or female breast below a point immediately above the top of the areola; in addition to human genitals in a discernibly turgid state even if completely and opaquely covered.
8. Public Bath: An establishment providing common bathing facilities or hot tubs for use for a fee. Shower facilities, swimming pools, saunas and similar facilities intended as accessory uses in a school, health club, motel, or similar facility are not "*public baths*."
9. Semi-Nudity: A state of dress in which clothing covers no more than the human buttock, anus, male genitals, female genitals, or female breast below a point immediately above the top of the areola; or human male genitals in a discernible turgid state even if completely and opaquely covered.
10. Specified Anatomical Areas: Less than completely and opaquely covered human genitals, pubic region, buttock, anus or female breast below a point immediately above the top of the areola; in addition to human genitals in a discernibly turgid state, even if completely and opaquely covered.
11. Specified Sexual Activities: Human genitals in a state of stimulation or arousal; acts of human or animal masturbation, sexual intercourse (homosexual or heterosexual), or sodomy; fondling of or erotic touching of human genitals, pubic region, buttock or female breast; bestiality; fellatio or cunnilingus; sadomasochistic abuse; and human excretory functions.
12. Taxi Dance Hall: An establishment which provides dance partners for one or more dances as the direct or indirect result of payment of a fee.

**Agriculture**: The act or business of cultivating land or using land for a farm operation. (eff. 12/27/2018)

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

**Agricultural processing and food storage:** A structure or building (or area within a structure or building) used for sorting, cleaning, packaging and storing of agricultural products preparatory to sale or shipment in their natural form. Agricultural processing shall not include slaughtering or processing of animals or animal products or grain mills for livestock. It shall also not include manufacturing of secondary products using agricultural products such as commercial kitchens, bakeries, breweries, woodworking and wood processing plants. Agricultural food storage shall not include storage of silage or grain for livestock.

**Agricultural Service Establishments:** Establishments which engage in performing agricultural, animal husbandry or horticultural services on a fee or contractual basis, including but not limited to centralized bulk collection, refinement, storage and distribution of farm products to wholesale and retail markets (such as grain cleaning and shelling; sorting, grading, and packing of fruits and vegetables for the grower; and agricultural produce milling and processing); the storage and sale of seed, feed, fertilizer and other products essential to agricultural production; hay baling and threshing; crop dusting; fruit picking; harvesting and tilling; veterinary services; and facilities used in the research and testing of farm products and techniques; and livestock auction facilities.

**Alteration:** Any change, addition or modification in construction or type of occupancy; any change in the structural members of a building, such as walls or partitions, columns, beams or girders; or any change which may be referred to herein as altered or reconstructed.

**Ambulance Station:** The place from which a service is provided or operations directed by the use of medical emergency vehicles.

**Arcade:** Any establishment which provides on its premises six (6) or more machines which may be operated or used as a game, contest or for amusement of any description, not including devices used solely for playing music.

**Bed and Breakfast:** A structure which was constructed for single family residential purposes but which may be used for the purpose of renting bedrooms on a nightly basis to tourists or travelers, including the provision of bathing and lavatory facilities and a breakfast meal for overnight guests only.

**Basement:** That portion of a building that is partially or wholly below the finished ground elevation but so located that the average vertical distance from such elevation to the floor is equal or greater than the vertical distance from such elevation to the ceiling.

**Berm:** A mound of earth graded, shaped and improved with landscaping in such a fashion as to be used for visual and/or audible screening purposes.

**Building:** Any structure, either temporary or permanent, having a roof supported by columns, walls, or any other supports, which is used for the purpose of housing, sheltering, storing, or enclosing persons, animals, or personal property, or carrying on business activities. This definition includes but is not limited to: mobile homes, tents, sheds, garages, greenhouses, and other principal or accessory structures.

**Building Height:** The vertical distance measured from the finished ground elevation at the center of the building facade where the building abuts the front yard to the highest point of the roof surface.

**Building Inspector:** The individual or agency, designated by the Township Board, responsible for ensuring that construction complies with applicable building codes and standards.

**Campground:** A parcel or tract of land under the control of a person, business, corporation or public body on which two (2) or more sites are offered for the use by the public, either free of charge or for a fee, for the establishment of temporary living quarters for recreation, education, or vacation purposes. Temporary living quarters means a tent, recreational vehicle, or any portable structure designed to be carried or towed by a vehicle and placed for temporary living quarters.

**Cemetery:** Property, including crematories, mausoleums, and/or columbiums, used or intended to be used solely for the perpetual interment of deceased human beings or customary household pets.

**Certificate of Occupancy:** A document signed by the Building Inspector as a condition precedent to the commencement of a use or the construction/reconstruction of a structure or building which acknowledges that such use, structure or building complies with the provisions of this Ordinance and the county and state building codes.

**Change of Use:** A use of a building, structure or parcel of land, or portion thereof which is different from the previous use in the way it is classified in this Ordinance or in the state building code, as amended.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

**Church:** A building wherein persons regularly assemble for religious worship and which is maintained and controlled by a religious body organized to sustain public worship, together with all accessory buildings and uses customarily associated with such primary purpose.

**Club:** A facility that is used to house an organization of persons for special purposes or for the promulgation of sports, arts, science, literature, politics, agriculture, community service or similar activity, but not operated for profit nor open to the general public.

**Collocation:** The location by two or more communication providers on a common structure, tower, or building, with the view toward reducing the overall number of structures required to support wireless communication antennas within the Township.

**Communication Tower:** A relay structure, including both antenna and structural supports, attached directly to the ground or to another structure, used for the transmission or reception of radio, television, telephone, microwave, or any other form of telecommunications signals. Not included within this definition are: citizen band radio facilities; radio and television citizen band radio facilities; short wave receiving facilities; federally licensed amateur (ham) radio facilities; satellite dishes; and governmental facilities which are subject to state or federal law or regulations which preempt municipal regulatory authority.

1. Class 1: A communication tower proposed to be newly established and not otherwise meeting the definition of a Class 2 communication tower.
2. Class 2: A communication tower meeting either of the following requirements:
  - a. A communication tower to be affixed to an existing structure, such as existing building, tower, water tank, utility pole, and the like, where the proposed tower structure and antenna does not extend the height of the existing structure by more than twenty percent (20%) or fifteen (15) feet, whichever is less.
  - b. A proposed collocation upon an existing communication tower which had been pre-approved for such collocation as part of an earlier approval by the Township.
3. Class 3: A communication antenna or tower installed to primarily receive a fixed-wireless data signal at a single location. The antenna or tower shall not be used to retransmit a data signal to multiple individuals' locations. (eff. 11/25/2020)

**Concentrated Livestock Operations/Animal Unit:** A farm operation that, at any one time, houses or confines farm animals whose numbers total one thousand (1,000) or more animal units. Notwithstanding any provisions of this definition, any farm operation may be designated as a "concentrated livestock operation" by the Sharon Township Board where it is determined by tests to be a significant contributor to pollution as a result of animals associated with such farm operation. For the purposes of this definition, one "animal unit" shall be equivalent to one (1) beef or slaughter cattle; seven-tenths (0.7) mature dairy cattle (whether milked or dry cows); two and one-half (2.5) swine, each weighting 55 pounds or more; one-half (0.5) horses; ten (10) sheep, lamb, or goats; fifty-five (55) turkeys; one-hundred (100) laying hens or broilers (if the facility has a continuous overflow watering system); thirty (30) laying hens or broilers (if the facility has a liquid manure handling system); or five (5) ducks.

**Condominium Documents:** The master deed, recorded pursuant to the Condominium Act, and any other instrument referred to in the master deed or bylaws which affects the rights and obligations of a co-owner in the condominium.

**Condominium Project:** A plan or project consisting of two (2) or more condominium units established and approved in conformance with the Condominium Act (Act 59, 1978).

**Condominium Subdivision ("Site Condo"):** A division of land on the basis of condominium ownership, which is not subject to the provisions of the Subdivision Control Act of 1967, Public Act 288 of 1967, as amended.

**Condominium Subdivision Plan:** The drawings attached to the master deed for a condominium subdivision which describe the size, location, area, horizontal and vertical boundaries and volume of each condominium unit contained in the condominium subdivision, as well as the nature, location and size of common elements.

**Condominium Unit:** That portion of a condominium project or condominium subdivision which is designed and intended for separate ownership and use, as described in the master deed, regardless of whether it is intended for residential, office, industrial, business, recreational, use as a time-share unit, or any other type of use. A condominium unit may consist of either vacant land or space which either encloses or is enclosed by a building structure. Any "condominium unit", or portion thereof, consisting of vacant land shall be equivalent to the term "lot" for the purposes of determining compliance of the condominium subdivision with the provisions of this ordinance pertaining to minimum lot size, minimum lot width, maximum lot coverage and maximum floor area ratio.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

**Contractor's Yard:** A parcel or portion of a parcel used for the enclosed or unenclosed storage and maintenance of construction equipment and other materials customarily used in the trade carried on by a construction or excavation contractor, and may also include a business office in association with such business.

**Day Care Center:** A facility, other than a private residence, receiving 1 or more preschool or school age children for care for periods of less than 24 hours a day, and where the parents or guardians are not immediately available to the child. Day care center includes a facility which provides care for not less than 2 consecutive weeks, regardless of the number of hours of care per day. The facility is generally described as a child care center, day care center, day nursery, nursery school, parent cooperative preschool, play group, or drop-in center. Day care center does not include any of the following:

1. A Sunday school, a vacation bible school, or a religious instructional class that is conducted by a religious organization where children are in attendance for not greater than 3 hours per day for an indefinite period, or not greater than 8 hours per day for a period not to exceed 4 weeks during a 12-month period.
2. A facility operated by a religious organization where children are cared for not greater than 3 hours while persons responsible for the children are attending religious services.

**Day Care, Family Home:** A private home in which the operator permanently resides as a member of the household in which one (1) but less than seven (7) minor children are received for care and supervision for periods of less than 24 hours a day, unattended by a parent or legal guardian, except children related to an adult member of the family by blood, marriage, or adoption. Family day care home includes a home that gives care to an unrelated minor child for more than 4 weeks during a calendar year.

**Day Care, Group Home:** A private home in which the operator permanently resides as a member of the household in which more than six (6) but not more than twelve (12) minor children are given care and supervision for periods of less than twenty-four (24) hours a day unattended by a parent or legal guardian, except children related to an adult member of the family by blood, marriage, or adoption. Group day care home includes a home that gives care to more than six unrelated minor children for more than 4 weeks during a calendar year.

**District:** An area of land for which there are uniform regulations governing the use of buildings and premises, density of development, yard requirements and height regulations. A "district" is also known as a "zone" or "zoning district".

**Drive-in Establishment:** A business establishment which by design, physical facilities, service, or by packaging procedures encourages or permits customers to receive services, obtain goods, or be entertained while remaining in their motor vehicles.

**Driveway:** A means of access for vehicles from a road or approved alley across a lot or parcel to a parking or loading area, garage, dwelling or other structure or area on the same lot, that complies with the provisions of this Ordinance.

**Dwelling:** Any building, or portion thereof, which is designed or used exclusively for residential purposes. In no case shall a motor home, trailer coach, automobile chassis, tent or portable building be considered a permanent residential dwelling.

**Dwelling, Multiple Family:** A building containing three or more dwelling units designed for residential use for three or more families living independently of each other.

**Dwelling, Single Family:** A detached building or portion thereof designed and used exclusively as the home, residence or sleeping place of one family. In the case of a mixed occupancy where a building is occupied in part as a dwelling, the part so occupied shall be deemed a dwelling for purposes of this Ordinance and shall comply with the provisions herein relative to dwellings.

**Dwelling, Two Family (Duplex):** A building containing not more than two separate dwelling units designed for residential use.

**Dwelling Unit:** One or more rooms with bathroom and principal kitchen facilities designed as a self contained unit for occupancy by one family for living, cooking and sleeping purposes.

**Easement:** A right granted to a person to use the land of another person for a specific limited purpose, or a limitation placed upon the use of a person's land, contained within a legal document recorded with the County Register of Deeds. An easement may provide for, but not be limited to, utilities, access and conservation of open space.

**Erected:** The word "erected" means built, constructed, reconstructed, moved upon, or any physical activity upon a premises or lot required for the building. Excavations, fill, drainage, and the like, shall be considered a part of erection when done in conjunction with a structure.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

**Essential Services:** The erection, construction, alteration, or maintenance by public utilities or municipal departments of underground, surface or overhead gas, communication, telephone, electrical, steam, fuel or water transmission or distribution systems, collections, supply or disposal systems, including poles, wires, mains, drains, sewers, pipes, conduits, cables, fire alarm and police call boxes, traffic signals, hydrants and similar accessories in connection therewith which are necessary for the furnishing of adequate service by such utilities or municipal departments for the general public health, safety, convenience, or welfare, but not including towers, or office buildings, substations, or structures which are enclosures or shelters for service equipment, or maintenance depots. Communication towers shall not be interpreted as essential services.

**Excavation:** Any breaking of ground, except common household gardening, general farming and ground care.

**Family:**

1. An individual or group of two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption, including foster children and servants, together with not more than one (1) additional persons not related by blood, marriage, or adoption, living together as a single housekeeping unit in a dwelling unit; or
2. A collective number of individuals domiciled together in one dwelling unit whose relationship is of a continuing non-transient domestic character and who are cooking and living as a single nonprofit housekeeping unit. This definition shall not include any society, club, fraternity, sorority, association, lodge, coterie, organization, or group of students or other individuals whose domestic relationship is of a transitory or seasonal nature or for an anticipated limited duration of a school term or terms or other similar determinable period. Said definition shall not apply in instances of group care centers, or state licensed residential facilities as established under P.A. 395 of 1976, as amended.

**Farm:** Land and associated buildings and machinery used for agriculture and including all farm buildings, structures, including ponds used for agricultural or aquacultural activities, and machinery, equipment, and other appurtenances used in the commercial production of farm products. (eff. 12/27/2018)

**Farm Operation:** Any activity that occurs on a farm in conjunction with the commercial production, harvesting, and storage of farm products, including, but not limited to: marketing of products at roadside stands or farm markets; operation of machinery necessary for a farm including, but not limited to, irrigation pumps and drainage systems and pumps and on-farm grain dryers, and the movement of vehicles, machinery, equipment, and farm products and associated inputs necessary for farm operations on the roadway; ground and aerial seeding and spraying; application of chemical fertilizers, conditioners, insecticides, pesticides, and herbicides; use of alternative pest management techniques; the fencing, feeding, watering, sheltering, transportation, treatment, use, handling and care of farm animals; the management, storage, transport, utilization, and application of farm by-products, including manure or agricultural wastes; and the employment and use of labor; and any conditions arising from such activities including, but not limited to noise, odors, dust, and fumes. At least 50% of the products marketed and offered for sale at the premises must have been produced on and by the farm. (eff. 12/27/2018)

**Farm Products:** Those plants and animals useful to man, produced by agriculture, including but not limited to: forages and sod crops; grains and feed crops; field crops, dairy and dairy products; poultry and poultry products; cervidae (deer family), livestock including feeding and grazing; fish, and other aquacultural products, berries, herbs, fruits, vegetables, flowers, seeds, grasses, trees and tree products; apiaries and bee products; equine and other similar products; mushrooms, or any other product that incorporates the use of food, feed, fiber or fur as determined by the Michigan commission of agriculture. (eff. 12/27/2018)

**Filling:** The depositing or dumping of any matter into or onto the ground.

**Fireworks:** A device made from explosive or flammable compositions used primarily for the purpose of producing a visible display or audible effect, or both, by combustion, deflagration, or detonation. However, those devices not requiring a state permit for the sale thereof pursuant to the Michigan Fireworks Law (PA 328 of 1931, as amended), including certain flat paper caps, sparklers, and cone and cylinder fountains, shall not be deemed as fireworks.

**Floodway:** The channel of any watercourse and those portions of the flood plain adjoining the channel which are reasonably required to carry and discharge flood water.

**Flood Plain:** The area adjoining a river, stream, water course, or lake which is inundated by a flood discharge which results from a 100-year storm of a twenty-four (24) hour duration. The flood plain shall include the stream channel and overbank area (the floodway) and the fringe areas of the floodway.

**Floor Area, Gross:** The sum of all gross horizontal areas of all floors of a building or buildings, measured from the outside dimensions of the outside face of the outside wall. Unenclosed and uncovered porches, unenclosed



## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

and covered porches, court yards, or patios shall not be considered as part of the gross area except where they are utilized for commercial purposes such as the outdoor sale of merchandise.

**Floor Area, Usable:** For the purposes of computing parking requirements, usable floor area shall be considered as that area to be used for the sale of merchandise or services, or for use to serve patrons, clients, or customers. Such floor area which is used or intended to be used principally for the storage or processing of merchandise, hallways, stairways, and elevator shafts, or for restrooms and janitorial service rooms, shall be excluded from this computation of usable floor area. Usable floor area shall be measured from the interior faces of the exterior walls, and total usable floor area for a building shall include the sum of the usable floor area for all floors.

**Foster Care Facility:** An establishment which provides supervision, assistance, protection, or personal care, in addition to room and board, to persons. A foster care facility does not include a home for the aged or nursing home, licensed under PA 139 of 1956, as amended, or a mental hospital for mental patients licensed under PA 151 of 1923.

1. **Family Home:** A facility which provides foster care to six (6) or fewer persons.
2. **Group Home:** A facility which provides foster care to seven (7) or more persons.

**Frontage:** The total continuous length of the line separating said lot from the public or private right-of-way, and frequently identical to the front lot line. In the case of a lot that gains access from a shared driveway, the frontage shall be the line separating said lot from the shared driveway.

**Funeral Home:** A building or part thereof used for human funeral services. Such building may contain space and facilities for: a) embalming and the performance of other services used in preparation of the dead for burial; b) the performance of autopsies and other surgical procedures on the dead; c) the storage of caskets, funeral urns, and other related funeral supplies; d) the storage of funeral vehicles; and e) a funeral chapel. This definition shall not be interpreted to include facilities for cremation.

**Garage:** An accessory building or an accessory portion of a principal building designed or used primarily for the storage of non-commercial motor vehicles, boats, motor homes, snowmobiles, and similar vehicles owned and used by the occupants of the building to which it is accessory.

**Garage Sale:** The temporary sale or offering for sale to the general public of items of personal property on any portion of a residential lot, whether within or outside a residence.

**Golf Course/Country Club:** A facility, whether public or private, where the game of golf is played, including accessory uses and buildings authorized by this Ordinance, but excluding golf driving ranges as a principal use.

**Greenhouse:** A building or structure constructed primarily of glass, glass-like or translucent material, cloth or lath, which is devoted to the protection and cultivation of plant materials.

**Hazardous Material:** Any solid, liquid or gas that is corrosive, reactive, flammable, toxic or otherwise dangerous to the health and safety of any living organism or the environment.

**Home Occupation:** An occupation or profession conducted entirely within a dwelling or accessory building which is clearly incidental and secondary to the residential use of the lot, does not change the character of the dwelling, and meets all applicable provisions of this Ordinance.

**Class 1 Home Occupation:** An occupation or profession conducted entirely within a dwelling, excluding an attached garage.

**Class 2 Home Occupation:** An occupation or profession conducted within an accessory building on the same lot as the dwelling in which the owner of such business resides, and/or where such occupation does not comply with the definition or required standards for Class 1 Home Occupations.

**Hospital:** An institution which is licensed by the Michigan Department of Public Health to provide in-patient and out-patient medical and surgical services for the sick and injured, and which may include such related facilities as laboratories, medical testing services, and staff offices.

**Hotel:** See "Motel."

**Junk Yard:** Any land or building used for: 1) the abandonment, storage, keeping, collecting, selling, exchange or baling of junk including paper, rags, scrap metals, tires, wood or other scrap or discarded materials; and/or 2) the abandonment, demolition, dismantling, storage, keeping, collecting, selling, exchanging or salvaging of machinery, automobiles, boats, or other vehicles not in normal running condition, or parts thereof.

**kennel, Commercial/Sport:** A premise on which five (5) or more dogs or cats six (6) four (4) months of age or older, are permanently or temporarily boarded in return for payment for boarding or training, or kept for the purpose of sport, rescue, foster care (in conjunction with a certified shelter association), or kept for the purpose of breeding or sale. This term shall not apply to those animals raised, such as livestock, or used, such as sheep

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

dogs, as part of a farm operation. This term does not include a premise where dogs are raised or kept as part of an active farm operation. (eff. 12/27/2018)

**Kennel, Private:** An area and/or structure, on private property, other than a residence, that is designed and built for the permanent or temporary keeping of no more than four (4) dogs, six (6) months of age or older, which are considered household pets, certified service, search and rescue or law enforcement dogs, or dogs used as part of an active farm operation. This term does not apply to those animals used as part of a farm operation, such as sheep dogs. (eff. 12/27/2018)

**Land Use Plan:** The statement of policy by the Township Planning Commission relative to the agreed upon and officially adopted guidelines for future community development and preservation. The plan, adopted pursuant to the Township Planning Act, as amended, consists of a series of maps, charts and written material representing in summary form the soundest concept for community growth and preservation.

**Landscaping Business:** A business providing services that change of the natural scenery of a place, including design and field installation services and the use of trucks and other transport and installation equipment. A landscaping business may provide, as an accessory activity to such design and installation service, the sale of plant materials and other landscape supplies such as soil, mulch, rocks and timber.

**Livestock:** Cattle, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, and other similar domestic animals or fowl normally kept or raised on a farm.

**Loading Space:** An off-street space on the same lot with a building, or group of buildings, for the temporary parking of a commercial vehicle while loading or unloading merchandise or materials.

**Lot:** A lot is a parcel of land, including any street or other right-of-way, with at least sufficient size to meet the minimum requirements for use, coverage, and lot area and to provide such yards and open spaces as herein required. Such lot may consist of:

- a. a single lot of record;
- b. a portion of a lot of record;
- c. any combination of complete and/or portions of lots of record if contiguous;
- d. a parcel of land described by metes and bounds provided that in no case of division or combination shall the area of any lot or parcel created, including residuals, be less than that required by this ordinance.

**Lot Area:** The area of the horizontal plane within the lot lines of a lot, exclusive of the area of a lake or any public or private road right-of-way adjoining any portion of the lot, except in the case of lots of ten (10) acres or more in size in which case the area of any public or private road right-of-way may be considered part of the lot area.

**Lot, Corner:** Any lot having at least two (2) contiguous sides adjoining upon one or more roads, provided that the interior angle at the intersection of such two sides is less than one hundred thirty-five (135) degrees. A lot adjoining a curved street(s) shall be a corner lot if the arc has a radius less than one hundred and fifty (150) feet.

**Lot Coverage:** The amount of a lot, stated in terms of percentage, that is covered by all buildings, and/or structures located thereon. This shall be deemed to include all buildings, roofed porches, arbors, breezeways, patio roofs, whether open box types and/or lathe roofs, or fully roofed, but shall not be deemed to include fences, walls, or hedges used as fences, unroofed decks or patios or swimming pools. Lot coverage shall be measured from the drip line of the roof or from the wall or foundation if there is no projecting portion of the roof.

**Lot Depth:** The distance from the front lot line of the lot to its opposite rear line, measured midway between the side lot lines.

**Lot Lines:** The lines bounding a lot or parcel.

1. Lot Line, Front:
  - a. In the case of a lot not located on a corner, the line separating said lot from the public or private road right-of-way.
  - b. In the case of a corner lot or through lot, the front lot line shall be that line that separates said lot from the right-of-way for the road which is designated as the front on the plot plan or site plan review application, subject to approval.
  - c. In the case of a lot that gains access from a shared driveway, the front lot line shall be the lot line that intersects or is adjacent to the driveway easement. However, if the lot that is served by a shared driveway also has frontage on a public or private road, the front lot line shall be the lot line separating said lot from the public or private road right-of-way.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

2. **Lot Line, Rear:** The lot line opposite and most distant from the front lot line. In the case of a triangular or otherwise irregularly shaped lot or parcel, an imaginary line at least ten feet in length entirely within the lot or parcel, parallel to and at a maximum distance from the front lot line.
3. **Lot Line, Side:** Any lot line other than a front or rear lot line.

**Lot, Through:** A lot having frontage on two (2) roads other than a corner lot.

**Lot of Record:** A lot which is part of a platted subdivision shown on a map thereof which has been recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Washtenaw County, or a lot described by metes and bounds, the description of which has been recorded in said office.

**Lot Width:** The straight line horizontal distance between the side lot lines, measured at the two (2) points where the minimum required front setback line intersects the side lot lines.

**Manufactured Housing Community (Mobile Home Park):** A parcel or tract of land under the control of a person upon which 3 or more mobile homes are located on a continual, non-recreational basis and which is offered to the public for that purpose regardless of whether a charge is made therefor, together with any building, structure, enclosure, street, equipment, or facility used or intended for use incident to the occupancy of a mobile home.

**Master Deed:** The condominium document recording the condominium project to which are attached as exhibits and incorporated by reference the bylaws for the project and the condominium subdivision plan for the project, and all other information required by Section 8 of the Condominium Act.

**Medical Clinic:** An establishment where human patients, not lodged overnight, are admitted for examination and treatment by a group of physicians, dentists, or similar professionals. A medical clinic may incorporate customary laboratories and pharmacies incidental to or necessary for its operation or to the service of its patients, but may not include facilities for overnight patient care or major surgery.

**Mineral Extraction:** Mining, quarrying, excavation, or other removal or processing of sand, gravel, soil, or other minerals from the location of the mineral extraction site. The term shall not include common household gardening, general farming, ground care, and excavation preparatory to the construction of a building, structure, roadway, or pipeline pursuant to an approved zoning permit.

**Mini Storage (warehouse) Facilities:** A building or group of buildings that contains individual compartmentalized and controlled access stalls or lockers for the storage of customer's goods or wares which are generally not used on a daily basis, including recreational vehicles and water craft.

**Mobile Home:** A structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling with or without permanent foundation, when connected to the required utilities, and includes the plumbing, heating, air-conditioning, and electrical systems contained in the structure. The term mobile home shall not include pick-up campers, travel trailers, motor homes, dwellings consisting of prefabricated units transported to a site on a removable undercarriage or flat-bed and assembled for permanent location on a lot (modular homes), recreational vehicles, converted buses, tent trailers, or other transportable structures designed for temporary use.

**Modular (Pre-Manufactured) Home:** A dwelling unit constructed solely within a factory, as a single unit, or in various sized modules or components, which are then transported by truck or other means to a site where they are assembled on a permanent foundation to form a single-family dwelling unit, and meeting all codes and regulations applicable to conventional single-family home construction.

**Motel:** A building or group of buildings, whether detached or in connecting units, used as individual sleeping or dwelling units designed primarily for transient automobile travelers and providing for accessory off-street parking facilities. The term "motel" shall include buildings designated as hotels, auto courts, tourist courts, motor courts, motor hotel, and similar appellations which are designed as integrated units of individual rooms under common ownership. A motel shall not be considered or construed to be a multiple family dwelling.

**Motor Home:** A self-propelled, licensed vehicle prefabricated on its own chassis, intended for recreational activities and temporary occupancy.

**Nonconforming Building or Structure:** A building or structure (or portion thereof) lawfully existing at the time of adoption of this Ordinance or a subsequent amendment thereto, that does not conform to the provisions of this Ordinance relative to height, area, placement or yards for the zoning district in which it is located.

**Nonconforming Lot (Substandard Lot):** A lot lawfully existing at the effective date of this Ordinance or subsequent amendment thereto, and which fails to meet the area and/or dimensional requirements of the zoning district in which it is located.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

*April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021*

- Nonconforming Use:** A use of a building or structure or of a parcel or tract of land, lawfully existing at the time of adoption of this Ordinance or subsequent amendment thereto, that does not conform to the regulations of the zoning district in which it is situated.
- Nuisance:** Any offensive, annoying, unpleasant, or obnoxious thing or practice or a cause or source of annoyance, which prevents the free use of one's property, or which renders its ordinary use or physical occupation uncomfortable. Nuisance commonly involves continuous or recurrent acts which give offense to the senses, violate the laws of decency, obstruct reasonable and comfortable use of property, or endangers life and health.
- Nursery:** A space, building or structure, or combination thereof, for the storage of live trees, shrubs, or plants offered for wholesale or retail sales including products used for gardening and landscaping. "Nursery" shall not be interpreted to mean any space, building, or structure used for the sale of fruits, vegetables, or Christmas trees.
- Nursing Home:** An installation other than a hospital, having as its primary function the rendering of nursing care for extended periods of time to persons afflicted with illness, injury, or an infirmity.
- Off-Street Parking Area:** A land surface providing vehicular parking spaces, along with adequate drives and aisles for maneuvering and access, for the parking of three (3) or more automobiles or trucks or other vehicles.
- Owner:** The owner of the premises or lesser estate in the premises, a mortgagee or vendee in possession, an assignee of rents, receiver, executor, trustee, leasee, or any other person, sole proprietorship, partnership, association, or corporation directly or indirectly in control of a building, structure, or real property, or his or her duly authorized agent.
- Parcel:** A lot described by metes and bounds or described in a recorded plat.
- Parking Space:** An area of definite length and width as designated in this Ordinance for parking an automobile or other vehicle, and which is fully accessible for such purposes.
- Planned Unit Development:** A tract of land or lot, developed under single ownership or management as a separate neighborhood community unit, or non-residential use, based on an approved site plan which allows flexibility of design not available under normal zoning district requirements.
- Plat:** A map of a subdivision of land recorded with the Register of Deeds pursuant to the Land Division Act, P.A. 571 of 1996, as amended, or a prior statute.
- Plot Plan:** A plan showing basic features of a proposed development, so that it may be evaluated in order to determine whether it meets the provisions of this Ordinance. A plot plan depicts less detailed information compared to a site plan.
- Political Sign:** A sign supporting or opposing a political party, a candidate for public office or a ballot proposal. A sign identifying premises as an office or headquarters of a party, candidate or advocacy group shall not be considered a political sign (eff. 7/5/12).
- Principal Building:** The main building on a lot in which the principal use exists or is served by.
- Principal Use:** The main use to which the premises are devoted and the main purpose for which the premises exist.
- Private Landing Strip:** A cleared and level area used by the owner or lessee of the premises for the operation and maintenance of personal aircraft only, and recognized by a state authorized body.
- Professional Engineer:** A licensed Engineer registered in the State of Michigan (eff.12/13/08).
- Prohibited Use:** A use of land which is not permitted within a particular zoning district.
- Public Assembly Facility:** A public or semi-public facility or institution whose principal function involves the regular gathering of members of the general public, as opposed to gatherings associated with a restricted membership. Examples of public assembly facilities include, but are not limited to, theaters, places of religious worship, parks, and museums.
- Public Facility:** Land and associated structures and buildings used to carry out a governmental function(s) or provide a governmental service(s), such as a use or service owned or managed by a city, village, township, county, state, or public school board, and including commissions or other arms of such entities. Examples of such facilities include, but are not necessarily limited to, municipal parks and cemeteries, police and fire protection facilities, courts of justice, and government offices.
- Public Sewer:** A system of pipes and structures, including pipes, channels, conduits, manholes, pumping stations, sewage or waste treatment works, diversion and regulatory devices, outfall structures, and appurtenances, collectively or severally actually used or intended for use by the public for the purposes of collecting, conveying,

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

transporting, treating or otherwise handling human sanitary sewage or industrial liquid wastes of such nature as to be capable of adversely affecting the Public health, owned and operated by a municipality.

**Public Utility:** Any person, firm, or corporation, municipal department, board or commission duly authorized to furnish and furnishing under federal, state, or municipal regulations to the public: gas, steam, electricity, sewage disposal, communication, telephone, telegraph, or water.

**Recreational Facility:** A place designed and equipped for the conduct of sports and other leisure activities.

**Recreation Vehicle:** The term recreation vehicle shall include, among others, such commonly named vehicles as travel trailer; travel camper; pickup camper; tent camper; motor home; vehicles commonly referred to as "off-road" vehicles including 4x4s, motorcycles, and snowmobiles; and "on road" vehicles when used in an "off-road" manner including pick-up trucks and dune buggies. A mobile home shall not be considered a Recreational Vehicle.

**Recycling Center:** A collection point for small refuse items, such as bottles and newspapers, located either in a container or small structure.

**Restaurant, Drive-In:** A restaurant in which all or a substantial portion of the business consists of serving foods and beverages in a ready -to-consume state from a drive-through window to patrons in motor vehicles. A drive-in restaurant may or may not also have indoor seating, and may also be referred to as a drive-through restaurant.

**Restaurant, Standard:** An establishment whose principal business is the sale of food and/or beverages to customers in a ready-to-consume state, and whose principal method of operation includes one or both of the following characteristics:

1. customers, normally provided with an individual menu, are served their food and beverage by a restaurant employee, at the same table or counter at which food and beverage are consumed;
2. a cafeteria-type operation where food and beverage generally are consumed within the restaurant building.

The term "standard restaurant" shall not be interpreted to mean or include a drive-through restaurant.

**Restoration:** The reconstruction or replication of an existing building's original architectural features.

**Retreat Center:** A facility used for professional, educational, or religious conclaves, meetings, conferences, or seminars and which may provide meals, housing and recreation for participants during the period of the retreat or program only, and provided all kitchen facilities are limited to a single centrally located building and not within individual sleeping quarters. This term shall not apply to facilities utilized by the general public for meals or overnight accommodations.

**Right-of-Way:** A public or private street, road, alley, or other thoroughfare or easement permanently established for passage of persons, vehicles, or the location of utilities. The right-of-way is delineated by legally established lines or boundaries referred to as right-of-way lines.

**Road:** A thoroughfare, classified as either a "public" or "private" road, which affords the principal means of access to adjoining property, and complies with the provisions of this Ordinance. The term "road" also includes the term "street."

**Road, Private:** Any private way or means of approach, not dedicated for general public use.

**Road, Public:** Any public thoroughfare dedicated and maintained for the use and operation of vehicular traffic by the Washtenaw County Road Commission or other public entity.

**Seasonal Agriculture Labor Housing:** Housing located on the farm that is utilized for seasonal temporary labor in association with the farm, the occupant of which is either:

1. in direct family relationship with the occupant of the principal dwelling on such farm;
2. a bona fide employee of the occupant of the principal dwelling on such farm, and engaged in an agricultural occupation on the premises; or
3. an intern or apprentice engaged in an agricultural occupation on the premises. (eff. 12/27/2018)

**Service Station, Standard:** A place used primarily for the retail sale and dispensing of fuel or lubricants together with the fixed equipment from which the fuel is dispensed directly into motor vehicles. Such places may also perform minor automobile repair, limited to engine tune-ups and servicing of brakes, air conditioning, and exhaust systems; oil change or lubrication; wheel alignment or balancing; or similar servicing or repairs that do not normally require any significant disassembly or storing the automobiles on the premises overnight. Standard service stations may also include up to four hundred (400) square feet of floor area used for the sale of convenience items such as food products, magazines, and similar convenience items.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

**Service Station, Multiple Use:** A standard service station as defined in this Ordinance, which also includes other accessory or principal uses and/or services such as, but need not be limited to, a restaurant, shower facilities, and/or convenience store. Such places may also perform minor automobile repair, limited to engine tune-ups and servicing of brakes, air conditioning, and exhaust systems; oil change or lubrication; wheel alignment or balancing; or similar servicing or repairs that do not normally require any significant disassembly or storing the automobiles on the premises overnight.

**Setback:** The minimum distance by which any building or structure must be separated from the front, side or rear lot line.

**Shooting Range:** Any indoor or outdoor facility, whether operated for profit or not, and whether public or private, which is principally designed or used for the shooting of bow and arrow or firearms that are aimed at targets. Depending upon the type of shooting range, such shooting range may also be commonly referred to as a gun club, hunt club, sportsman club, rifle range, pistol range, trap/skeet range, sporting clay range, and archery range. A shooting range shall not be interpreted to include the use of bow and arrow or firearms by the occupants of a dwelling on the same parcel on which the dwelling is located.

**Sign:** Any words, lettering, parts of letters, figures, numerals, phrases, sentences, emblems, devices, designs, trade names or marks, or other representation, or combination thereof, by which anything is made known, such as the designation of an individual, a firm, an association, a profession, a business, a commodity or product, which is located upon any land or on or in any building, in such manner as to attract attention from outside the premises. *(Refer to Article 15: Signs, for additional definitions pertaining to signs.)*

**Site Plan:** A plan showing all physical features of a proposed development, so that it may be evaluated in order to determine whether it meets the provisions of this Ordinance.

**Special Land Use:** Uses and structures which have been generally accepted as reasonably compatible with the primary uses and structures within a zoning district, but could present potential injurious effects upon the primary uses and structures within the zoning district and therefore require special consideration in relation to the welfare of adjacent properties and to the community as a whole. All such proposed uses shall be subject to a public hearing. Refer to Article 5, Special Land Uses.

**Stable, Commercial:** A structure and/or land use where horses are bred, reared, trained, cared for, and/or boarded and does not meet all of the definition requirements of a private stable, as defined in this Ordinance.

**Stable, Private:** An accessory structure and/or land use where horses are bred, reared, trained, cared for, and/or boarded, irrespective of remuneration. A private stable may provide horse care and/or riding lessons but a private stable shall not be interpreted to include a facility providing horse shows, training exhibitions, or any other activity typically characterized by the gathering of spectators or observers. (eff. 12/27/2018)

**Stop Work Order:** An administrative order which is either posted on the property or mailed to the property owner which directs a person not to continue, or not to allow the continuation of an activity which is in violation of this Ordinance.

**Structural Alteration:** Any change in the supporting elements of a building or structure such as, but not limited to, bearing walls or partitions, columns, beams or girders, or any substantial change in the roof.

**Structure:** Anything constructed or erected, the use of which requires permanent location on the ground or attachment to something having such location on the ground including but not limited to all buildings, independently supported decks, satellite dishes and free-standing signs; excepting anything lawfully in a public right-of-way including but not limited to utility poles, sewage pumping stations, utility manholes, fire hydrants, electric transformers, telephone boxes, and related public facilities and utilities defined as essential public services. Fences shall not be considered as "structures," but must comply with all applicable standards of this Ordinance.

**Temporary Use:** A use of land which is authorized for a limited duration of time pursuant to Section 20.15. (eff. 12/27/2018)

**Tent Camper:** A vehicular, portable structure, built on a non-motorized chassis and designed to be used as a temporary dwelling for travel and recreational purposes, and whose sides and top are made of tent-type or hard surface material that fold down into a compact trailer unit during travel.

**Towing Service:** A facility whose principal function is to provide for the transport and temporary storage of vehicles but does not include disposal, disassembly, salvage, repair or accessory storage of inoperable vehicles.

**Travel Camper:** A vehicular, portable structure, built on a non-motorized chassis and designed to be used as a temporary dwelling for travel and recreational purposes, having a body width of not exceeding eight (8) feet.

## SHARON TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE

April 20, 2006 Updated February 18, 2021

**Use:** The purpose for which land or a building is arranged, designed or intended, or for which land or a building may be occupied.

**Variance:** A modification of the literal provisions of the Zoning Ordinance authorized by the Zoning Board of Appeals according to the provisions of this Ordinance.

**Vehicle/Car Wash:** Any facility where the washing and cleaning of passenger vehicles, recreational vehicles, trucks, or other motorized vehicles occurs for remuneration, including self-service facilities, automated facilities, and assembly line facilities.

**Vehicle Repair Shop:** A business which provides for sale to the motoring public, operations and services to restore damaged and/or wrecked automobiles to driving condition including bumping, welding, reshaping, resurfacing, sanding, cleaning, undercoating, and paint spraying.

**Veterinary Clinic:** An establishment which is licensed by the Michigan Department of Health to provide for the care, diagnosis, and treatment of sick or injured animals, including those in need of medical or surgical attention. A veterinary clinic may include fully enclosed pens or cages for the overnight boarding of animals receiving medical treatment and such related facilities as laboratories, testing services, and offices.

**Vicinity Map:** A map of suitable scale identifying a property, lot, or parcel subject to a planning or zoning action and depicting properties nearby to and the general neighborhood of the subject parcel. The purpose of a vicinity map is to aid all persons in locating the parcel within the Township and in identifying neighboring uses. General requirements for vicinity maps are given in Article 20, General Provisions, and may be augmented in any section where a vicinity map is listed as a submittal requirement (eff. 7/5/12).

**Yard:** An open space, on the same lot with a principal building, unoccupied and unobstructed from the ground upward by a building or structure, except as otherwise permitted in this Ordinance and as defined herein:

1. **Front Yard:** An open space extending the full width of the lot, the depth of which is the minimum horizontal distance between the front lot line and the nearest line of the principal building. There shall be maintained a front yard on each street side of a corner lot and through lot.
2. **Rear Yard:** An open space extending the full width of the lot, the depth of which is the minimum horizontal distance between the rear lot line and the nearest line of the principal building. In the case of corner lots, there shall only be one rear yard which shall be determined by the owner.
3. **Side Yard:** An open space between the principal building and the side lot line, extending from the front yard to the rear yard, the width of which is the horizontal distance from the nearest point of the side lot line to the nearest line of the principal building.

**Zoning Administrator:** The authorized individual or agency charged with the responsibility of administering this Ordinance and appointed by the Township Board.

**Zoning District (District):** A portion of the Township within which specific regulations and requirements, or various combinations thereof apply as provided in this Ordinance.

***End of Article 21***