

RICE TOWNSHIP

ZONING ORDINANCE

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ARTICLE 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 101 TITLE

The official title of this Ordinance is: Rice Township Zoning Ordinance.

SECTION 102 INTERPRETATION AND CONFLICT

In interpreting and applying the provisions of this Ordinance, they shall be held to the minimum requirements for the protection and promotion of the public health, safety, convenience, comfort, morals, and general welfare of the residents of Rice Township. In the event of any conflict in the application of this Ordinance with other applicable public or private provisions, the following shall apply:

A. PUBLIC PROVISIONS

The regulations of this Ordinance are not intended to interfere with or abrogate or annul any other ordinance, rules or regulations previously adopted or previously issued by Rice Township which are not in conflict with any provisions of this Ordinance. Where this Ordinance imposes a greater restriction upon the use of land, structure or building than any other previously adopted ordinance, rules, or regulations of Rice Township, the provisions of this Ordinance shall apply.

B. PRIVATE PROVISIONS

The regulations of this Ordinance, are not intended to interfere with or abrogate or annul any easement, covenant or other form of private agreement or restriction, provided that where the provisions of this Ordinance impose a greater restriction, the requirements of this Ordinance shall govern. Rice Township shall not however be held responsible for knowledge and/or enforcement of any private deed restriction, private covenant or other form of private agreement which may be inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance and/or beyond the scope of regulations contained within this Ordinance.

SECTION 103 COMPLIANCE WITH ORDINANCE REQUIRED

Except as hereinafter provided, no land, building, structure or premises shall hereafter be used, and no building or part thereof or other structure shall be located, erected, reconstructed, extended, enlarged, converted, altered or moved except in conformity with the regulations herein specified for the zoning district in which it is located.

SECTION 104 PURPOSE:

This Ordinance is enacted to accomplish the purposes enumerated in Section 604 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247, as amended. The provisions of this Ordinance are designed to achieve the following:

- A. To promote, protect and facilitate one or more of the following: the public health, safety, morals, general welfare, coordinated and practical community development, proper density of population, emergency management preparedness,

airports and national defense facilities, the provisions of adequate light and air, access to incident solar energy, police protection, vehicle parking and loading space, transportation, water, sewage, schools, recreational facilities, public grounds, the provision of a safe, reliable and adequate water supply for domestic, commercial, agricultural or industrial use, and other public requirements; as well as reservation of natural, scenic and historic values in the environment and preservation of forests, wetlands, aquifers and floodplains.

- B. To prevent one or more of the following: overcrowding of land, blight, danger and congestion in travel and transportation, loss of health, life or property from fire, flood, panic or other dangers.
- C. To preserve prime agriculture and farmland considering topography, soil type and classification, and present use.
- D. To provide for the use of land within the municipality for residential housing of various dwelling types encompassing all basic forms of housing, including single-family and two-family dwellings, and a reasonable range of multifamily dwellings in various arrangements, mobile homes and mobile home parks, provided however, that the zoning ordinance shall not be deemed invalid for the failure to provide any other specific dwelling type.
- E. To accommodate reasonable overall community growth, including population and employment growth, and opportunities for development of a variety of residential dwelling types and nonresidential uses.

SECTION 105 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

The enactment of this Ordinance is intended to assist in achieving and promoting the following goals and objectives:

- A. To achieve the best use of the land within the Township, insuring that varying use of land and water bodies will complement one another and thus improve the economic, social, and aesthetic character of the community.
- B. To establish realistic population densities in order to insure health standards, privacy and open space and in order to provide utilities, police protection, and community services and facilities in the most convenient and efficient manner.
- C. To maintain and improve the road system for better internal circulation and movement of through traffic, which will facilitate the efficient and safe movement of people and goods.
- D. To guide the location of future development and establish developmental standards in such a way that negative impacts on the natural environment and natural resources are minimized, and to minimize existing and future water, air, land and noise pollution.
- E. To provide the opportunity for a wide-range and variety of housing types to meet the needs of all Township residents; newly-formed households, growing families and senior citizens.

- F. To update and revise planning goals and objectives, and the operational tools necessary for implementation, in light of new data and changing conditions.
- G. To expand local business and strengthen the economy by encouraging well-planned commercial, industrial, residential, and recreational growth which will provide for local employment, shopping facilities, and recreational opportunities which in turn will strengthen the local tax base.
- H. To strive for coordination between policies, plans, and programs in the community through cooperation among governing officials, community interest groups, and the general populace.

In addition to the above Community Development Objectives, this Zoning Ordinance is intended to implement the goals and objectives contained in the Township Comprehensive Plan and the Township Recreation and Open Space Plan

SECTION 106 REPEALING PROVISION

All Ordinance, or any parts thereof, which are inconsistent or in conflict with this Ordinance.

SECTION 107 EFFECTIVE DATE

All Ordinance, or any parts thereof, which are inconsistent or in conflict with this Ordinance, including the 1992 Rice Township Zoning Ordinance, as amended and the Rice Township Zoning Map, as amended are hereby repealed.

APPROVED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RICE ON THIS ____ 10th DAY OF _____, 2007.

RICE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP SECRETARY

ARTICLE 2 DEFINITIONS

SECTION 201 APPLICATION AND INTERPRETATION

The definition of words included herein are provided to facilitate the interpretation of this Ordinance for administrative and enforcement purposes. Unless expressly stated otherwise, within the context of the Ordinance, the following shall apply:

1. Words used in the present tense shall include the future tense.
2. The word "person" shall include a profit or nonprofit corporation, company, partnership, individual or single proprietorship.
3. The words "used" or "occupied" as applied to any land or building shall include the words "intended", "arranged", or "designed" to be used or occupied.
4. The word "building" shall include "part thereof" and "structure".
5. The word "lot" shall include "plot" or "parcel".
6. The word "shall" is always mandatory.
7. The singular number shall include the plural, and the plural the singular.
8. The masculine gender shall include the feminine and neuter.
9. The word "street" shall include "road", "highway", and "lane".

SECTION 202 TERMS OR WORDS NOT DEFINED

When terms, phrases, or words are not defined, they shall have the meaning as defined in The Latest Illustrated Book of Development Definitions (H. S. Moskowitz and C. G. Lindbloom, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 2004) or if not defined therein, they shall have their ordinarily accepted meanings or such as the context may imply.

SECTION 203 DEFINITIONS

ABANDONMENT:

To cease or discontinue a use or activity without intent to resume, but excluding temporary or short-term interruptions to a use or activity during periods of remodeling, maintaining, or otherwise improving or rearranging a facility, subject to completion of the work within one year from the issuance of a zoning permit and/or building permit.

ABUTTING:

Having a common border with, or being separated from such a common border by a right-of-way, alley, or easement.

ACCESS:

A way or means of approach to provide physical ingress and/or egress to a property.

ACCESSORY STRUCTURE:

A subordinate structure detached from but located on the same lot as the principal structure, the use of which is incidental and accessory to that of the principal structure.

ACCESSORY USE:

A use incidental to, and on the same lot as, a principal use.

AGRICULTURE:

The use of land for agricultural purposes, including farming, dairying, pasturage, horticulture, floriculture, and animal and poultry husbandry and the necessary accessory uses. The term includes an enterprise that implements changes in production practices and procedures or types of crops, livestock, livestock products or commodities produced consistent with practices and procedures that are normally engaged by farmers or are consistent with technological development within the agricultural industry. The above uses shall not include concentrated animal feeding operations, commercial hog farms, fur farms, fertilizer plants or animal kennels. The keeping of more than two pieces of livestock upon a property, including but not limited to horses, cows, goats, sheep and similar types of animals shall be deemed to constitute an agricultural use.

ALLEY:

A public right-of-way intended and/or used as a secondary means of access to abutting property.

ALTERATION:

Any change, addition, or modification in construction or occupancy of an existing structure.

ALTERATION, STRUCTURAL:

Any change in the supporting members of a building or structure, such as bearing walls, columns, beams, or girders.

AMENDMENT:

A change in the regulations and provisions of the Rice Township Zoning Ordinance, including changes to boundaries of Zoning Districts as provided upon the Zoning Map.

ANIMAL KENNEL:

Any structure or premises in which five (5) or more dogs or cats or any combination

thereof, at least six months of age, are boarded, kept or trained for commercial gain.

ANIMAL HOSPITAL:

A structure or building where animals or pets are given medical or surgical treatment and the boarding of animals is limited to short-term care incidental to the hospital use.

ANTENNA, COMMUNICATION: (See Communications Antenna)

AUTOMOTIVE SALES:

The use of any building, structure or land, other than a street, for the display and sale or rental of motor vehicles, which are in operable condition. The owner/operator of this business must have a valid state license for the sale or rental of such motor vehicles. Any related repair shall be conducted within an enclosed building and shall be an accessory use.

AUTOMOBILE WRECKING YARD: (SEE ALSO JUNKYARDS)

The dismantling or wrecking of used motor vehicles or trailers, or the storage, sale, or dumping of dismantled or wrecked vehicles or their parts. The presence on any lot or parcel of land of two or more motor vehicles, which, for a period exceeding 30 days, have not been capable of operating under their own power and from which parts have been or are to be removed for reuse or sale, shall constitute prima-facie evidence of an automobile wrecking yard.

BASEMENT:

That portion of a building that is partly or completely below grade. A basement shall be counted as a story if the vertical distance from the average adjoining grade to the ceiling is five (5) feet or greater.

BED AND BREAKFAST:

A residence occupied by an owner providing short term lodging accommodations for compensation for transient guests. No more than five guest rooms shall be available for said accommodations. Any meals included as part of the services shall be restricted to individuals who have registered for lodging within said residence.

BILLBOARD:

A sign that identifies or communicates a commercial or noncommercial message related to an activity conducted, a service rendered, or a commodity sold at a location other than where the sign is located.

BOARDING HOUSE OR ROOMING HOUSE:

A structure or portion thereof that contains rooming units which are rented or leased, with the occupants of said units being non-transient, and using said location as a legal place of

residence. The term “Boarding House or Rooming House,” shall specifically exclude the following:

Dwelling
Motel and/or Hotel
Group Residence

Dwelling Unit
Bed and Breakfast Facility

BUFFER AREA:

A method of improvements designed to separate and substantially obstruct the view of two adjacent land uses or properties from one another. For the purpose of this Ordinance the when a buffer area is required it shall be deemed represent a fence or stone wall with cork fitting, eight (8) feet in height with two staggered rows of evergreen trees planted in front of the fence with the spacing distance between trees the not less than eight feet or greater than ten (10) feet. Said trees shall be not less than eight (8) feet in height at the time of planting. Unless stated otherwise, a buffer area may be part of the minimum setback distance for the land use requiring said buffer.

BUILDING:

Any structure having a roof supported by columns or walls and intended for shelter, housing or enclosure of persons, animals, or property.

Building, Accessory: A subordinate structure on the same lot as the principal or main building or use occupied or devoted to a use incidental to the principal use.

Building Coverage: The horizontal area measured within the outside of the exterior walls of the ground floor of all principal and accessory buildings on a lot.

Building Envelope: An area of a lot upon which development may occur. Excluding deed restrictions, covenants, easements or other site conditions, the governing minimum setbacks requirements for a given zoning district establishes the building envelope.

Building, Principal: A building in which is conducted the principal use of the lot on which it is located.

Building Height: The vertical distance of a building measure from the average elevation of the proposed finished grade within twenty (20) feet of the structure to the highest point of the roof for flat roofs; to the deck line of mansard roofs and to the average height between eaves and the ridge for gable, hip and gambrel roofs, excluding chimneys.

BULK FUEL STORAGE FACILITY:

Any facility where (1) gasoline is stored in bulk for distribution by delivery truck; (2) fuel, including but not limited to kerosene, home heating oil, diesel fuel, gasoline, or propane, is stored in large volume tanks for distribution to retail or wholesale establishments; or (3) the total combined on-site storage of fuel exceeds twenty thousand (20,000) gallons.

CAMPGROUNDS:

An area to be used for transient occupancy by camping in tents, camp trailers, recreational vehicles, travel trailers, or similar movable or temporary sleeping quarters.

CAMPSITE:

Any plot of land within a campground intended for exclusive occupancy by a camping unit or units under the control of a camper.

CAMPING UNIT:

Any tent, trailer, recreational vehicle, or similar structure established or maintained and operated in a campground as temporary living quarters for recreational, or vocational purposes.

CARPORT:

A roofed structure opened on two (2) or more sides and used for the storage of private motor vehicles. It may be constructed as a separate accessory structure or part of the principal structure.

CELLAR:

The portion of any building which is located partly underground, but having one-half or more of its height, measured from finished floor grade to finished ceiling, below the average grade of the adjoining land. A cellar shall not be counted as a story for the purposes of administering height regulations of this Ordinance.

CEMETERY:

Land used or intended to be used for the burial of the dead and dedicated for cemetery purposes, including crematories, mausoleums, and mortuaries when operated in conjunction with and within the boundaries of such cemetery.

CHANGE OF USE:

Any use which differs from the previous use of a building, structure or land.

CHURCH: (SEE PLACE OF WORSHIP)

CLEAR SIGHT TRIANGLE

An area of unobstructed vision at street intersections defined by lines of sight between points at a given distance from the "corner" so as not to interfere with traffic visibility across the corner.

CLINIC (MEDICAL):

A facility comprised of professional offices, for the examination and treatment of persons as outpatients by physicians, dentists or other licensed medical specialists, in which said medical practitioners work in cooperative association. Said clinics may provide medical services customarily available at hospitals, excluding overnight care of patients and 24 hour emergency service.

CHILD CARE FACILITY: (See DAY CARE FACILITY)

CHIMNEY:

A vertical structure containing one or more flues for drawing off emissions from a stationary source of combustion, including but not limited to those attached to an Outdoor Fuel Furnace.

CLUB/PRIVATE LODGE:

An area of land or building used by a recreational, civic, social, fraternal, religious, political or labor union association of persons for meetings and routine socializing and recreation that are limited to bona fide members and their occasional guests, and persons specifically invited to special celebrations, but which is not routinely open to members of the general public and which is not primarily operated as a for-profit business. The club shall involve a meaningful and substantial membership system, as opposed to a token system. This use shall not include a target range for outdoor shooting, boarding house, a tavern, a restaurant or an auditorium unless that particular use is permitted in that District and the requirements of that use are met.

COMMON OPEN SPACE:

A parcel or parcels of land, which may include an area of water, within a development site and designated and intended for the use or enjoyment of residents of a planned residential development, exclusive of streets, off-street parking areas and areas set aside for public facilities.

COMMERCIAL USE:

An occupation, employment, or enterprise that is carried on for profit by the owner, lessee, or licensee.

COMMERCIAL COMMUNICATION ANTENNA:

Any device used for the transmission or reception of radio, television, wireless telephone, pager, commercial mobile radio services, or any wireless communication signals, including without rotation, omnidirectional or whip antennas and directional or panel antennas, owned and operated by any person or entity licensed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to operate such device. This definition shall not include private residences mounted satellite dishes or television antennas or amateur radio equipment, including without limitation, ham or citizen band radio antennas.

COMMERCIAL COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT BUILDING:

An unmanned building or cabinet containing communication equipment for the operation of a Commercial Communication Antenna and covering an area on the ground not greater than two hundred fifty (250) square feet.

COMMERCIAL COMMUNICATION TOWER

A structure other than a building, such as a monopole, self-supporting or guyed tower, designed and used to support a Commercial Communication Antenna.

COMMERCIAL COMMUNICATIONS TOWER; HEIGHT:

The vertical distance measured from the ground to the highest point on a communications Tower, including antennas mounted on the tower.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

The Comprehensive Plan of Rice Township, including any amendments, updates, or revisions thereto.

CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATION –CAFO

Any operation which involves the raising of livestock or poultry where the animal density exceeds two (2) animal equivalent units per acre of crop land or land suitable for application of animal manure. An animal equivalent unit is equal to one thousand (1,000) pounds live weight of livestock or poultry, regardless of the actual number of animals.

CONDITIONAL USE:

A use that, owing to some special characteristics attendant to its operation or installation, is permitted in a zoning district subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors and subject to special requirements, different from those usual requirements for the zoning district in which the conditional use may be located.

CONDOMINIUM:

A set of individual dwelling units or other areas of building each owned by an individual person(s) in fee simple, with such owners assigned a proportionate interest in the remainder of the real estate which is designated for common ownership, and which was created under the PA Uniform Condominium Act of 1980, as amended.

CONSERVATION AREA, PRIMARY:

Lands within the 100-year floodplain (including the floodway), wetlands and slopes in excess of 25 percent

CONSERVATION AREA, SECONDARY:

All landscape elements not included in the primary conservation area. In conservation subdivision design, certain secondary conservation areas are designated to be protected, while others may be developed. The extent to which these features are preserved on an individual site are determined on a case-by-case basis during the land development process. Secondary conservation areas include, without limitation: woodlands, hedgerows, field stonewalls, groups of trees, large individual trees of significance, important farmland soils, hydric soils, swales, springs, vernal pools and lowland areas other than wetlands, steep slopes between fifteen (15%) and twenty-five (25%) percent, scenic roads and vistas, and historic or cultural resources.

CONSERVATION DESIGN SUBDIVISION:

A residential subdivision designed around permanently preserved natural resources at the dwelling unit density specified in the Township Zoning Ordinance.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT:

A right or interest in land granted primarily for the preservation of the land in its undeveloped state but which may allow limited development (e.g., a residential structure) and other compatible uses such as agriculture and forestry.

CONSERVATION OPEN SPACE:

That part of a particular conservation design subdivision development tract set aside for the protection of sensitive natural features, farmland, scenic views and other primary and secondary conservation areas identified by this Ordinance and/or the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. Conservation open space may be accessible to the residents of the development and/or the Township.

CONSTRAINED LAND:

The sum acreage of certain natural resources or other physical features that are deemed unsuitable for development due to environmental sensitivity or legal restrictions such as easements or rights-of-way.

CONSERVATION OPEN SPACE (SEE GREENWAY LAND):

CONTRACTOR'S STORAGE:

A lot, building, or part thereof, used to store materials used by a contractor in the construction of a road, highway, structure or building, landscaping or utilities.

CONVENIENCE STORE:

Any retail establishment offering for sale prepackaged food products, household items, and other goods commonly associated with the same.

CONVENIENCE STORE WITH GAS SALES:

Any retail establishment offering for sale prepackaged food products, household items, and other goods commonly associated with the same, along with the retail sales of gasoline and related fuel products.

COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION:

The Planning Commission of Luzerne County.

CRITICAL AREAS

An area with one or more of the following characteristics: stream corridors, streams, flood plain areas, wetlands, slopes which equal or exceed fifteen (15%) percent, soils classified as highly acidic or highly erodible, soils classified as having a high water table, land and associated soils which display poor percolation, mature stands of native vegetation and aquifer recharge and discharge area.

DAY CARE SERVICES:

The provision of out-of-home care for children or adults for part of a twenty-four (24) hour day, excluding care provided by relatives.

DAY CARE FACILITY:

A facility for the provision of out-of-home care for children or adults for part of a twenty-four (24) hour day, excluding care provided by relatives, and licensed as such by the State.

DAY CARE CENTER:

A structure in which day care services are provided, with no portion of the structure being jointly used as a portion of a family residence.

DAY CARE HOME:

Means a residential structure in which day care services are provided for not more than six (6) persons at any one time, where the care areas are also used as a portion of a family residence.

DECISION:

Final adjudication of any board or other body granted jurisdiction under any land use ordinance or this act to do so, either by reason of the grant of exclusive jurisdiction or by reason of appeals from determinations. All decisions shall be subject to appeal to the Court of Common Pleas of Luzerne County.

DENSITY:

The number of dwelling units permitted per net unit of land.

DETENTION FACILITY:

A publicly operated or sponsored facility used to house and/or rehabilitate individuals detained, sentenced by, or under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system, including but not limited to, jails, prisons, penitentiaries, reformatories, half-way houses and similar facilities.

DETERMINATION:

Final action by an officer, body or agency charged with the administration of any land use ordinance or applications thereunder, except the following:

1. the governing body;
2. the zoning hearing board; or
3. the planning commission, only if and to the extent the planning commission is charged with final decision on preliminary or final plans under the subdivision and land development ordinance or planned residential development provisions.

Determinations may be appealed only to the boards designated as having jurisdiction for such appeal.

DEVELOPMENT:

Any man-made improvements to improved or unimproved real estate. The construction, reconstruction, conversion, structural alteration, relocation, or enlargement of any building or structure, any mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation, drilling, land disturbance and any use or extension of the use of land shall be deemed to constitute a development.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

The provisions for development included within an application for a subdivision and/or land development, including all covenants relating to use, location and bulk of buildings and other structure intensity of use or density of development, streets, ways and parking facilities, common open space, easements and public facilities. The phrase "development plan" shall mean the written and graphic materials referred to in this definition.

DISTRICT:(See Zoning District)

DRIVEWAY:

A privately owned and constructed vehicular access from an approved private or public road into a lot or parcel having a frontage on the road.

DWELLING:

A building or portion thereof used exclusively for residential purposes, including one-family, two-family, and multiple-family dwellings, which serves as the legal address for its occupants.

DWELLING, MULTIFAMILY:

A single building containing three (3) or more individual dwelling units entirely separated by vertical walls or horizontal floors, unpierced except by access to the outside or to a common cellar.

DWELLING, SINGLE-FAMILY, ATTACHED (TOWNHOUSE):

A one family dwelling in a row of at least three (3) such units in which each unit has its own front and rear access to the outside, no unit is located over another unit, and each unit is separated from any other unit by one (1) or more vertical common fire resistant walls.

DWELLING, SINGLE-FAMILY, DETACHED:

A residential building containing not more than one (1) dwelling unit.

DWELLING, TWO FAMILY:

A residential building containing two (2) dwelling units, entirely separated from each other by vertical walls or horizontal floors, excluding possible common access to enter/exit the building or for access to a common cellar or basement.

DWELLING UNIT:

One (1) or more rooms physically arranged so as to create an independent housekeeping establishment for occupancy by one (1) family with separate bathroom, toilet and sanitary facilities and facilities for cooking and sleeping for exclusive use by the family residing therein.

EARTH DISTURBANCE ACTIVITY:

Any construction or other activity which disturbs the surface of the land including but not limited to excavations, embankments, land development, subdivision development, mineral extraction and the moving, depositing or storing of soil, rock or earth.

EASEMENT:

A grant of one (1) or more of the property rights by the property owner to and/or for the use by the public, a corporation or another person or entity.

EASEMENT, DRAINAGE:

An easement required for the installation of storm water sewers or drainage ditches, and/or required for the preservation or maintenance of a natural stream or watercourse or other drainage facility.

ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES:

Commercial establishments, excluding any sexually oriented business, engaged in providing entertainment for a fee or an admission charge, such as an arcade, bowling alley, billiard hall, roller skating rink or similar facilities.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

A report and/or series of reports on the effect of a proposed development or major action which may significantly affect the environment and associated features thereunder.

EXCAVATION AND EXTRACTION OF MINERALS:

The removal or recovery by any means whatsoever of minerals, as so defined in this Ordinance from land or water, on or above the surface thereof, or beneath the land surface whether exposed or submerged. It shall include the incidental screening, washing, crushing and grading of materials originating on the site, and mineral processing as an accessory use.

FAMILY:

One or more persons occupying a dwelling unit and living together as a single nonprofit housekeeping unit. Foster children placed into the care and custody of a family shall be deemed to be a member of the family. A group in excess of four (4) individuals who are not related by blood, marriage or legal adoption, shall not be deemed to constitute a family.

FARM STAND:

A building or structure used for the seasonal retail sales of fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers, herbs, or plants which are grown on the premises.

FENCE:

A structure functioning as a boundary or barrier constructed of materials recognized by the fencing industry. Hedges, shrubbery and/or similar vegetation shall not be deemed or considered to be a fence.

FLOOR AREA, GROSS:

The sum of the total horizontal areas of the several floors of all buildings on a lot, measured from the interior faces of exterior walls.

FORESTRY: (ALSO SEE TIMBERING HARVESTING)

The management of forests and timberlands when practiced in accordance with accepted silvicultural principles, through developing, cultivating, harvesting, transporting and selling trees for commercial purposes which does not involve any land development.

FRONTAGE:

The length of the front lot line measured at the street right-of-way line.

GARAGE, PRIVATE:

A noncommercial building for the private use of the owner or occupant of a principal building situated on the same lot of the principal building for the storage of motor vehicles with no facilities for mechanical service or repair of a commercial or public nature.

GARAGE, REPAIR: (SEE ALSO SERVICE STATION)

A commercial building designed and used for the storage, care, repair, or refinishing of motor vehicles including both minor and major mechanical overhauling, paint, and body work.

GARDEN CENTER

A place of business where products and produce are sold to the general public. These centers may include a nursery and/or greenhouses, plants, nursery products and stock, potting soil, hardware, power equipment and machinery, hoes, rakes, shovels, and other garden and farm variety tools and utensils.

GASOLINE SERVICE STATION:

A structure, building or area of land or portion thereof that is used for the retail sale of gasoline or any other motor vehicle fuel that may or may not include as an accessory use, the sale and installation of lubricants, tires, batteries, and similar accessories and other minor servicing and engine tune-ups of motor vehicles, excluding the major mechanical overhauling, paint, and body work of any type of vehicle. Gasoline service stations shall not include service and maintenance activities which include or are comparable to those provided for under the definition of a "Repair Garage".

GENERAL NUISANCE:

Any use of property considered to be substantially inconsistent with the public comfort, convenience, health, safety, and general welfare, exhibiting characteristic that include, but may not be limited to the following:

- properties in a continuing state of disrepair that are not fit for habitation and/or occupancy;
- properties, lacking zoning approval for use a junkyard and/or an automobile wrecking yard, that contain and accumulate trash, junk and/or two (2) or more inoperable vehicles;

- fire and explosion hazards;
- electrical and radioactive disturbances;
- noise and vibration;
- dust, dirt, and fly ash;
- glare;
- smoke and odors and other forms of air pollution.

GOVERNING BODY:

The Board of Supervisors of Rice Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

GREENHOUSE, COMMERCIAL:

Retail business whose principal activity is the selling of plants grown on the site and having outside storage, growing, and/or display.

GREENWAY LAND:

That part of a particular development tract under A Conservation Subdivision that is set aside for the protection of sensitive natural features, greenways, farmland, scenic views and other primary and secondary conservation areas identified by this Ordinance and the Township Zoning Ordinance. Open space may be accessible to the residents of the development and/or the Township, or it may contain areas of farmland, forest land or conservancy lots which are not accessible to development residents or the public.

GROUP RESIDENCE:

A dwelling unit which is shared under congregate living arrangements by more than four (4) persons, who are residents of the dwelling unit by virtue of their need to receive supervised services limited to health, social and/or rehabilitative services provided by a person or persons or their licensed or certified agents, a governmental agency or their licensed or certified agents, a responsible corporation or their licensed or certified agents, a partnership or limited partnership or their licensed or certified agents or any other legal entity. Such services shall be provided on a continuous basis in a family-like environment to persons who are in need of supervision and/or specialized services in a residential setting.

The following shall not be deemed to constitute a Group Residence:

A boarding home and/or a personal care boarding home.

A facility providing shelter and/or rehabilitative care or treatment of persons for alcoholism and/or an addiction to a controlled substance.

A facility for persons released from or under the jurisdiction of a governmental bureau of corrections or similar institution.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES:

Any material that, by reason of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics may:

1. cause, or significantly contribute to, an increase in mortality or an increase in a serious irreversible or incapacitating irreversible illness.
2. pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of or otherwise managed.

This definition shall be deemed to include radioactive material, medical waste and any incendiary device and/or explosive device or material

HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY PERMIT:

A permit, issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, the Luzerne County Road and Bridge Department or Rice Township which authorizes access from a parcel of land onto a highway, road or street which is under the respective jurisdiction of the above entities.

HEALTH/RECREATION FACILITY:

An indoor facility including uses such as game courts, exercise equipment, locker rooms, and related facilities.

HOME OCCUPATION:

An occupation, profession, activity, or use that is clearly a customary, incidental, and secondary use of a residential dwelling unit and which does not alter the exterior of the property or affect the existing residential character of the neighborhood.

HORSE FARM:

A building or structure and/or land whose operator keeps equines primarily for breeding and boarding and which operation may or may not be incidental to the owner's primary occupation.

HOSPITAL:

An institution specializing in giving clinical, temporary, and emergency services of a medical or surgical nature to human patients and injured persons, and licensed by state law to provide facilities and services in surgery, obstetrics, and general medical practice.

HOTEL: (ALSO SEE MOTEL)

A facility offering transient lodging accommodations on a daily rate to the general public and providing additional services, such as restaurants, meeting rooms, and recreational facilities.

IMPACT ANALYSIS:

A study and/or report, which may be required at the discretion of the Rice Township Board of Supervisors prior to approval of a conditional use application and/or a rezoning application or by the Zoning Hearing Board prior to approval of an application for a special exception and/or variance to determine the potential impact of the proposed use on activities, utilities, traffic generation and circulation, surrounding land uses, community facilities, environmental features, critical areas, the public health, safety and welfare and other factors directly, indirectly or potentially affected. The applicant shall be responsible for all costs related to any and all reports and/or studies required by the Rice Township Board of Supervisors or Zoning Hearing Board under or within the context of the term "IMPACT ANALYSIS."

IMPERVIOUS SURFACE:

Any material and/or development that substantially reduces or prevents the infiltration of storm water into previously undeveloped land. Impervious surfaces shall include, but may not be limited to, buildings, roofs, surfaced, graveled or compacted parking areas, streets, sidewalks, driveways and similar vehicular and/or pedestrian right-of-ways.

IMPROVEMENTS:

Man-made physical additions, alterations, and/or changes to buildings or other structures which become part of, placed upon, or affixed to real estate.

INDUSTRY, HEAVY:

A use engaged in the basic processing and manufacturing of materials or products predominately from extracted or raw materials, or a use engaged in storage of, or manufacturing processes using flammable or explosive materials, or storage or manufacturing processes that potentially involve hazardous or commonly recognized offensive conditions.

INDUSTRY, LIGHT:

A use engaged in the manufacture, predominantly from previously prepared materials, of finished products or parts, including processing, fabrication, assembly, treatment, packaging, incidental storage, sales, and distribution of such products, but excluding basic industrial processing.

INSTITUTIONAL USE:

A structure or facility which provides medical, health, educational, social and/or rehabilitative services to more than eight (8) persons on a continuous and/or regular basis, excluding a facility for persons released from or under the jurisdiction of a governmental bureau of corrections or similar institution.

JUNK:

Old, dilapidated, scrap or abandoned metal, paper, building material and equipment, bottles, glass, appliances, furniture, beds and bedding, rags, rubber, motor vehicles, and parts thereof

JUNKYARD: (SEE ALSO AUTOMOBILE WRECKING YARD):

An open area where wastes or used or secondhand materials are bought, sold, exchanged, stored, processed, or handled. Materials shall include but are not limited to scrap iron and other metals, paper, rags, rubber tires, and bottles. An automobile wrecking yard is also considered a junkyard.

LAND DEVELOPMENT:

The improvement of one lot or two (2) or more contiguous lots, tracts or parcels of land for any purpose involving:

- (A) a group of two (2) or more residential or nonresidential buildings, whether proposed initially or cumulatively, a single nonresidential building on a lot or lots regardless of the number of occupants or tenure, with the size of the building exceeding four thousand (4,000) square feet
- (B) Any nonresidential use of land, with or without structures, which encompasses five (5) or more acres of land, excluding agricultural use of land.
- (C) the division or allocation of land or space, whether initially or cumulatively, between or among two (2) or more existing or prospective occupants by means of, or for the purpose of streets, common areas, leaseholds, condominiums, building groups or other features.
- (D) the conversion of an existing single-family detached dwelling or single family semidetached dwelling into more than three (3) residential units. Any conversion, described above, which results in not more than three (3) residential units shall be deemed as a land development if the units are intended to be a condominium.
- (E) the development of a mobile home park or the expansion of an existing mobile home park within the context of the definition of said term as contained within this Ordinance.
- (F) a single residential structure containing five (5) or more residential units.

A development of a parcel of land which contains not more than three (3) detached single family residential structures, whether developed initially or cumulatively shall be classified as a minor land development; all other uses classified as a land development shall be deemed to be a major land development.

LANDOWNER:

The legal or beneficial owner or owners of land including the holder of an option or contract to purchase (whether or not such option or contract is subject to any condition), a lessee if he is authorized under the lease to exercise the rights of the landowner, or other person having a propriety interest in land.

LOT:

A designated parcel, tract or area of land established by a plat or otherwise as permitted by law and to be used, developed or built upon as a unit, for principal and accessory buildings or structures.

LOT AREA:

The total horizontal area within the lot lines of a lot.

LOT AREA, GROSS:

The area of land contained within the limits of the legally described property lines bounding the lot.

LOT AREA, NET:

The area of land contained within the limits of the legally described property lines bounding the lot, exclusive of any street or railroad rights-of-way, common open space, easements for the purposes of access, utility, or stormwater management, prohibitively steep slopes, the Floodplain Conservation District, and wetlands as defined by this Ordinance.

LOT, CORNER:

A lot abutting on and at the intersection of two (2) or more streets.

LOT COVERAGE:

Determined by dividing that area of a lot which is occupied or covered by the total horizontal projected surface of all buildings, including covered porches and accessory buildings and structures, by the gross area of that lot.

LOT DEPTH:

The average horizontal distance between the front and rear lot lines.

LOT LINE, FRONT:

The lot line separating a lot from a street right-of-way.

LOT LINE:

A line dividing one (1) lot from another lot or from a street or alley.

LOT LINE, REAR:

The lot line not intersecting a front lot line that is most distant from and most closely parallel to the front lot line. A lot bounded by only three (3) lot lines will not have a rear lot line.

LOT LINE, SIDE:

Any lot line not a front or rear lot line.

LOT OF RECORD:

A lot which exists as shown or described upon a plat or deed and duly recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, on the effective date of the adoption of this Ordinance.

LOT, THROUGH:

A lot having both its front and rear yards abutting on a street.

LOT WIDTH:

The horizontal distance between side lot lines, measured at the required front setback line.

MANUFACTURED HOME:

A structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built upon a chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities. The term shall include park trailers, travel trailers, recreational and other similar vehicles placed upon a site for more than 180 consecutive days.

MANUFACTURED HOME PARK:

A parcel, or contiguous parcels of land, which has been planned and improved for the placement of two (2) or more manufactured homes.

MEDIATION:

A voluntary negotiating process in which parties in a dispute mutually select a neutral mediator to assist them in jointly exploring and settling their differences, culminating in a written agreement which the parties themselves create and consider acceptable.

METHADONE TREATMENT FACILITY:

A facility licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health to use the drug methadone in the treatment, maintenance or detoxification of persons.

MINERALS:

Any aggregate or mass of mineral matter, whether or not coherent. The term shall include, but it is not limited to, limestone and dolomite, sand and gravel, rock and stone, earth, fill, slag, iron ore, zinc ore, vermiculite and clay, anthracite and bituminous coal, coal refuse, peat, and crude oil and natural gas.

MINERAL PROCESSING:

The refinement of minerals by the removal of impurities, reduction in size, transformation in state, or other means to specifications for sale or use, and the use of minerals in any manufacturing process such as, but not limited to, concrete or cement batching plants, asphalt plants and manufacture of concrete and clay products.

MOBILE HOME:

A transportable, single family dwelling intended for permanent occupancy, contained in one (1) unit, or in two (2) or more units designed to be joined into one integral unit capable of again being separated for repeated towing, which arrives at a site complete and ready for occupancy except for minor and incidental unpacking and assembly operations, and constructed so that it may be used without a permanent foundation.

MOBILE HOME LOT:

A parcel of land in a mobile home park, improved with the necessary utility connections and other appurtenances necessary for the erections thereon of a single mobile home.

MOBILE HOME PARK:

A parcel or contiguous parcels of land which has been so designated and improved that it contains two (2) or more mobile home lots for the placement thereon of mobile homes.

MOTEL: (also see Hotel)

A building or group of buildings containing apartments and/or rooming units, each of which maintains a separate outside entrance and primarily offering transient lodging accommodations to the general public. Such building or group of buildings may also provide additional services such as restaurants, meeting rooms, and recreational facilities.

MUNICIPALITY:

The Township of Rice, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

NO IMPACT HOME BASED BUSINESS:

A business or commercial activity administered or conducted as an accessory use which is clearly secondary to the use as a residential dwelling, and which involves no customer, client or patient traffic, whether vehicular or pedestrian, pick-up, delivery, or removal functions to or from the premises in excess with those normally associated with a residential use. The business or commercial activity must also comply with the applicable supplemental requirements contained in Article 8 of this Ordinance.

NONCONFORMING LOT:

A lot the area or dimension of which was lawful prior to the adoption or amendment of a zoning ordinance, but which fails to conform to the requirements of the zoning district in which it is located by reasons of such adoption or amendment.

NONCONFORMING STRUCTURE:

A structure or part of a structure manifestly not designed to comply with the applicable use or extent of use provisions in the zoning ordinance or amendment heretofore or hereafter enacted, where such structure lawfully existed prior to the enactment of such ordinance or amendment or prior to the application of such ordinance or amendment to its location by reason of annexation. Such nonconforming structures include, but are not limited to, nonconforming signs.

NONCONFORMING USE:

A use, whether of land or of structure, which does not comply with the applicable use and/or other provisions in the zoning ordinance or amendment heretofore or hereafter enacted, where such use was lawfully in existence prior to the enactment of such ordinance or amendment to its location by reason of annexation.

NURSING HOME:

A facility, as defined under current State licensing requirements, that provides nursing care and related medical or other health services for a period of twenty-four hours or more for individuals not in need of hospitalization, but who because of age, illness or other infirmity, require high-intensity comprehensive planned nursing care.

OFFICE:

A building or portion thereof containing rooms and/or space for conducting the affairs of a business, profession, service, industry or government.

OPEN SPACE:

An area that is intended to provide light and air, and is designed for environmental, scenic, or recreational purposes. Open space may include, but is not limited to, lawns, decorative planting, walkways, active and passive recreation areas, playgrounds,

fountains, swimming pools, wooded areas, and watercourses. Open space shall not be deemed to include driveways, parking lots, or other surfaces designed or intended for vehicular travel.

OUTDOOR FUEL FURNACE:

An outdoor fuel burning appliance designed and constructed to burn wood, coal or other recognized fuel in compliance with the manufacturer's recommended specifications. An Outdoor Fuel Furnace shall be deemed to be an accessory structure intended for heating a structure that may be detached and separate from the accessory structure which contains the Outdoor Fuel Furnace.

OUTDOOR STORAGE (COMMERCIAL):

The keeping, in an unroofed area, of any goods, material, merchandise, equipment or vehicles which are related to the operation of a commercial business, excluding the storage of solid waste, hazardous substances, refuse, junk, junked vehicles, discarded and/or any inoperative durable items,

PARCEL:

A continuous quantity of land in the possession of or owned by, or recorded as the property of, the same person or persons.

PATIO:

An open recreational area or structure, without roof, constructed no higher than six (6) inches from the ground level and resting directly on the ground. It may be attached to or detached from the principal building and may be constructed using wood, masonry, pavement, stone, or other material suitable for that purpose.

PARKING SPACE:

An unobstructed space or area other than a street or alley that is permanently reserved and maintained for the parking of one (1) motor vehicle.

PERMANENT FOUNDATION:

A support for a building or structure, included but not limited to, manufactured homes, mobile homes and modular homes, reaching below the frost line and consisting of either poured concrete, concrete blocks, cinder blocks, brick pressurized wood or stone to form a horizontal pad, columns or vertical walls on which the building or structure is anchored and is intended to remain indefinitely.

PERSONAL-CARE HOME

A facility, as defined under current State licensing requirements, and licensed as a such, in which food, shelter and personal assistance or supervision are provided for a period exceeding twenty-four consecutive hours for more than three (3) adults

who are not relatives of the operator of the facility and who require assistance or supervision in such matters as dressing, bathing, diet or medication prescribed for self administration but who do not require hospitalization or care in a skilled nursing or intermediate care facility.

PERSONAL SERVICES:

Any enterprise conducted for gain, which primarily offers services to the general public, such as shoe repair, valet service, watch repairing, barber shops, beauty parlors, and related activities.

PLACE OF WORSHIP:

A building used for religious services, including churches, synagogues, mosques and similar edifices.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

The Planning Commission of Rice Township.

PLANNED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT:

An area of land, controlled by a landowner, to be developed as a single entity for a number of dwelling units, with a development plan which does not correspond in lot size, bulk or type of dwelling density, lot coverage and required open space to the regulations established in any one residential district created, from time to time, under the provisions of this Ordinance.

PRINCIPAL USE:

The main use of land or structures, as distinguished from a secondary or accessory use.

PRIVATE:

Something owned, operated and supported by private individuals or a corporation, rather than by government, and not available for public use.

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT (S):

A person or persons who provide expert or professional advice, including but not limited to architects, attorneys, certified public accountants, engineers, geologists, land surveyors, landscape architects or planners.

PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION:

A non-profit corporation organized by the developer or home owners of a residential development for the purpose of establishing an association of all property owners in a private development which purposes shall include the ownership and maintenance of open space common area and all development improvements and facilities.

PUBLIC:

Something owned, operated and supported by the Community, residents or other entity, governmental or private, for the use and benefit of the general public.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A formal meeting held pursuant to public notice by the Rice Township Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission or Zoning Hearing Board, which is intended to inform and obtain public comment prior to taking action on a particular subject matter or development.

PUBLIC MEETING:

A forum held pursuant to notice under the Act of July 3, 1986 (P.L. 388, No. 84), known as the "Sunshine Act."

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Notice published once each week for two (2) successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality. Such notice shall state the time and place of the hearing and the particular nature of the matter to be considered at the hearing. The first publication shall not be more than thirty (30) days and the second publication shall not be less than seven (7) days from the date of the hearing.

PUBLIC USES:

Public parks and administrative, cultural and service buildings, excluding public land or buildings primarily devoted to the storage and maintenance of equipment or material.

PUBLIC UTILITY:

A private corporation or municipal authority with an exclusive franchise for providing a public service that operates under regulations of Federal, State and/or local government.

PUBLIC UTILITIES FACILITIES:(ESSENTIAL)

Telephone, electric and cable television lines, poles, equipment and structures; water or gas pipes, mains, valves, or structures, pumping stations; telephone exchanges, and all other facilities, equipment and structures necessary for conducting a service by a public utility under the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, in accordance with Section 619 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247, as amended.

PUBLIC UTILITY TRANSMISSION TOWER:

A structure, owned and operated by a public utility electric company regulated by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, designed and used to support overhead electricity transmission lines.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, COMMERCIAL:

Recreational facilities operated as a business and open to the public for a fee.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, PRIVATE:

Recreational facilities other than commercial or public, not operated for a profit, and only open to its members and their guests.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, PUBLIC:

Recreational facilities operated as a nonprofit enterprise by a governmental entity or a nonprofit organization, and open to the general public.

REPORT:

Any letter, review, memorandum, compilation or similar writing made by any body, board, officer or consultant other than a solicitor to any other body, board, officer or consultant for the purpose of assisting the recipient of such report in the rendering of any decision or determination. All reports shall be deemed as a recommendation and advisory only and shall not be binding upon the recipient, board, officer, body or agency, nor shall any appeal lie therefrom. Any report used, received or considered by the body, board, officer or agency rendering a determination or decision shall be made available for inspection to the applicant and all other parties to any proceedings upon request, with copies thereof provided at the cost of reproduction.

RESTAURANT:

A business establishment whose principal business is the selling of unpackaged food to the customer in a ready-to-consume state, in individual servings, or in indispensable containers, and where the customer consumes these foods while seated at tables or counters located within the building.

RESTAURANT, FAST FOOD:

An establishment which offers quick food service, including drive-through service, which is accomplished through a limited menu of items already prepared or prepared, fried, or grilled quickly. Orders are not generally taken at the customer's table and food is generally served in disposable wrapping or containers.

RIGHT-OF-WAY:

A strip of land occupied or intended to be occupied by a street, crosswalk, railroad, electric transmission line, oil or gas pipeline, water main, sanitary or storm sewer line, or other special use.

RIPARIAN LAND:

Land that is traversed or bounded by a natural watercourse.

ROOMING UNIT:

A room or rooms, in a Boarding House and/or Rooming House forming a single habitable unit intended for living quarters but lacking separate bathroom, toilet and sanitary facilities and facilities for cooking and sleeping for exclusive use by occupant or occupants of the rooming unit.

SATELLITE DISH ANTENNA:

A device incorporating a reflective surface that is solid, open mesh, or bar configured and is in the shape of a shallow dish, cone, horn, or cornucopia. Such device shall be used to transmit and/or receive radio or electromagnetic waves between terrestrial and orbital based uses. This definition is meant to include but not be limited to what are commonly referred to as satellite earth stations. TVROs (television reception only satellite dish antennas), and satellite microwave antennas. A satellite dish antenna that does not exceed three (3) feet in diameter and is attached to a building shall be exempt from securing zoning approval.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL, CENTRALIZED

A sanitary sewage collection system, approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, in which sewage is carried from individual lots by a system of pipes to a central treatment and disposal facility.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL, ON-LOT:

Any facility designed to biochemically treat sewage within the boundaries of an individual lot in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESS:

Sexually Oriented Bookstore: An establishment that has as a substantial portion of its stock-in-trade and offers for sale, for any form of consideration, any one or more of the following: (1) books, magazines, periodicals, or other printed matter, or photographs, films, motion pictures, video cassettes, slides, or other visual representations that are characterized by an emphasis upon the depiction or description of specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas; or (2) instruments, devices, or paraphernalia that are designed for use in connection with specified sexual activities.

Sexually Oriented Entertainment: A nightclub, bar, restaurant, club or similar establishment that regularly features live performances that are characterized by the exposure of specified anatomical areas or by specified sexual activities, or films, motion pictures, video cassettes, slides, or other photographic reproductions in which a substantial portion of the total presentation time is devoted to the showing of material that is characterized by an emphasis upon the depiction or description of specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas.

Massage Parlor: An establishment where, for any form of consideration, massage, alcohol rub, fomentation, electric or magnetic treatment, or similar treatment or manipulation of the human body is administered, unless such treatment or manipulation is administered by a medical practitioner, chiropractor, acupuncturist, physical therapist, or similar professional person licensed by the state. This definition does not include an athletic club, health club, school, gymnasium, reducing salon, spa, or similar establishment where massage or similar manipulation of the human body is offered as an incidental or accessory service.

Specified Anatomical Areas: Specified anatomical areas, as used above within the definitions of “Adult Bookstore” and “Adult Entertainment” means and includes any of the following: (1) less than completely and opaquely covered human genitals, pubic region, buttocks, anus, or female breasts below a point immediately above the top of the areolae; or (2) human male genitals in a discernibly turgid state, even if completely and opaquely covered.

Specified Sexual Activities: Specified sexual activities as used above within the definitions of “Adult Bookstore” and “Adult Entertainment” means and includes any of the following: (1) the fondling or other erotic touching of human genitals, pubic region, buttocks, anus, or female breasts; (2) sex acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated, including intercourse, oral copulation, or sodomy; (3) masturbation, actual or simulated; or (4) excretory functions as part of or in connection with any of the activities set forth as an "Adult Use".

SCHOOL:

A facility that provides a curriculum of elementary and secondary academic instruction, including kindergartens, elementary schools, junior high schools, and high schools that are licensed by the State as such.

SCREENING:

The method by which a view of one site from another adjacent site is shielded, concealed, or hidden. Screening techniques include fences, walls, hedges, berms, or other features.

SEATING CAPACITY:

The actual seating capacity of an area based upon the number of seats or one seat per 18 inches of bench or pew length. For other areas where seats are not fixed, the seating capacity shall be determined as indicated by the most recent standards under the BOCA Code or Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code, based upon the more restrictive standards.

SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITY:

A building or group of buildings in a controlled access and fenced compound that contains varying sizes of individual compartmentalized, and controlled access stalls or lockers which are leased to individuals for the storage of the individual’s property, possessions or wares.

SETBACK:

The required minimum horizontal distance between the building line and the related front, side or rear property line.

SIGN:

A structure or device designed or intended to convey information to the public in written or pictorial form.

SIGN AREA:

The entire area within a continuous perimeter, enclosing the extreme limits of sign display, including any frame or border. Curved, spherical, or any other shaped sign face shall be computed on the basis of actual surface area. The copy of signs composed of individual letters, numerals, or other devices shall be the sum of the area of the smallest rectangle or other geometric figure encompassing each of said letter or devices. The calculation for a double-faced sign shall be the area of one face only. Double-faced signs shall be so constructed that the perimeter of both faces coincide and are parallel and not more than 24 inches apart.

SITE PLAN:

A plan prepared to scale, showing accurately and with complete dimensions, the boundaries of a site and the location of all buildings, structures, uses, and features proposed for a specific parcel of land.

SPECIAL EXCEPTION:

A use which may only be permitted in a particular zoning district, by special approval, granted by the Zoning Hearing Board in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Ordinance.

SOLID WASTE OR WASTE:

Any garbage, refuse, industrial, lunchroom or office waste or other material including solid, liquid, semisolid or contained in gaseous material, resulting from the operation of residential, municipal, commercial or institutional establishments and from community activities, excluding "Hazardous Substances" as so defined by this Ordinance and "Hazardous Waste", as so defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, pursuant to Chapter 271.1, under the Solid Waste Management Act, as amended.

SOLID WASTE FACILITY:

Any facility whose operations include the following as defined and regulated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection: landfills, transfer facilities, refuse vehicle staging areas, resource recovery facilities, waste disposal and processing facilities, and recycling facilities.

STAGING AREA:

Any area where vehicles containing solid waste are parked, stored or located prior to depositing said solid waste at a solid waste facility. Said use shall be classified and regulated as a " Solid Waste Facility".

STORY:

That portion of a building included between the surface of any floor and the surface of the floor next above it, or if there is no floor above it, the space between such floor and the ceiling above. A basement shall be counted as a story if its ceiling equals or exceeds five (5) feet of the finished ground surface adjoining the exterior walls of such story.

STREET:

A public (dedicated) or private (undedicated) right-of-way, whether or not improved, intended for use by vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

STRUCTURE:

Any man-made object, the use of which requires an ascertainable stationary location on land, whether or not it is affixed to the land.

SUBDIVISION:

The division or redivision of a lot, tract or parcel of land into two or more lots, tracts or parcels or other divisions of land including changes in existing lot lines for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of lease, partition by the court for distribution to heirs or devisees, transfer of ownership of buildings or lot development.

TIMBER HARVESTING (SEE SECTION 902.14):

The cutting and removal of trees from their growing site, including the attendant operation of cutting and skidding machinery, for commercial purposes which does not involve any land development.

TOWER: (See Communications Tower)

A structure situated on a nonresidential site or lot which is intended for transmitting or receiving television, radio, or telephone communications.

TOWNSHIP:

Township of Rice, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

TRANSFER STATION:

A facility which receives and temporarily stores solid waste at a location other than the generation site, which facilitates the bulk transfer of accumulated solid waste to another

facility or site for further processing and/or disposal of said solid waste. Said use shall be classified and regulated as a " Solid Waste Facility".

TRUCKING FACILITY:

A structure, building and/or land consisting of a storage area, management and dispatch office and loading and unloading facilities connected with receipt or delivery of freight shipped by truck.

VARIANCE:

A waiver granted by the Zoning Hearing Board from the terms and requirements of this Ordinance in accordance with Section 1609 of this Ordinance.

WAREHOUSE:

A building used primarily for storage of goods and material.

WAREHOUSING AND DISTRIBUTION:

A use engaged in storage, wholesale and distribution of manufactured products, supplies and equipment, excluding the bulk storage of material that are flammable, explosive, hazardous or commonly recognized as offensive.

WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM, CENTRALIZED:

A public or privately owned system, under the jurisdiction of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, designed to transmit potable water from a common source to users, and in compliance with the governing standards of all applicable State agencies. Any water supply system not deemed as a centralized water supply system shall be deemed to be an on-site water supply system.

WATERCOURSE:

A permanent or intermittent stream, river, brook, creek, or channel or ditch for collection and conveyance of water, whether natural or man made.

WATERCOURSE, NATURAL:

Any stream, creek, river, channel or similar waterway in which water flows in a definite direction or course, either continuously or intermittently, and has a definite channel, bed, and banks.

WETLANDS:

Those areas that are inundated or saturated by the surface or ground water at a frequency or duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, including swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas. The term includes but is not limited to wetland

areas listed in The State Water Plan, The United States Forest Service Wetlands Inventory of Pennsylvania, The Pennsylvania Coastal Zone Management Plan and any wetland area designated by a river basin commission.

WIND ENERGY FACILITY:

A commercial electricity-generating facility consisting of one or more wind turbines under common ownership or operating control that includes substations, MET towers, cables/wires and other building accessories to such facility, whose main purpose is to supply electricity to off-site customer(s)

YARD:

An open space that lies between the principal building and the nearest lot line. Such yard is unoccupied and unobstructed from the ground up except for accessory buildings or projections which are expressly permitted by this Ordinance.

YARD, FRONT:

A space extending the full width of the lot between the principal building and the front lot line and measured perpendicular to the building at the closest point to the front lot line.

YARD, REAR:

A space extending the full width of the lot between the principal building and the rear lot line and measured perpendicular to the building at the closest point to the rear lot line.

YARD, SIDE:

A space extending from the front yard to the rear yard between the principal building and the side lot line measured perpendicular from the side lot line to the closest point of the principal building.

ZONING DISTRICT:

A portion of Rice Township illustrated upon the Official Zoning Map, within which certain uniform regulations and requirements apply under the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance.

ZONING HEARING BOARD:

The Zoning Hearing Board of Rice Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

ZONING MAP:

The official map which is part of the Zoning Ordinance and indicates and delineates the zoning districts of Rice Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

ZONING OFFICER:

The administrative officer appointed by the Governing Body to administer and enforce the Zoning Ordinance of Rice Township, Luzerne County

ARTICLE 3
GENERAL REGULATIONS

SECTION 301 **COMPLIANCE REQUIRED**

No structure or land shall be used or occupied, and no structure or part of a structure shall be erected, demolished, altered converted or moved, unless in compliance with all applicable provisions and regulations of this Ordinance

SECTION 302 **INTERPRETATION AND CONFLICT**

In interpreting and applying the provisions of this Ordinance, they shall be held to the minimum requirements for the protection and promotion of the public health, safety, convenience, comfort, morals, and general welfare of the residents of Rice Township. In the event of any conflict in the application of this Ordinance with other applicable public or private provisions, the following shall apply:

A. **PUBLIC PROVISIONS**

The regulations of this Ordinance are not intended to interfere with or abrogate or annul any other ordinance, rules or regulations previously adopted or previously issued by Rice Township which are not in conflict with any provisions of this Ordinance. Where this Ordinance imposes a greater restriction upon the use of land, structure or building than any other previously adopted ordinance, rules, or regulations of Rice Township, the provisions of this Ordinance shall apply.

B. **PRIVATE PROVISIONS**

The regulations of this Ordinance are not intended to interfere with or abrogate or annul any easement, covenant or other form of private agreement or restriction, provided that where the provisions of this Ordinance impose a greater restriction, the requirements of this Ordinance shall govern. Where the provisions of any easement, covenant or other form of private agreement or restriction imposes obligations, duties and/or requirements which are more restrictive and/or impose higher standards than the requirements of this Ordinance, and such private provisions are not inconsistent with the requirements of this Ordinance, then such private provisions shall be operative and supplemental to the requirements of this Ordinance.

SECTION 303 **ATTACHED ACCESSORY STRUCTURES**

Accessory structures which are attached to a principal structure shall be considered a part of the principal structure and shall comply with the same yard and lot requirements applicable to the principal structure.

SECTION 304 **UNATTACHED ACCESSORY STRUCTURES**

304.1 **NONRESIDENTIAL**

When the principal use or structure is nonresidential, an unattached accessory structure shall comply with the front yard setback requirements applicable to the principal structure

or use for the zoning district in which it is located and shall not be less than fifteen (15) feet from any side yard lot line or rear yard lot line.

304.2 RESIDENTIAL

When the principal structure is residential, unattached accessory structures shall only be erected within the rear yard or side yard areas of the lot subject to the following requirements:

- (A) The maximum height shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet.
- (B) An accessory structure which has a floor area which equals or exceeds seven hundred and fifty (750) square feet shall not be located less than ten (10) feet from a side lot line or the rear lot line. An accessory structure which has a floor area which is less than seven hundred and fifty (750) square feet shall not be located less than five (5) feet from a side lot line or the rear lot line. Excluding A-1 and C-1 zoning districts, an accessory residential structure shall not exceed 1,500 square feet of floor area.

SECTION 305 CORNER LOT RESTRICTION

On a corner lot there shall be provided on each side thereof, adjacent to a street, a yard setback equal in depth to the required front yard setback of the prevailing zoning district in which the corner lot is located.

SECTION 306 TYPES OF RESIDENTIAL ACCESSORY STRUCTURES

For residential lots, permitted accessory structures shall include noncommercial greenhouses, tool or lawn sheds, private garages or carports, private noncommercial swimming pools and noncommercial satellite antenna dishes.

SECTION 307 NONCOMMERCIAL SATELLITE DISH ANTENNA

A noncommercial satellite dish antenna, as so defined in this Ordinance, shall be deemed an accessory use, permitted by right in all zoning districts. Granting approval for the establishment and/or construction of a satellite dish antenna shall not restrict or imply to restrict the use or development of another zoning lot. The height of a noncommercial satellite dish antenna, including any supporting device, measured from ground level to its highest point of elevation, in all R zoning districts shall not exceed thirty-five (35) feet; the maximum height in all other zoning districts shall not exceed the maximum height restriction of the zoning district in which it is located.

SECTION 308 RESIDENTIAL ACCESSORY STRUCTURES IN A NONRESIDENTIAL ZONE

In cases when a residential structure is a nonconforming use, located in a nonresidential zone, the proposed erection of an accessory residential structure shall be deemed exempt from classification as an expansion of a nonconforming use, but shall be subject to the regulations contained under Section 304.2 of this Ordinance.

SECTION 309

PRIVATE NONCOMMERCIAL SWIMMING POOLS

All swimming pools having a surface area of thirty (30) square feet or greater and capable of containing water to a depth, at any point, of 2¹/₂ feet or greater, shall be governed by in accordance with the following subsections:

309.1

LOCATION AND SETBACK REQUIREMENTS

Swimming pools shall be located in either the rear yard or a side yard of the property on which it is an accessory use. The swimming pool and any accessory structures thereto, shall have a minimum setback of ten (10) feet from any rear or side yard lot line.

309.2

IN-GROUND POOLS

The pool or the entire property on which the pool is located, shall be enclosed with a permanent fence not less than four (4) feet in height, which includes a gate secured with a lock. The required fencing for an in ground pool must be installed upon the completion of the excavation work and prior filling said pool.

309.3

ABOVE GROUND POOLS

An above ground pool shall be enclosed with a permanent fence not less than four (4) feet in height which includes a gate secured with a lock in accordance with the above requirements of Section 307.2 or in lieu of a fence, a barrier not less than four (4) feet in height. Said barrier may include the pool wall and any extension thereto which equals or exceeds a height of four (4) feet. Access into a pool which includes a deck shall be secured by a gate with a lock. Pools without access from a deck shall include retractable steps or any similar device which prohibits uncontrolled access into the pool when not in use. Shrubbery is not to be considered as a barrier. Decks which are attached to the pool shall not project into any required yard setback for the pool.

SECTION 310

LOTS DIVIDED BY ZONING BOUNDARIES

If a zoning district boundary line divides a lot held in single and separate ownership prior to the effective date of this Ordinance, placing eighty-five (85%) percent or more of the lot area in a particular zoning district, the location of such district boundary line may be construed to include the remaining fifteen (15%) percent or less of the lot so divided, subject to the lot of record having an area in excess of two (2) acres.

SECTION 311

PROJECTIONS INTO REQUIRED YARDS

The following projections shall be permitted into required yards and shall not be considered in the determination of yard setback requirements or building coverage:

- (A) Terraces or Patios: provided that such terraces or patios are located in the rear yard or sideyard, are not under roof, without walls or other form of enclosure and are not closer than five (5) feet to any adjacent lot line.
- (B) Projecting Architectural Features: such as bay windows, cornices, eaves, fireplaces, chimneys, window sills, or other similar architectural features

provided that any of the aforementioned features do not extend more than two (2) feet into any required setback.

- (C) Porches and Decks: provided such porches or decks are located in the rear yard or sideyard, and that such does not exceed four and one-half (4¹/₂) feet in depth as extended from the structure.
- (D) Handicapped Ramps: may be constructed without meeting any applicable front and/or rear yard setback requirements in any Zoning District, but shall have a minimum side yard setback of not less than five (5) feet.

SECTION 312 EXCEPTIONS TO HEIGHT LIMITATIONS

The height limitations of this Ordinance shall not apply to church spires, belfries, cupolas, domes, chimneys, flagpoles, water towers, skylights; or to any accessory mechanical appurtenances usually located above the roof level.

SECTION 313 REQUIRED ACCESS

Every building or structure hereafter erected shall have access to or be located upon a lot adjacent to a public or private street.

SECTION 314 LAND DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL FOR CERTAIN USES

In addition to zoning approval, the following uses are classified as a "land development," requiring approval under the applicable provisions of the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance:

- (A) a group of two (2) or more residential or nonresidential buildings, whether proposed initially or cumulatively, a single nonresidential building on a lot or lots regardless of the number of occupants or tenure, with the size of the building exceeding four thousand (4,000) square feet
- (B) Any nonresidential use of land, with or without structures, which encompasses five (5) or more acres of land, excluding agricultural use of land.
- (C) the division or allocation of land or space, whether initially or cumulatively, between or among two (2) or more existing or prospective occupants by means of, or for the purpose of streets, common areas, leaseholds, condominiums, building groups or other features.
- (D) the conversion of an existing single-family detached dwelling or single family semidetached dwelling into more than three (3) residential units. Any conversion, described above, which results in not more than three (3) residential units shall be deemed as a land development if the units are intended to be a condominium.

- (E) the development of a mobile home park or the expansion of an existing mobile home park within the context of the definition of said term as contained within this Ordinance.
- (F) a single residential structure containing five (5) or more residential units.

A development of a parcel of land which contains not more than three (3) detached single family residential structures, whether developed initially or cumulatively shall be classified as a minor land development; all other uses classified as a land development shall be deemed to be a major land development.

SECTION 315 VISIBILITY AT INTERSECTIONS AND PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS

315.1 INTERSECTION OF STREETS

On any corner lot no visual obstruction between two and one-half (2¹/₂) feet and eight (8) feet in height, excluding street signs, utility poles or traffic signs, shall be erected or maintained on any corner lot within the triangle formed by the intersecting property lines of the corner lot and a line projected between points on each of those adjacent property lines, twenty (20) feet from their intersection.

315.2 PRIVATE DRIVEWAYS

No visual obstruction between two and one-half (2¹/₂) feet and eight (8) feet in height, shall be erected or maintained within the triangle formed between the intersection of centerlines of a street right-of-way line and a depth of ten (10) feet along the centerline of the street right-of-way and a depth of ten (10) feet along the centerline of a private driveway.

315.3 REQUIRED SETBACK

No part of a driveway for shall be located closer than ten (10) feet from a side property line.

SECTION 316 FENCES AND WALLS

The posts and/or structural supports of a fence shall be located within the interior yard space to be enclosed.

316.1 RESIDENTIAL

Fences and walls to be constructed within a residential zoning district or upon a lot in any other type of zoning district which contains a residential property, shall be permitted according to the following subsections:

A. FRONT YARD

The maximum height of any fence or wall in a front yard shall not exceed four (4) feet in height above the adjacent ground level.

B. SIDE AND REAR YARDS

The maximum height of any fence or wall located in a side yard or rear yard shall not exceed six (6) feet in height.

C. MATERIALS

All fences shall be constructed with materials recognized by the fencing industry and designed to provide a permanent enclosure. No barbed wire or other potentially injurious material shall be contained upon the fence or as part of the material to construct the fence.

316.2 NONRESIDENTIAL

Fences to be constructed within any commercial zoning district shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height above the adjacent ground level. Fences to be constructed within any industrial zoning district shall not exceed ten (10) feet in height above the adjacent ground level.

316.3 EXEMPTIONS

The provisions of this Section shall not be applied to prevent the construction of a chain link in excess of ten (10) feet in height, designed as an enclosure to a public park, a public playground or similar outdoor recreational facility.

SECTION 317 PUBLIC UTILITIES

With the exception of storage yards, the provisions and regulations of this Ordinance shall not apply to any existing or proposed building or extension thereof, used or to be used by a public utility corporation deemed necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public in accordance with Section 619 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247, as amended.

SECTION 318 SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The provision of sewage service to any proposed use and/or development of property shall be consistent with the Township's Act 537 Sewage Facility Plan. Any use or development of property which proposes to utilize on-lot sewage disposal shall secure approval from the Township's Sewage Enforcement Officer in accordance with the applicable governing standards of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection prior to the issuance of a zoning permit.

SECTION 319 CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS FOR SIDEYARD SETBACKS

319.1

Any structure proposed to be subdivided, containing two or more units, residential or nonresidential, shall be exempted from the governing sideyard setback requirements under the Zoning Ordinance relative only to interior side yards. When a sideyard of a proposed subdivision is directly attached to another unit within the structure, subdivision

approval shall exempt the property from requesting and/or securing an interior sideyard variance from the Zoning Hearing Board.

319.2

Any structural portion of a building, such as a deck, patio, porch or similar feature which is need of repair to the point of replacement shall be exempt from complying with the applicable setback requirements when all of the following conditions exist:

- A. The use of the building represents a use permitted by right in the district in which it is located.
- B. There are no outstanding zoning or building code violations against the owner of the property.
- C. The structural replacement shall be the exact same location and structural replacement shall be the same size and height, or less, than that which is being replaced.
- D. A photograph of the subject property, taken prior to the start of work, must be submitted to the Zoning Officer with a completed zoning permit application, along with any other information deemed necessary by the Zoning Officer to process the application.

SECTION 320 MOBILE HOMES - PERMANENT FOUNDATIONS

A mobile home shall be constructed and anchored to a permanent foundation. Under such conditions said mobile home shall be deemed to be a single family residence.

SECTION 321 REPLACEMENT OF MOBILE HOMES

The removal of a mobile home upon a property with the intent to replace it with another mobile home may be permitted in accordance with the following standards:

- 1. The property owner shall provide the Zoning Officer with written notice of his intent to replace the structure and the date on which the current mobile home will be removed from the lot.
- 2. The placement of the new mobile home upon the lot shall be in conformance with all applicable setback requirements and area requirements for the zoning district in which it is located.
- 3. A new mobile home shall be located upon the lot in conformance with Section 320 and shall be connected with all utilities, including sewage, and ready for occupancy within one hundred and eighty (180) days from the date on previous mobile home was removed.

SECTION 322 TEMPORARY STRUCTURE AND/OR TEMPORARY USE

A temporary structure and/or a temporary use may be allowed in all Zoning Districts subject to the following requirements:

- a. A temporary structure and/or use shall meet all applicable setback requirements for the Zoning District in which it is to be located.
- b. The temporary structure shall be located upon a property for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months from the date on which the Zoning Permit was approved by the Zoning Officer. The twelve- (12) month time limitation for a temporary structure and/or use shall be cumulative in nature. Any intermittent cessation and subsequent resumption of a temporary structure and/or use shall be included within twelve- (12) month time limitation from the date on which approval was originally issued.
- c. The use of a temporary structure shall be directly related to the principal use of the property. Trailers placed upon a property as a field office during the construction activities for a permanent principal use shall be exempt.

The use of a temporary structure as a residence shall be permitted when the following conditions apply:

- The property on which the temporary structure is to be located represents the same property on which the applicant has secured zoning approval to construct a permanent dwelling.
 - The temporary structure has service to and is connected to all required utilities, including but not necessarily limited to electrical, water and sewage and is utilized within the context of a “Dwelling Unit” as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance.
 - Upon the cessation of twelve (12) months from the date on which the Zoning Permit was approved by the Zoning Officer, the temporary structure shall be removed from the site unless the applicant is a land development.
- d. The size of the gross floor area of a temporary structure shall not exceed that of the principal structure.
 - e. Required off-street parking and/or loading shall be provided for the use within a temporary structure in accordance with the applicable provisions contained in Article 12, Off-Street Parking and Loading.
 - f. In the case of a proposed temporary structure for an existing nonconforming use, approval may only be granted by the Zoning Hearing Board as a special exception approval in accordance with Section 1610.2, Provisions For Granting a Special Exception approval and the applicable provisions contained in Section 1006, Enlargement of Nonconforming Uses and Structures.
 - g. Upon receipt of approval for a temporary structure and/or use, the twelve (12) month limitation may be extended up to an additional twelve (12) months as a variance subject to approval by the Zoning Hearing Board.

SECTION 323

HIGHWAY OCCUPANCY PERMIT

Zoning approval for any proposed use and/or development of a property, which includes the construction and/or relocation of a driveway onto a State Legislative Route, a County road or a Township Road shall be conditioned upon the applicant securing a Highway Occupancy Permit from the applicable governing body and/or agency.

SECTION 324

SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PLAN

In accordance with the requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, any proposed development having a cumulative land disturbance equal to or in excess of five thousand (5,000) square feet shall be required to prepare and implement a Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan, in accordance with the most recent addition of the Department of Environmental Protection Erosion and Sedimentation Control Manual.

For stormwater discharges from construction activities, for any proposed development that will disturb between one (1) and up to five (5) acres of land over the life of the project, and has a point source discharge to surface waters shall be required to secure a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) from the Luzerne County Conservation District. No zoning permit for development shall be issued by the Township until written notification is received from the Luzerne County Conservation District verifying compliance in securing the NPDES Permit.

SECTION 325

OUTDOOR FUEL BURNING FURNACES

An outdoor fuel burning furnace shall be deemed to be an accessory structure permitted in all zoning districts, as a special exception use, thereby requiring approval from the Zoning Hearing Board and subject to the standards as set forth in Section 902.21.

SECTION 326

USES NOT ADDRESSED WITHIN ORDINANCE

Whenever, in any district established under this Ordinance, a use is neither specifically permitted nor denied and an application is made by a landowner to the Zoning Officer for such use, the Zoning Officer shall refer the application to the Zoning Hearing Board to hear and decide such request as a special exception. The Board shall have the authority to permit the use or deny the use in accordance with the standards governing special exception applications. The proposed use may be permitted only if it is determined to be similar to and compatible with permitted uses in the district and in no way is in conflict with the general purposes and intent of this Ordinance. The burden of proof shall be upon the applicant to demonstrate that the proposed use would meet the standards and criteria for a special exception as contained in Section 1610.2 of this Ordinance and would not be detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare and/or environmental features and characteristics of the site and/or surrounding areas.

SECTION 327

CONFLICTING REGULATIONS

In the event that any provisions within this Ordinance are found to be in conflict with another provision of this Ordinance, and/or any other ordinance, law, or regulation of the Township, State or United States Government, the most restrictive shall apply.

ARTICLE 4
ZONING MAP AND ZONING DISTRICTS

SECTION 401 OFFICIAL ZONING MAP

Rice Township is hereby divided into zoning districts, as shown on the Official Zoning Map, which together with all explanatory matter thereon, is hereby adopted by reference and declared to be part of this Ordinance, together with all future notations, references and amendments.

SECTION 402 CHANGES TO OFFICIAL ZONING MAP

Any changes to the location of zoning district boundaries or other matters portrayed upon the Official Zoning Map shall be undertaken in accordance with the applicable provisions contained within Article 15 of this Ordinance and the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247, as amended. Such changes shall be provided upon the Official Zoning Map promptly after the enactment of the subject amendment by the Rice Township Board of Supervisors.

SECTION 403 INTERPRETATION OF BOUNDARIES

For the interpretation of zoning district boundaries, the following subsections shall apply if or when a determination is not made by the Zoning Officer.

403.1 ZONING HEARING BOARD

If uncertainty exists as to the boundary of any zoning district shown upon the Official Zoning Map, the Zoning Hearing Board shall determine the location of such boundary according to the guidelines set forth in Section 403.2.

403.2 GUIDELINES

- (A) Zoning district boundary lines are intended to follow or parallel the center line of streets, streams and railroads; and the lot or property lines as they exist on a recorded deed or plan at the time of adoption of this Ordinance, unless such zoning district boundary lines are fixed by dimensions as shown on the Official Zoning Map.
- (B) Where a zoning district boundary is not fixed by dimensions and where it approximately follows lot lines, and does not scale more than ten (10) feet therefrom, such lot lines shall be construed to be such boundaries unless specifically shown otherwise.
- (C) In accordance with Section 310 of this Ordinance, if a Zoning District boundary line divides a lot held in single and separate ownership prior to the effective date of this Ordinance, placing eighty-five (85%) percent or more of the lot area in a particular Zoning District, the location of such district boundary line may be construed to include the remaining fifteen (15%) percent or less of the lot so divided, subject to the lot of

record not being greater than two (2) acres. It shall be the property owner's responsibility to provide documentation to the Zoning Officer to substantiate the location and area of land of the applicable Zoning Districts for the subject property.

- (D) If the guidelines within this Section above fail to provide and establish the boundary of a zoning district, a survey of the property or area of land in question shall be made by a registered surveyor, with the cost of the survey paid by the party who is questioning or contesting the boundary location.

SECTION 404 CLASSES OF ZONING DISTRICTS

For the purpose of this Ordinance, Rice is hereby divided into Zoning Districts as designated below:

R-1	SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
R-2	MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
R-M	MOBILE HOME PARK DISTRICT
B-1	NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT
B-2	GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
C-1	CONSERVATION DISTRICT
A-1	AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
I-1	INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT
PRD	PLANNED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE 5 ZONING DISTRICT REGULATIONS</p>
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SECTION 501 - C-1 CONSERVATION DISTRICT

501.1 PERMITTED USES

- Agriculture, (as defined in Article 2) but excluding concentrated animal feeding operations as defined and regulated under the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Act, as amended.
- Commercial communication antennas mounted on an existing public utility transmission tower, building or other structure.
- Commercial Greenhouses, Nurseries and Garden Shops
- Conservation Design Subdivisions
- Essential Public Utility Facilities as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance (excluding storage yards)
- Farm Stands (Seasonal Sales of Produce)
- Forestry (as defined in Article 2, also see Section 902.14).
- Garden Center
- No Impact Home Based Business
- Public Recreational Facilities
- Retail sales of Agricultural and/or Forestry products located within a structure not to exceed three thousand (3,000) square feet of gross floor area and/or located upon open area of land not to exceed five thousand (5,000) square feet of land area.
- Single-Family Dwellings, including mobile homes on permanent foundations.
- Stables (Private) in association with a single family dwelling (limited to properties of not less than 2¹/₂ acres and limited to not more than two equines).
- State Game Lands
- Accessory Uses to the Above

501.2 USES PERMITTED BY SPECIAL EXCEPTION

- Animal Kennels
- Bed and Breakfast Facility
- Cemetery
- Home Occupations
- Outdoor Fuel Burning Furnaces
- Accessory Uses to the Above

501.3 PROHIBITED USES

- Any use which utilizes and/or stores any hazardous substances as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance.

501.4 CONDITIONAL USES

- Commercial Communication Towers, Antennas and Accessory Equipment Buildings

- Campgrounds as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance
- Excavation and extraction of minerals as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance
- Wind Energy Facilities as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance
- Any nonresidential use permitted by right or by special exception shall be deemed a conditional use if it involves either of the following:
 - (a) the initial or cumulative earth disturbance which equals or exceeds 80,000 square feet of surface area.
 - (b) the initial or cumulative construction, placement or installation which equals or exceeds twenty thousand (20,000) square feet of buildings, structures and/or other impervious surface area.

501.5 DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS

Each principal building, structure and/or use shall be governed by the following regulations, unless more restrictive standards are applicable, including but not limited to State regulations and supplementary regulations contained in Article 9 of this Ordinance.

- A. Minimum Lot Area: Each principal building or use shall be located upon a lot having a minimum lot area of not less than 100,000 square feet.
- B. Minimum Lot Width: Two hundred (200) feet
- C. Front Yard: The minimum front yard shall be not less than fifty (50) feet in depth as measured from the front lot line.
- D. Rear Yard: The minimum rear yard shall be not less than fifty (50) feet in depth as measured from the rear lot line.
- E. Side Yard: The minimum side yards shall be not less than twenty-five (25) feet on each side.
- F. Lot Coverage: Not more than fifteen (15%) percent of the lot area shall be covered with buildings or structures.
- G. Building Height: The maximum height of any building shall not exceed two and one-half (2^{1/2}) stories or thirty-five (35') feet.

501.6 SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS (SEE ARTICLE 9)

501.7 SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Any property proposed to be divided into parcels or developed in accordance with the definitions of a "Subdivision" or a "Land Development", as provided in Article 2 of this Ordinance, shall also be subject to the governing regulations and provisions of the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

A Conservation Design Overlay District is hereby created as an option for all land which is included within a C-1 Conservation District. The subdivision of property for the purpose of creating lots for single family detached dwellings shall be subject to the governing requirements as contained Article 6, Conservation Design Overlay District. The following subdivision option, as further described in Article 6 is available in the C-1 Conservation District:

Neutral Density and Basic Conservation, providing for residential uses at the density permitted by the underlying zoning district. Areas designated as Greenway Land/Conservation Open Space must comprise not less than thirty-five (35%) percent of the tract.

SECTION 502 – A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

502.1 PERMITTED USES

- Agriculture, (as defined in Article 2) but excluding concentrated animal feeding operations as defined and regulated under the Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Act, as amended.
- Commercial communication antennas mounted on an existing public utility transmission tower, building or other structure.
- Commercial Greenhouses, Nurseries and Garden Shops
- Conservation Design Subdivisions
- Essential Public Utility Facilities as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance (excluding storage yards)
- Farm Stands
- Forestry (as defined in Article 2, also see Section 902.14)
- Garden Center
- Horse Farm (limited to properties of not less than 3 acres).
- No Impact Home Based Business
- Place of Worship
- Public Recreational Facilities
- Raising Livestock
- Retail sales of Agricultural and/or Forestry products located within a structure not to exceed three thousand (3,000) square feet of gross floor area and/or located upon open area of land not to exceed five thousand (5,000) square feet of land area.
- Single-Family Dwellings
- Stables (Private) in association with a single family dwelling (limited to properties of not less than 2¹/₂ acres and limited to not more than two equines)
- State Game Lands
- Accessory Uses to the Above

502.2 USES PERMITTED BY SPECIAL EXCEPTION

- Animal Hospitals or Clinics
- Cemeteries
- Commercial Recreational Facilities
- Group Residences
- Home Occupations
- Nursing Homes
- Private Recreational Facilities
- Public Uses
- Outdoor Fuel Burning Furnaces
- Accessory Uses to the Above

502.3 PROHIBITED USES

- Any use which utilizes and/or stores any hazardous substances as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance.

502.4 CONDITIONAL USES

- Any nonresidential use permitted by right or by special exception shall be deemed a conditional use if it involves either of the following:
 - (a) the initial or cumulative earth disturbance which equals or exceeds 80,000 square feet of surface area.
 - (b) the initial or cumulative construction, placement or installation which equals or exceeds 20,000 square feet of buildings, structures and/or other impervious surface area.
- Sewage Disposal Plants

502.5 DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS

Each principal building, structure and/or use shall be governed by the following regulations, unless more restrictive standards are applicable, including but not limited to State regulations and supplementary regulations contained in Article 9 of this Ordinance.

- A. Minimum Lot Area: Each principal building or use shall be located upon a lot having a minimum lot area of not less than 80,000 square feet.
- B. Minimum Lot Width: Two hundred feet (200) feet
- C. Front Yard: The minimum front yard shall be not less than fifty (50) feet in depth as measured from the front lot line.
- D. Rear Yard: The minimum rear yard shall be not less than fifty (50) feet in depth as measured from the rear lot line.
- E. Side Yard: The minimum side yards shall be not less than twenty-five (25) feet on each side.
- F. Lot Coverage: Not more than twenty (20%) percent of the lot area shall be covered with buildings or structures.
- G. Building Height: The maximum height of any building shall not exceed two and one-half (2^{1/2}) stories or thirty-five (35') feet.

502.6 SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS (SEE ARTICLE 9)

502.7 SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Any property proposed to be divided into parcels or developed in accordance with the definitions of a "Subdivision" or a "Land Development", as provided in Article 2 of this Ordinance, shall also be subject to the governing regulations and provisions of the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

A Conservation Design Overlay District is hereby created as an option for all land which is included within an A-1 Agricultural District. The subdivision of property for the purpose of creating lots for single family detached dwellings shall be subject to the governing requirements as contained Article 6, Conservation Design Overlay District. The following subdivision option as further described in Article 6 are available in an A-1 Agricultural District.

Neutral Density and Basic Conservation, providing for residential uses at the density permitted by the underlying zoning district. Areas designated as Greenway Land/Conservation Open Space must comprise not less than thirty-five (35%) percent of the tract.

SECTION 503 - R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT

503.1 PERMITTED USES

- Commercial communication antennas mounted on an existing public utility transmission tower, building or structure.
- Essential Public Utility Facilities as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance (excluding storage yards)
- Forestry (as defined in Article 2, also see Section 902.14)
- No-Impact Home Based Business
- Single-family Detached Dwellings
- Accessory Uses to the Above

503.2 USES PERMITTED BY SPECIAL EXCEPTION

- Day Care Home
- Group Residences
- Home Occupations
- Place of Worship
- Public Recreational Facilities
- Public Uses (except storage yards)
- Public Uses, including schools
- Outdoor Fuel Burning Furnaces
- Accessory Uses to the Above

503.3 CONDITIONAL USES

- Any nonresidential use permitted by right or by special exception shall be deemed a conditional use if it involves either of the following:
 - (a) the initial or cumulative earth disturbance which equals or exceeds 80,000 square feet of surface area.
 - (b) the initial or cumulative construction, placement or installation which equals or exceeds twenty thousand (20,000) square feet of buildings, structures and/or other impervious surface area.
- Planned Residential Developments

503.4 PROHIBITED USES

- Any use which utilizes and/or stores any hazardous substances as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance.

503.5 DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS

Each principal building, structure and/or use shall be governed by the following regulations, unless more restrictive standards are applicable, including but not limited to State regulations and supplementary regulations contained in Article 9 of this Ordinance.

- A. Minimum Lot Area: Each principal building or use shall be located upon a lot having a minimum lot area of not less than:

60,000 square feet when serviced by on lot sewage and/or on-lot water.
20,000 square feet when serviced by public sewers and public water.

- B. Minimum Lot Width:

One hundred fifty (150) feet for lots requiring a minimum size of 60,000 square feet.
One hundred (100) feet for lots requiring a minimum size of 20,000 square feet.

- C. Front Yard: The minimum front yard shall be not less than thirty-five (35) feet in depth as measured from the front lot line.

- D. Rear Yard: The minimum rear yard shall be not less than thirty (30) feet in depth as measured from the rear lot line.

- E. Side Yard:

The minimum side yards shall be not less than twenty (20) feet on each side for lots requiring a minimum size of 60,000 square feet.

The minimum side yards shall be not less than fifteen (15) feet on each side for lots requiring a minimum size of 20,000 square feet.

- F. Lot Coverage: Not more than twenty (20%) percent of the lot area shall be covered with buildings or structures.

- G. Building Height: The maximum height of any building shall not exceed two and one-half (2¹/₂) stories or thirty-five (35) feet.

503.6 SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS (SEE ARTICLE 9)

503.7 SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Any property proposed to be divided into parcels or developed in accordance with the definitions of a "Subdivision" or a "Land Development", as provided in Article 2 of this Ordinance, shall also be subject to the governing regulations and provisions of the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

SECTION 504 - R-2 –MULTIFAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICT

504.1 PERMITTED USES

- Essential Public Utility Facilities as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance (excluding storage yards)
- Forestry (as defined in Article 2, also see Section 902.14)
- No-Impact Home Based Business
- Townhouses
- Two-Family Dwellings
- Single-family Detached Dwellings
- Accessory Uses to the Above

504.2 USES PERMITTED BY SPECIAL EXCEPTION

- Home Occupations
- Multifamily Dwellings
- Group Residence
- Nursing Home
- Boarding House
- Day Care Center
- Day Care Homes
- Public Uses
- Public Recreational Facilities
- Place of Worship
- Outdoor Fuel Burning Furnaces
- Accessory Uses to the Above

504.3 CONDITIONAL USES

- Any nonresidential use permitted by right or by special exception shall be deemed a conditional use if it involves either of the following:
 - (a) the initial or cumulative earth disturbance which equals or exceeds 80,000 square feet of surface area.
 - (b) the initial or cumulative construction, placement or installation which equals or exceeds twenty thousand (20,000) square feet of buildings, structures and/or other impervious surface area.

504.4 PROHIBITED USES

- Any use which utilizes and/or stores any hazardous substances as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance.

504.5 DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS

Each principal building, structure and/or use shall be governed by the following regulations, unless more restrictive standards are applicable, including but not limited to State regulations and supplementary regulations contained in Article 9 of this Ordinance.

- A. Minimum Lot Area: Each principal building or use shall be located upon a lot having a minimum lot area of not less than:

60,000 square feet when serviced by on lot sewage and/or on-lot water.
12,000 square feet when serviced by public sewers and public water.

- B. Minimum Lot Width:

One hundred fifty (150) feet for lots a minimum size of 60,000 square feet.
Eighty (80) feet for lots a minimum size of 12,000 square feet.

- C. Front Yard: The minimum front yard shall be not less than thirty-five (35) feet in depth as measured from the front lot line.

- D. Rear Yard: The rear yard shall be not less than thirty (30) feet in depth as measured from the rear lot line.

- E. Side Yard: The side yard shall be not less

The minimum side yards shall be not less than twenty (20) feet on each side for lots requiring a minimum size of 60,000 square feet.

The minimum side yards shall be not less than twelve (12) feet on each side for lots requiring a minimum lot size of 12,000 square feet.

- F. Lot Coverage: Not more than twenty-five (25%) percent of the lot area shall be covered with buildings or structures.

- G. Building Height: The maximum height of any building shall not exceed two and one-half (2¹/₂) stories or thirty-five (35') feet.

504.6 SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS (SEE ARTICLE 9)

504.7 SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Any property proposed to be divided into parcels or developed in accordance with the definitions of a "Subdivision" or "Land Development", as provided in Article 2 of this Ordinance, shall also be subject to the governing regulations and provisions of the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

SECTION 505 – R-M MOBILE HOME PARK DISTRICT

505.1 PERMITTED USES

- Essential Public Utility Facilities as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance (excluding storage yards)
- Forestry (as defined in Article 2, also see Section 902.14)
- Mobile Homes
- No-Impact Home Based Business
- Single-Family Detached Dwellings
- Two Family Dwellings
- Accessory Uses to the Above

505.2 USES PERMITTED BY SPECIAL EXCEPTION

- Home Occupations
- Group Residence
- Outdoor Fuel Burning Furnaces
- Accessory Uses to the Above

505.3 CONDITIONAL USES

- Mobile Home Parks
- The development of a mobile home park. (Such a use shall also be subject to the governing provisions of the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.)
- The expansion, and/or alteration of an existing mobile home park. (Such a use shall also be subject to the governing provisions of the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.)

504.4 PROHIBITED USES

- Any use which utilizes and/or stores any hazardous substances as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance.

505.5 DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS

Each principal building, structure and/or use shall be governed by the following regulations, unless more restrictive standards are applicable, including but not limited to state regulations and supplementary regulations contained in Article 9 of this Ordinance.

A. Minimum Lot Area:

Mobile Home Parks:

A Mobile Home Park shall have a minimum lot size of not less ten (10) acres.

All Other Uses:

60,000 square feet when serviced by on lot sewage and/or on-lot water.

10,000 square feet when serviced by public sewers and public water.

B. Minimum Lot Width:

Mobile Home Parks: Four Hundred (400) feet.

All Other Uses:

One hundred fifty (100) feet for lots a minimum size of 60,000 square feet.

Seventy five (75) feet for lots a minimum size of 10,000 square feet.

C. Front Yard:

Mobile Home Parks: The minimum front yard shall be not less than seventy-five (75) feet in depth as measured from the front lot line.

All Other Uses: The minimum front yard shall be not less than twenty-five (25) feet in depth as measured from the front lot line.

D. Rear Yard:

Mobile Home Parks: The rear yard shall be not less than one hundred (100) feet in depth as measured from the rear lot line.

All Other Uses: The rear yard shall be not less than twenty-five (25) feet in depth as measured from the rear lot line.

E. Side Yard:

Mobile Home Parks: Each side yard shall be not less than seventy-five (75) feet.

All Other Uses: Each side yard shall be not less than ten (10) feet.

F. Lot Coverage:

Mobile Home Parks: Not more than forty (40%) percent of the lot area shall be covered with buildings or structures.

All Other Uses: Not more than thirty (30%) percent of the lot area shall be covered with buildings or structures.

G. Building Height: Building Height: The maximum height of any building shall not exceed two and one-half ($2\frac{1}{2}$) stories or thirty-five (35) feet.

505.6 SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS (SEE ARTICLE 9)

505.7 SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Any property proposed to be divided into parcels or developed in accordance with the definitions of a "Subdivision" or "Land Development", as provided in Article 2 of this Ordinance, shall also be subject to the governing regulations and provisions of the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

SECTION 506 - B-1 - NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT

506.1 PERMITTED USES

A. **RETAIL BUSINESSES WHICH DO NOT EXCEED 1,500 SQUARE FEET OF GROSS FLOOR AREA INCLUDING OR SIMILAR TO THE FOLLOWING:**

- Artist, Music and Hobby Supplies
- Convenience Stores
- Florist Shops
- Food/Grocery
- Forestry (as defined in Article 2, also see Section 902.14)
- Greeting Cards, Newspapers, Books, Stationery and Gift Shops
- Pharmaceutical Products

B. **SERVICE-ORIENTED BUSINESS INCLUDING OR SIMILAR TO THE FOLLOWING:**

- Day Care Centers
- Essential Public Utility Facilities as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance (excluding storage yards)
- No-Impact Home Based Business
- Personal Services
- Professional Offices
- Restaurants without live entertainment and not exceeding 1,500 square feet of gross floor area
- Taverns without live entertainment and not exceeding 1,500 square feet of gross floor area

C. **RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT RELATED BUSINESS INCLUDING OR SIMILAR TO:**

- Public Recreational Facilities
- Club/Private Lodge

D. **RESIDENTIAL USES**

- Dwelling over and/or attached to Business
- Group Residences
- Rooming or Boarding Homes

E. **ACCESSORY USES TO ALL USES PERMITTED BY RIGHT:**

506.2 USES PERMITTED BY SPECIAL EXCEPTION

- Entertainment Facilities without live entertainment and not exceeding 1,500 square feet of gross floor area

- Commercial Recreational Facilities without live entertainment and not exceeding 1,500 square feet of gross floor area
- Funeral Home
- Public Uses
- Outdoor Fuel Burning Furnaces
- Accessory uses to the above

506.3 CONDITIONAL USES

- Any nonresidential use permitted by right or by special exception shall be deemed a conditional use if it involves either of the following:
 - (a) the initial or cumulative earth disturbance which equals or exceeds 80,000 square feet of surface area.
 - (b) the initial or cumulative construction, placement or installation which equals or exceeds twenty thousand (20,000) square feet of buildings, structures and/or other impervious surface area.

506.4 PROHIBITED USES

- Any use which utilizes and/or stores any hazardous substances as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance.

506.5 DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS

Each principal building, structure and/or use shall be governed by the following regulations, unless more restrictive standards are applicable, including but not limited to State regulations and supplementary regulations contained in Article 9 of this Ordinance.

- A. Minimum Lot Area: Each principal building or use shall be located upon a lot having a minimum lot area of not less than:
 - 80,000 square feet when serviced by on lot sewage and/or on-lot water.
 - 20,000 square feet when serviced by public sewers and public water.
- B. Minimum Lot Width:
 - One hundred fifty (150) feet for lots a minimum size of 80,000 square feet.
 - One hundred feet for lots a minimum size of 20,000 square feet.
- C. Front Yard: The minimum front yard shall be not less than fifty (50) feet in depth as measured from the front lot line.
- D. Rear Yard: The rear yard shall be not less than thirty (50) feet in depth as measured from the rear lot line.

E. Side Yard:

The minimum side yards shall be not less than twenty-five (25) feet on each side for lots requiring a minimum size of 80,000 square feet.

The minimum side yards shall be not less than fifteen (15) feet on each side for lots requiring a minimum lot size of 20,000 square feet.

F. Lot Coverage: Not more than twenty-five (25%) percent of the lot area shall be covered with buildings or structures.

G. Building Height: The maximum height of any building shall not exceed two and one-half ($2\frac{1}{2}$) stories or thirty-five (35') feet.

506.6 SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS (SEE ARTICLE 9)

506.7 SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Any property proposed to be divided into parcels or developed in accordance with the definitions of a "Subdivision" or "Land Development", as provided in Article 2 of this Ordinance, shall also be subject to the governing regulations and provisions of the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

SECTION 507 - B-2- GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

507.1 PERMITTED USES

A. RETAIL BUSINESSES AREA INCLUDING OR SIMILAR TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Artist, Music and Hobby Supplies
- Automotive Supplies
- Clothing and Clothing Accessories
- Commercial Greenhouses, Nurseries & Garden Shops
- Convenience Stores
- Convenience Stores with Gas Sales
- Equipment Sales and Repair
- Florist Shops
- Food/Grocery
- Forestry (as defined in Article 2, also see Section 902.14)
- Greeting Cards, Books & Stationery
- Hardware
- Household Goods and Appliances
- Lumber Yards
- Office Equipment and Supplies
- Pharmaceutical Products
- Sporting Goods
- Variety Goods

B. SERVICE-ORIENTED BUSINESS INCLUDING OR SIMILAR TO:

- Animal Hospital/Veterinarian Clinic
- Automotive Sales
- Banks
- Day Care Centers
- Essential Public Utility Facilities as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance (excluding storage yards)
- Funeral Homes
- Gasoline Service Stations
- Health/Recreation Facility
- Medical Offices and Clinics
- No-Impact Home Based Business
- Nursing Homes
- Personal Services
- Private Garage (storage of commercial vehicles)
- Professional Offices
- Repair Garage
- Restaurants
- Taverns
- Warehouse Facilities, including self-storage.

C. RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT RELATED BUSINESS INCLUDING OR SIMILAR TO:

- Club/Private Lodge
- Commercial Recreational Facilities
- Entertainment Facilities
- Private Recreational Facilities
- Public Recreational Facilities
- Accessory uses to the above

D. RESIDENTIAL USES

- Dwelling over and/or attached to Business
- Group Residences
- Accessory uses to the above

E. ACCESSORY USES TO ALL USES PERMITTED BY RIGHT:

507.2 USES PERMITTED BY SPECIAL EXCEPTION

- Boarding or Rooming Homes
- Car Wash
- Contractors Yards
- Hotels/Motels
- Institutional Use (as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance)
- Outdoor Storage (as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance)
- Personal Care Home
- Public Uses
- Stone or Monument Works
- Trucking Facilities and Terminals
- Outdoor Fuel Burning Furnaces
- Accessory uses to the above

507.3 CONDITIONAL USES

- Shopping Center

Any nonresidential use permitted by right or by special exception shall be deemed a conditional use if it involves either of the following:

- (a) the initial or cumulative earth disturbance which equals or exceeds 80,000 square feet of surface area.
- (b) the initial or cumulative construction, placement or installation which equals or exceeds twenty thousand (20,000) square feet of buildings, structures and/or other impervious surface area.

507.4 PROHIBITED USES

- Any use which utilizes and/or stores any hazardous substances as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance.

507.5 DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS

Each principal building, structure and/or use shall be governed by the following regulations, unless more restrictive standards are applicable, including but not limited to State regulations and supplementary regulations contained in Article 9 of this Ordinance.

- A. Minimum Lot Area: Each principal building or use shall be located upon a lot having a minimum lot area of not less than 100,000 square feet.
- B. Minimum Lot Width: Two hundred (200) feet.
- C. Front Yard: The minimum front yard shall be not less than fifty (50) feet in depth as measured from the front lot line.
- D. Rear Yard: The rear yard shall be not less than thirty (50) feet in depth as measured from the rear lot line.
- E. Side Yard: The side yard shall be not less

The minimum side yards shall be not less than twenty-five (25) feet on each side for lots requiring a minimum size of 80,000 square feet.

The minimum side yards shall be not less than fifteen (15) feet on each side for lots requiring a minimum lot size of 20,000 square feet.
- F. Lot Coverage: Not more than thirty (30%) percent of the lot area shall be covered with buildings or structures.
- G. Building Height: The maximum height of any building shall not exceed forty (40) feet.

507.6 SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS (SEE ARTICLE 9)

507.7 SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Any property proposed to be divided into parcels or developed in accordance with the definitions of a "Subdivision" or "Land Development", as provided in Article 2 of this Ordinance, shall also be subject to the governing regulations and provisions of the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

SECTION 508 - I-1 INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT

508.1 PERMITTED USES

- Automotive Sales
- Contractors' Offices, Shops and Storage Yards (for commercial uses which sell products such as: lumber, building, heating, plumbing, electrical, masonry, fencing and related material).
- Electronic Equipment and Products
- Equipment Sales and Repairs
- Essential Public Utility Facilities as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance
- Forestry (as defined in Article 2, also see Section 902.14)
- Gasoline Service Stations
- Light Industry (as defined in Article 2)
- Lumberyards
- Machine Shops and Sheet Metal Shops
- Outdoor Storage as defined in Article 2
- Print Shops
- Public Uses
- Public Utility Facilities
- Repair Garages
- Research and Testing Facilities
- Storage Yards
- Stone or Monument Works
- Trucking Facilities and Terminals
- Warehouse and Distribution Facilities
- Warehousing, including self-Storage Facilities
- Accessory uses to the above

508.3 USES PERMITTED BY SPECIAL EXCEPTION

- Bulk Fuel Storage
- Heavy Industrial Uses (as defined in Article 2)
- Recycling Facilities
- Outdoor Fuel Burning Furnaces
- Accessory uses to the above

508.4 CONDITIONAL USES

- Any use which utilizes and/or stores any hazardous substances as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance.
- Automotive Wrecking Yards
- Commercial Communication Tower (as defined in Article 2)
- Detention Facility
- Extraction, excavation and/or removal of minerals.
- Mineral Processing (as defined in Article 2)

- Junkyards
 - Methadone Treatment Facility
 - Sexually Oriented Uses (as defined in Article 2)
 - Solid Waste Facilities
 - Staging Areas
 - Transfer Stations
- Any nonresidential use permitted by right or by special exception shall be deemed a conditional use if it involves either of the following:
 - (a) the initial or cumulative earth disturbance which equals or exceeds 100,000 square feet of surface area.
 - (b) the initial or cumulative construction, placement or installation which equals or exceeds 40,000 square feet of buildings, structures and/or other impervious surface area.

508.5 DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS

Each principal building, structure and/or use shall be governed by the following regulations, unless more restrictive standards are applicable, including but not limited to State regulations and supplementary regulations contained in Article 9 of this Ordinance.

- A. Minimum Lot Area: Each principal building or use shall be located upon a lot having a minimum lot area of not less than:
 - 80,000 square feet when serviced by on lot sewage and/or on-lot water.
 - 20,000 square feet when serviced by public sewers and public water.
- B. Minimum Lot Width:
 - One hundred fifty (150) feet for lots a minimum size of 80,000 square feet.
 - One hundred feet for lots a minimum size of 20,000 square feet.
- C. Front Yard: The minimum front yard shall be not less than fifty (50) feet in depth as measured from the front lot line.
- D. Rear Yard: The rear yard shall be not less than thirty (50) feet in depth as measured from the rear lot line.
- E. Side Yard: The minimum side yards shall be not less than twenty-five (25) feet on each side.
- F. Lot Coverage: Not more than thirty (30%) percent of the lot area shall be covered with buildings or structures.
- G. Building Height: The maximum height of any building shall not exceed forty (40) feet.

508.6 SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS (SEE ARTICLE 9)

5087 SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Any property proposed to be divided into parcels or developed in accordance with the definitions of a "Subdivision" or "Land Development", as provided in Article 2 of this Ordinance, shall also be subject to the governing regulations and provisions of the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE 6 CONSERVATION DESIGN OVERLAY DISTRICT</p>

SECTION 601

PURPOSES

- A. In conformance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code the purposes of this Article among others, are as follows:
1. To conserve open land, including those areas containing unique and sensitive natural features such as woodlands, steep slopes, streams, flood plains and wetlands, by setting them aside from development.
 2. To provide greater design flexibility and efficiency in the siting of services and infrastructure, including the opportunity to reduce length of roads, utility runs, and the amount of paving required for residential development.
 3. To reduce erosion and sedimentation by the retention of existing vegetation, and the minimization of development on steep slopes.
 4. To provide for a diversity of lot sizes, building densities, and housing choices to accommodate a variety of age and income groups, and residential preferences, so that the community's population diversity may be maintained.
 5. To implement adopted municipal policies to conserve a variety of irreplaceable and environmentally sensitive resource lands as set forth in the Township's Comprehensive Plan and the Township's Recreation and Open Space Plan. including provisions for reasonable incentives to create a greenway system for the benefit of present and future residents.
 6. To protect areas of the Township with productive agricultural soils for continued or future agricultural use, by conserving blocks of land large enough to allow for efficient farm operations.
 7. To create neighborhoods with direct visual access to open land, with amenities in the form of neighborhood open space, and with a strong neighborhood identity.
 8. To provide for the conservation and maintenance of open land within the Township to achieve the above-mentioned goals and for active or passive recreational use by residents.
 9. To provide multiple options for landowners in order to minimize impacts on environmental resources (sensitive lands such as wetlands, flood plain, and steep slopes) and disturbance of natural or cultural features (such as mature woodlands, hedgerows and tree lines, critical wildlife habitats, historic buildings, and fieldstone walls).
 10. To provide standards reflecting the varying circumstances and interests of individual landowners, and the individual characteristics of their properties.
 11. To conserve scenic views and elements of the Township's rural character, and to

minimize perceived density, by minimizing views of new development from existing roads.

- B. By-Right Development Option - In order to achieve these purposes, this Article provides for flexibility in designing new residential subdivisions by allowing a by-right development option as summarized below:

Higher Density and Basic Conservation, providing for residential uses with a density factor reduction of sixty-five (65%)) percent and with not less than thirty-five (35%) percent of the tract comprised of conservation open space.

- C. Section 604 sets forth the development densities and required greenway land percentages.

SECTION 602 GENERAL REGULATIONS

The design of all new subdivisions in the Conservation Design Overlay District shall be governed by the following minimum standards:

- A. Ownership -The tract of land shall be controlled by the applicant and shall be developed as a single entity.
- B. Site Suitability -As evidenced by the Existing Resources/Site Analysis Plan, the Preliminary Subdivision Plan, and the Final Subdivision Plan, the tract incorporating this design option shall be suitable for supporting development in terms of environmental conditions, its size, and configuration.
- C. Intersections and Access - New intersections with existing public roads shall be minimized. Although two access ways into and out of subdivisions containing more than 15 (fifteen) dwellings are generally required for safety, proposals for more than two entrances onto public roads shall be discouraged if they would unnecessarily disrupt traffic flow. Intersections and access shall be further governed by the Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- D. Sensitive Area Disturbance - The proposed design shall strictly minimize disturbance of environmentally sensitive areas, as shown on the Existing Resources and Site Analysis Plan. Lands within the 100-year floodplain, or having slopes in excess of 25%, and rock outcroppings constitute such environmentally sensitive areas, where disturbance shall be strictly minimized. Demonstration by the applicant that these features will be protected by the proposed application shall be prerequisite to approval of both the Preliminary Subdivision Plan and the Final Subdivision Plan.

SECTION 603 MINIMUM PARCEL SIZE AND USE REGULATIONS

The subdivision of tracts of ten (10) acres or more in the Conservation Design Overlay District may be used for the following purposes:

- A. Single-Family Detached Dwellings
- B. Two-family Dwelling Units or Townhouses

- C. Conservation Open Space: Conservation open space comprising a portion of residential development, according to requirements of Section 605
- D. Nonresidential Uses - The following non-residential uses:
- Agricultural uses, including horticultural, wholesale nurseries, and the raising of crops, and buildings related to the same.
 - Wood lots, arboreta, and other similar silvicultural uses.
 - Woodland preserve, game preserve, wildlife sanctuary, or other similar conservation use.
 - Municipal or public uses; public park or recreation area owned and operated by a public or private nonprofit entity or agency; governmental or public utility building or use; not to include business facilities, storage of materials, trucking or repair facilities, the housing of repair crews, private or municipal solid waste disposal facilities.
- E. Accessory Uses - Accessory uses shall be permitted on the same lot with and customarily incidental to any permitted use and not conducted as an independent principal use.

SECTION 604 DENSITY DETERMINATION AND DIMENSIONAL STANDARDS

604.1 HIGHER DENSITY AND BASIC CONSERVATION OPTION

- A. Standards for Higher Density and Basic Conservation Density Factor:- One dwelling unit per the required area for the district (density factor) as shown in the Table 6-A, as determined through the Adjusted Tract Acreage approach or yield plan described in Section 605 (The density factor is reduced by sixty-five (65%) percent from that of a standard subdivision.)
- B. Minimum Required Conservation Open Space - The subdivision must include at least thirty-five (35%) percent of the Adjusted Tract Acreage plus all of the constrained land calculated in Section 605 as conservation open space.

TABLE 6-A

HIGHER DENSITY AND BASIC CONSERVATION	
DENSITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PERMITTED TYPES OF DWELLINGS	
ZONING DISTRICT	NET DENSITY FACTOR (required area per dwelling unit)
C-1 CONSERVATION DISTRICT	35,000 SQUARE FEET
A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT	28,000 SQUARE FEET

- C The Dimensional Standards in Table 6-B shall apply for Conservation Design Subdivisions under the Higher Density and Basic Conservation Option.

TABLE 6-B

HIGHER DENSITY AND BASIC CONSERVATION OPTION	
DIMENSIONAL STANDARDS FOR DETACHED SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS	
Minimum Individual Lot Area	15,000 square feet
Minimum Lot Width at Building Line	80 feet
Minimum Street Frontage	25 feet
Flag Lots	Permitted in accordance with Section 610.8 of the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
Yard Regulations: The builder or developer is urged to consider variations in the principal building position and orientation, but shall observe the following minimum standards:	
Minimum Front	20 feet
Minimum Rear	30 feet
Minimum Side	30 feet separation for principal buildings, with no side yard less than 5 feet
Maximum Lot Impervious Coverage	30%
Maximum Height	35 feet
See Table 6-C For Dimensional Standards For Townhouses	

TABLE 6-C

DIMENSIONAL STANDARDS FOR TOWNHOUSES	
Minimum Individual Lot Area	None
Maximum lot depth to width ratio	4 : 1
Minimum Lot Width at Building Line	24 feet
Yard Regulations: The builder or developer is urged to consider variations in the principal building position and orientation, but shall observe the following minimum standards:	
Minimum Front	20 feet
Minimum Rear	20 feet
Minimum Side	35 feet separation for principal buildings, with no side yard less than 5 feet
Maximum Lot Impervious Coverage	60%
Maximum Height	35 feet

SECTION 605 DENSITY DETERMINATION FOR CONSERVATION SUBDIVISIONS

Applicants shall have the choice of two methods of determining the maximum permitted residential building density on their properties. They are as follows:

1. **Adjusted Tract Acreage Approach:** Determination of the maximum number of permitted dwelling units on any given property shall be based upon the Adjusted Tract Acreage of the site. The Adjusted Tract Acreage shall be determined by multiplying the acreage classified as being in the categories of constrained land (described below) by the numerical “density factor” for that category of constrained land, summing all factored constrained land areas, and then deducting the total from the gross tract area.
 - A. The following areas of constrained land shall be deducted from the gross (total) tract area:

1. Rights-of-way: multiply the acreage of land within the rights-of-way of existing public streets or highways, or within the rights-of-way for existing or proposed overhead rights-of-way of utility lines or any other rights-of-way by 1.0.
 2. Private Streets: multiply the acreage of land under existing private streets by 1.0.
 3. Wetlands: multiply the acreage of designated wetlands by 0.95.
 4. Floodway: multiply the acreage within the floodway by 1.0.
 5. Floodplain: multiply the non-wetland portion of the 100-year floodplain by 0.5.
 6. Steep Slopes: multiply the acreage of land with natural ground slopes exceeding 25 percent by 0.80.
 7. Moderately Steep Slopes: multiply the acreage of land with natural ground slopes of between 15 and 25 percent by 0.60.
 8. Extensive Rock Outcroppings: multiply the total area of rock outcrops and boulder-fields more than 1,000 square feet by 0.90.
 9. Ponds, lakes and streams: multiply the acreage of ponds, lakes and streams by 1.0.
- B. If a portion of the tract is underlain by more than one natural feature subject to a deduction from the total tract acreage, that acreage shall be subject to the most restrictive density factor.
- C. Since acreage that is contained within the public or private rights-of-way, access easements or access strips is excluded from useable lot area, any portion of these items that also contains a natural feature subject to a deduction from the total tract acreage shall not be included when calculating the adjusted tract acreage.
2. **Yield Plan Approach:** Determination of density, or maximum number of permitted dwelling units, shall be based upon the applicable density factor applied to the gross tract acreage, as demonstrated by an actual Yield Plan. Yield Plans shall meet the following requirements:
- A. **SALDO Requirements** - Yield Plans must be prepared in accordance with the standards of the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, containing proposed lots, streets, rights-of-way, and other pertinent features. Although it must be drawn to scale, it need not be based on a field survey. However, it must be a realistic layout reflecting a development pattern that could reasonably be expected to be implemented, taking into account the presence of wetlands, floodplain, steep slopes, existing easements or encumbrances and, if unsewered, the suitability of soils for subsurface sewage disposal.
- B. **Resource Identification** - The Yield Plan must identify the site's primary and secondary conservation areas, as identified in the Existing Resources/Site Analysis Plan, and demonstrate that the primary conservation areas could be successfully absorbed in the development process without disturbance, by allocating this area to proposed single-family dwelling lots which conform to the density factor of the chosen option. The Yield Plan shall be based upon accurate mapping of wetlands, 100 year floodplains and land with slopes greater than 15 percent.
- C. **Individual Sewage Disposal Systems** - On sites not served by central sewage disposal, density shall be further determined by evaluating the number of homes that could be supported by individual on-lot sewage disposal systems on conventional lots. Based on the primary and secondary resources, identified as part of the inventory and analysis, and observations made during an on-site visit of the property, the Township

shall select a ten (10) percent sample of the lots considered to be marginal for on-lot sewage disposal. The applicant is required to provide evidence that these lots meet the standards for an individual on-lot sewage disposal system and system replacement area before the applicant shall be granted the full density determined by the Yield Plan. Should any of the lots in a sample fail to meet the standard for individual septic system, those lots shall be deducted from the yield plan and a second ten (10) percent sample shall be selected by the Township and tested for compliance. This process shall be repeated until all lots in a given sample meet the standard for an individual on-lot sewage disposal system.

- D. Yield Plan Density and Dimensional Standards -The following dimensional standards shall be used in the development of Yield Plans for Conservation by Design Subdivisions. The minimum lot sizes are derived from the density factor for the district location of the proposed development and the type of water supply and sewage disposal proposed. These minimum area dimensions are exclusive of all wetlands, slopes greater than twenty-five (25) percent, and land under high-tension electrical transmission lines (69kV or greater). No more than twenty-five (25) percent of the minimum required lot area may consist of land within the 100-year floodplain, and only then if it is free of wetlands.

Standard	C-1 District	A-1 District
Minimum lot area	100,000 sq. ft.	80,000 sq. ft.
Minimum street frontage	200 feet	200 feet
Front yard setback	50 feet	50 feet
Rear yard setback	50 feet	50 feet
Side yard setback	25 feet per side	25 feet per side

SECTION 606 DESIGN STANDARDS FOR CONSERVATION SUBDIVISIONS

- A. Houselots shall not encroach upon Primary Conservation Areas as identified Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, and their layout shall respect Secondary Conservation Areas as described in both the Township's Zoning Ordinance and in the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- B. All new dwellings shall meet the following setback requirements:
1. From all external road ultimate right-of-way - 100 feet
 2. From all other tract boundaries - 50 feet
 3. From cropland or pasture land - 100 feet
 4. From buildings or barnyards housing livestock - 300 feet
 5. From active recreation areas such as courts or playingfields (not including tot-lots) - 150 feet.
- C. Views of houselots from exterior roads and abutting properties shall be minimized by the use of changes in topography, existing vegetation, or additional landscaping which meets the landscaping requirements of the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- D. Houselots shall generally be accessed from interior streets, rather than from roads bordering the tract.

SECTION 607 GREENWAY LAND USE AND DESIGN STANDARDS

Protected greenway land in all subdivisions shall meet the following standards:

A. Uses Permitted On Greenway Lands

The following uses are permitted in greenway land areas:

1. Conservation of open land in its natural state (for example, woodland, fallow field, or managed meadow);
2. Agricultural and horticultural uses, including raising crops or livestock, wholesale nurseries, associated buildings, excluding residences that are specifically needed to support an active, viable agricultural or horticultural operation. Specifically excluded are commercial livestock operations involving swine, poultry, mink, and other animals likely to produce highly offensive odors.
3. Pastureland for horses used solely for recreational purposes. Equestrian facilities shall be permitted but may not consume more than half of the minimum required greenway land.
4. Forestry, in keeping with established best management practices for selective harvesting and sustained-yield forestry.
5. Neighborhood open space uses such as village greens, commons, picnic areas, community gardens, trails, and similar low-impact passive recreational uses specifically excluding motorized off-road vehicles, rifle ranges, and other uses similar in character and potential impact as determined by the Board.
6. Active non-commercial recreation areas, such as playingfields, playgrounds, courts, and bikeways, provided such areas do not consume more than half of the minimum required greenway land or five acres, whichever is less. Playingfields, playgrounds, and courts shall not be located within 100 feet of abutting properties. Parking facilities for the same shall also be permitted, and they shall generally be gravel-surfaced, unlighted, properly drained, provide safe ingress and egress, and contain no more than ten parking spaces.
7. Golf courses, including their parking areas and associated structures, may comprise up to half of the minimum required greenway land, but shall not include driving ranges or miniature golf.
8. Water supply and sewage disposal systems, and stormwater detention areas designed, landscaped, and available for use as an integral part of the Greenway.
9. Easements for drainage, access, sewer or water lines, or other public purposes;
10. Underground utility rights-of-way. Above-ground utility and street rights-of-way may traverse conservation areas but shall not count toward the minimum required greenway land.

B. Greenway Design Standards

1. Greenway lands shall be laid out in consideration Township's Recreation and Open Space Plan to ensure that an interconnected network of open space will be

provided. The required greenway land consists of a mixture of Primary Conservation Areas, all of which must be included, and Secondary Conservation Areas. Primary Conservation Areas comprise floodplains, wetlands, and slopes over 25%. Secondary Conservation Areas should include special features of the property that would ordinarily be overlooked or ignored during the design process.

2. The greenway land shall comprise a minimum of 35% of the Adjusted Tract Area. This land shall generally remain undivided and may be owned and maintained by a homeowners' association, land trust, another conservation organization recognized by the Township, or by a private individual (typically as part of the original farmhouse). However, in no case shall less than 30% of the land comprising the "Adjusted Tract Area" be available for the common use and passive enjoyment of the subdivision residents. These ownership options may be combined so that different parts of the greenway land may be owned by different entities.

SECTION 608 OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE OF GREENWAY LAND AND COMMON FACILITIES

A. DEVELOPMENT RESTRICTIONS

All greenway land shall be permanently restricted from future subdivision and development. Under no circumstances shall any development be permitted in the open space at any time, except for those uses listed in Section 607(A).

B. OWNERSHIP OPTIONS

The following methods may be used, either individually or in combination, to own common facilities. Common facilities shall not be transferred to another entity except for transfer to another method of ownership permitted under this section, and then only when there is no change in the common facilities or in the open space ratio of the overall development. Ownership methods shall conform to the following:

1. Fee Simple Dedication to the Township. The Township may, but shall not be required to, accept any portion of the common facilities, provided that:
 - a. There is no cost of acquisition to the Township; and,
 - b. The Township agrees to and has access to maintain such facilities.
2. Condominium Association. Common facilities may be controlled through the use of condominium agreements. Such agreements shall be in accordance with relevant state law. All open land and common facilities shall be held as "common element."
3. Homeowners' Association. Common facilities may be held in common ownership by a homeowners' association, subject to all of the provisions for homeowners' associations set forth in state regulations and statutes. In addition, the following regulations shall be met:
 - a. The applicant shall provide the Township a description of the organization of the proposed association, including its by-laws, and all documents governing ownership, maintenance, and use restrictions for common facilities;

- b. The proposed association shall be established by the owner or applicant and shall be operating (with financial subsidization by the owner or applicant, if necessary) before the sale of any dwelling units in the development;
 - c. Membership in the association shall be automatic (mandatory) for all purchasers of dwelling units therein and their successors in title;
 - d. The association shall be responsible for maintenance and insurance of common facilities;
 - e. The by-laws shall confer legal authority on the association to place a lien on the real property of any member who falls delinquent in his dues. Such dues shall be paid with the accrued interest before the lien may be lifted;
 - f. Written notice of any proposed transfer of common facilities by the association or the assumption of maintenance for common facilities must be given to all members of the association and to the Township no less than thirty days prior to such event;
 - g. The association shall have adequate staff to administer, maintain, and operate such common facilities.
4. Private Conservation Organization or the County. With permission of the Township, an owner may transfer either fee simple title of the open space or easements on the open space to a private non-profit conservation organization or to the County provided that:
- a. The conservation organization is acceptable to the Township and is a bona fide conservation organization intended to exist indefinitely;
 - b. The conveyance contains appropriate provisions for proper reverter or retransfer in the event that the organization becomes unwilling or unable to continue carrying out its functions;
 - c. The greenway land is permanently restricted from future development through a conservation easement and the Township is given the ability to enforce these restrictions; and
 - d. A maintenance agreement acceptable to the Township is established between the owner and the organization.
5. Dedication of Easements to the Township. The Township may, but shall not be required to, accept easements for public use of any portion of the common land or facilities. In such cases, the facility remains in the ownership of the condominium association, homeowners' association, or private conservation organization while the easements are held by the Township. In addition, the following regulations shall apply:
- a. There shall be no cost of acquisition to the Township;
 - b. Any such easements for public use shall be accessible to the residents of the Township; and

- c. A satisfactory maintenance agreement shall be reached between the owner and the Township

C. MAINTENANCE

1. Unless otherwise agreed to by the Board of Supervisors, the cost and responsibility of maintaining common facilities and greenway land shall be borne by the property owner, condominium association, homeowners' association, or conservation organization.
2. The applicant shall, at the time of preliminary plan submission, provide a Plan for Maintenance of Greenway Lands and Operation of Common Facilities.
 - a. The Plan shall define ownership;
 - b. The Plan shall establish necessary regular and periodic operation and maintenance responsibilities for the various kinds of open space (i.e. lawns, playing fields, meadow, pasture, cropland, woodlands, etc.);
 - c. The Plan shall estimate staffing needs, insurance requirements, and associated costs, and define the means for funding the maintenance of the greenway land and operation of any common facilities on an on-going basis. Such funding plan shall include the means for funding long-term capital improvements as well as regular yearly operating and maintenance costs;
 - d. At the Township's discretion, the applicant may be required to escrow sufficient funds for the maintenance and operation costs of common facilities for up to one year; and,
 - e. Any changes to the maintenance plan shall be approved by the Board of Supervisors
3. In the event that the organization established to maintain the greenway lands and the common facilities, or any successor organization thereto, fails to maintain all or any portion thereof in reasonable order and condition, the Township may assume responsibility for maintenance, in which case any escrow funds may be forfeited and any permits may be revoked or suspended.
4. The Township may enter the premises and take corrective action, including extended maintenance. The costs of such corrective action may be charged to the property owner, condominium association, homeowners association, conservation organization, or individual property owners who make up a condominium or homeowners' association and may include administrative costs and penalties. Such costs shall become a lien on said properties. Notice of such lien shall be filed by the Township in the office of the Prothonotary of Luzerne County.

ARTICLE 7 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS

SECTION 701 PURPOSE

The purpose of a use classified as a "special exception" is to provide expressed standards for regulating unique or special characteristics of certain uses which may otherwise allow such uses to be permitted by right within their respective zoning district, as provided in Article 5, Zoning District Regulations.

SECTION 702 GENERAL PROVISIONS

The authority for approving or denying applications for uses permitted by special exception shall be vested in the Zoning Hearing Board in accordance with the provisions contained in Article 16. Decisions by the Zoning Hearing Board shall be made pursuant to the standards and criteria set forth in Section 1610.2, the respective zoning district in which the use is located, all other applicable regulations of this Ordinance, other ordinances of the Township and any applicable State and/or Federal regulations.

SECTION 703 SITE PLAN

Uses classified as a special exception shall file, in addition to a zoning permit, a site plan at a scale of:

One (1) inch equals fifty (50) feet for uses/developments located upon properties in excess of one (1) acre.

OR

One (1) inch equals twenty (20) feet for uses/developments located upon properties one (1) acre or less.

Such plan shall provide all applicable information required for the Zoning Hearing Board to render a decision, including but not limited to the following:

- A. The applicant shall submit a narrative outline that fully describes all proposed uses or development of the site, and all pertinent operational aspects, features, and/or activities related to the proposed uses or development of the site.
- B. The applicant shall provide upon the site plan the location and size of all buildings and structures, existing and proposed, including both principal and accessory buildings and structures.
- C. The applicant shall provide upon the site plan the location of all off-street parking areas and/or loading areas.
- D. The applicant shall provide upon the site plan the location of all open space areas, including buffer areas and fencing, if applicable.

- E. The applicant shall provide upon the site plan the means of traffic access to the site and internal traffic circulation within the site including the width and pavement of traffic lanes, and aisle widths.
- F. The applicant shall provide upon the site plan all streets, both public and private, within two hundred (200) feet of the site, including the right-of-way and cartway widths.
- G. The applicant shall provide upon the site plan the contours of the site for each five (5) feet of change in elevation, based upon a field survey of the site, with the name of the person or firm who conducted the survey and the date of the survey when the proposed use includes new construction and/or grading of the site. If applicable, the applicant shall be required to submit a Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Plan and/or a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) for review and approval by the Luzerne County Conservation District.
- H. The applicant shall provide upon the site plan the location, nature and terms of any existing or proposed easements on the site and any easements both on-site and off-site which are used or intended to be used for access to the site, including the name and address of the owner or owner's granting such easements.
- I. The applicant shall provide upon the site plan the location of all streams, ponds, watercourses, wetlands or any other bodies of water, including natural or man-made drainage swales, located on the site or within two- hundred (200) feet of the site.
- J. If the proposed use is nonresidential, the applicant shall provide upon the site plan the location of any residential structure within two hundred (200) feet of any property boundary line of the subject site.
- K. The applicant shall supply upon the site plan the County Map, Block and Lot Number of the subject parcel as contained in the records in the Office of the Luzerne County Recorder of Deeds and a copy of the deed to the subject property.
- L. The applicant shall provide upon the site plan a location map at a scale of not greater than one (1) inch equals two thousand (2,000) feet, indicating the relationship of the site to its geographic proximity within the Township.
- M. The applicant shall supply any other information required by the Rice Township Zoning Hearing Board for determining the conformance of the special exception use with the applicable regulations for that particular use.

SECTION 704 IMPACT ANALYSIS

In considering an application for a special exception, the Zoning Hearing Board shall have the authority to require the applicant to prepare an "Impact Analysis" on a particular aspect of the subject application and/or potential effect of the subject application in relationship to surrounding properties in accordance with the definition of said term as provided within Article 2 of this Ordinance. The cost of preparing and/or providing such information shall be borne by the applicant.

ARTICLE 8 CONDITIONAL USES

SECTION 801 PURPOSE

The purpose of a use classified as a “Conditional Use” is to provide expressed standards to regulate uses classified as such in particular zoning districts, as provided in Article 5 of this Ordinance.

SECTION 802 GENERAL PROVISIONS

The authority for approving or denying applications for uses permitted as a conditional use shall be vested in the Rice Township Board of Supervisors, with the Rice Township Planning Commission having the authority to review and submit their recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Decisions by the Board of Supervisors shall be made in accordance with standards and criteria set forth in this Article, any studies and reports required within the context of an Impact Analysis, as so defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance, the respective zoning district in which the use is located, all other applicable regulations of this Ordinance, other ordinances of the Township and all applicable State and/or Federal regulations.

SECTION 803 PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION AND DECISIONS

The procedure for approval or denial of a conditional use shall be in accordance with the following:

- A. An application for a conditional use permit shall be submitted to the Zoning Officer with a site plan at a scale of not greater than:

One inch (1) equals fifty (50) feet for properties in excess of two (2) acres.

OR

One (1) inch equals twenty (20) feet for properties being two (2) acres or less.

Such plan shall, at minimum, indicate:

1. The location and size of all buildings and structures, both principal and accessory, both existing and proposed.
2. The location of all off-street parking areas and/or loading and unloading areas.
3. The location of all open space areas, including buffer areas and fencing, as applicable.
4. Traffic access to the site and internal traffic circulation including the width and pavement of traffic lanes, and aisle widths.

5. All streets, both public and private within two-hundred (200) feet of the site, including right-of-way and cartway widths.
 6. Streams, ponds, watercourses, wetlands, or any other types of bodies of water, including natural or man-made drainage swales, located on the site or within two hundred (200) feet of the site.
 7. The location, nature and terms of any existing or proposed easements on the site, and any easements both on-site and off-site which are used or intended to be used for access to the site, including the name and address of the owner or owners granting such easement.
 8. The location of any residential structures which border the site on an adjoining lot and/or those within two hundred (200) feet of any property boundary line of the subject site.
 9. The Map, Block and Lot Number of the subject parcel, as contained in the records of the Office of the Luzerne County Recorder of Deeds.
 10. A location map at a scale of not greater than one (1) inch equals two thousand (2,000) feet, indicating the relation of the site to its geographic proximity within the Township.
 11. In cases when a proposed use includes new construction and/or grading of the site, contours of the site for each five (5) feet of change in elevation, based upon a field survey of the site, with the name of the person or firm who conducted the survey and the date of the survey shall be required. As applicable, the applicant shall be required to submit a Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan for review and approval by the Luzerne County Conservation District.
 12. The applicant shall submit with the site plan, a narrative that outlines and fully describes all proposed uses or development of the site, along with all pertinent operational aspects, features and/or activities related to the proposed uses or development of the site.
 13. The applicant shall supply any other information required by the Rice Township Board of Supervisors for determining the conformance of the conditional use with the regulations for that particular use.
- B. Prior to approving or denying an application for a conditional use, the Rice Township Board of Supervisors shall conduct a public hearing pursuant to public notice. The Board of Supervisors shall submit the application for the proposed conditional use to the Rice Township Planning Commission, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the public hearing, to allow the Planning Commission to submit any such recommendations as they may deem appropriate.

- C. The public hearing shall be held and conducted in accordance with the same procedural guidelines, which govern the Zoning Hearing Board under Article 16 of this Ordinance. The term "Board of Supervisors" shall replace the term "Zoning Hearing Board" in relevant passages of said Article.
- D. The Board of Supervisors shall convene a hearing on a conditional use application within sixty (60) days from the date of the applicant's request, unless the applicant has agreed in writing to an extension of time. The sixty (60) day time period shall not commence until the applicant has submitted a properly completed application, with all required signatures and all required fees. Each subsequent hearing shall be held within forty-five (45) days of the prior hearing unless otherwise agreed to by the applicant in writing or on the record.
- E. The Board of Supervisors shall render a final decision on a conditional use application within forty-five (45) days following the conclusion of the last public hearing. If the Board of Supervisors fails to render a final decision within forty-five (45) days following the conclusion of the last public hearing the decision shall be deemed to have been rendered in favor of the applicant, unless the applicant has agreed in writing or on the record to an extension of time

If the Board of Supervisors fails to conduct or complete the required hearing as provided for under Section 1606(D) of this Ordinance, the decision shall be deemed to have been rendered in favor of the applicant unless the applicant has agreed in writing or on the record to an extension of time.

When a decision has been rendered in favor of the applicant because of the failure of the Board of Supervisors to meet or render a decision as hereinabove provided, the Board of Supervisors shall give public notice of the decision within ten (10) days from the last day it could have met to render a decision in the same manner as required by public notice. If the Board of Supervisors fails to provide such notice, the applicant may do so.

- F. The Board of Supervisors may grant an approval for a conditional use upon its determination that adequate evidence and information has been provided, which indicates the applicant's proposal meets the general and specific requirements for the type of conditional use in question, and any additional conditions and safeguards deemed necessary to protect the public health, safety and general welfare.

SECTION 804 GENERAL STANDARDS

The general standards contained herein, shall be utilized in the review of applications and plans for any use which is classified as a conditional use.

- A. The proposed use shall not jeopardize the Community Development Objectives of this Ordinance nor shall it adversely affect the health, safety and welfare of the public and/or the environment.
- B. Public services and facilities such as streets, sewage disposal, water, police and fire protection shall be adequate for the proposed use.

- C. Existing and future streets and access to the site shall be adequate for emergency services, for avoiding undue congestion, and for providing for the safety and convenience of pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The proposed use shall not result in unsafe or dangerous traffic conditions.
- D. The proposed use shall be compatible with the adjoining development and the character of the zoning district where it is proposed to be located. The nature and intensity of the operation of the proposed use shall be considered regarding its compatibility or lack thereof with the adjoining development and the character of the zoning district.
- E. The proposed use shall not substantially impair the value of other property in the neighborhood where it is proposed to be located.
- F. The proposed use and/or development shall not be more objectionable in its operation in terms of noise, fumes, odors, vibration or lighting than would be the operations of any permitted use in the district.
- G. The proposed use and/or development shall not result in any adverse or negative impacts based upon the information required with submission of an Environmental Impact Statement required under Section 806 of this Ordinance, and all subsections thereunder.
- H. The submission of any reports and/or studies within the context of the definition "Impact Analysis" as contained within Article 2 of this Ordinance, must conclusively demonstrates that the proposed use or development will not have a negative impact upon the particular subject or subjects as defined by the Board of Supervisors including but not limited to the interest of protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public and environmental features and characteristics of the site and/or surrounding areas.

SECTION 805 CLASSIFIED CONDITIONAL USES

The following uses/developments are classified as conditional uses within Article 5 of this Ordinance:

- Automotive Wrecking Yards (as defined in Article 2)
- Campgrounds (as defined in Article 2)
- Commercial Communication Towers, Antennas & Accessory Equipment Buildings
- Detention Facility
- Extraction and Excavation of Minerals (as defined in Article 2)
- Heavy Industry (as defined in Article 2)
- Junk Yards (as defined in Article 2)
- Methadone Treatment Facilities (as defined in Article 2)
- Mineral Processing (as defined in Article 2)
- Mobile Home Parks (including expansion of existing mobile home parks)
- Planned Residential Developments (also see Article 17)

- Sewage Disposal Plants
- Sexually Oriented Uses (as defined in Article 2)
- Solid Waste Facilities
- Staging Areas
- Transfer Stations
- Wind Energy Facilities
- Any use which utilizes and/or stores any “Hazardous Substances,”(as defined in Article 2)
- Any nonresidential use, permitted by right or special exception, shall be deemed to be a conditional use if involves either of the following:
 - a. the initial or cumulative land disturbance that equals or exceeds eighty thousand (80,000) square feet of surface area.
 - b. the initial or cumulative construction, placement or installation of buildings and/or structures that equals or exceeds twenty thousand (20,000) square feet of gross floor area.

SECTION 806 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

In addition to all other requirements, an Environmental Impact Statement shall be required for any use/development which is classified as a conditional use. The Board of Supervisors, at its sole discretion, may exempt a use from the submission of an Environmental Impact Statement, in whole or in part. Consideration of an exemption must be preceded by a written request submitted by the applicant which addresses the basis for the requested exemption. The purpose of the Environmental Impact Statement is to disclose the environmental consequences of a proposed action. This requirement is designed to protect the natural environment with respect to water quality, water supply, soil erosion, pollution of any kind, flooding and waste disposal. The intent is to preserve trees and vegetation, to protect water courses, air quality, aquifers and the quality of life throughout Rice Township and its environs. An Environmental Impact Statement shall include a response to the following items and said proposed use/development shall further comply with all other applicable standards and requirements of this Ordinance:

806.01. SOIL TYPES

- a. U.S.D.A. Soil Types (illustrated upon map).
- b. Permeability of soil on the site.
- c. Rate of percolation of water through the soil for every five acres.

806.02 SURFACE WATERS

- a. Distance of site from the nearest surface water and head waters of streams.
- b. Sources of runoff water.
- c. Rate of runoff from the site.

- d. Destination of runoff water and method of controlling down stream effects.
- e. Chemical additives to runoff water on the site.
- f. Submission of a soils erosion and sedimentation control plan meeting the requirements of the Luzerne County Conservation District.
- g. A storm water management plan which shall be developed in coordination with the soils erosion and sedimentation plan.

806.03 GROUND COVER INCLUDING TREES

- a. Extent of existing impervious ground cover on the site.
- b. Extent of proposed impervious ground cover on the site.
- c. Extent of existing vegetative cover on the site.
- d. Extent of proposed vegetative cover on the site.

806.04 TOPOGRAPHY

- a. Maximum existing elevation of site.
- b. Minimum existing elevation of site.
- c. Maximum proposed elevation of site.
- d. Minimum proposed elevation of site.
- e. Description of the topography of the site and all proposed changes in topography.

806.05 GROUND WATER

- a. Average depth to seasonal high water table.
- b. Minimum depth to water table on site.
- c. Maximum depth to water table on site.

806.06 WATER SUPPLY

- a. The source and adequacy of water to be provided to the site.
- b. The projected water requirements (G.P.D.) for the site.

- c. The uses to which the water will be put.

806.07 SEWAGE SYSTEM

- a. Sewage disposal system (description and location on the site of system).
- b. Expected content of sewage effluents (human waste, pesticides, detergents, oils, heavy metals, and other chemicals).
- c. Projected daily volumes of sewage.
- d. Affected sewage treatment plant's present capacity and design capacity.

806.08 SOLID WASTE

- a. Estimated quantity of solid waste to be developed and/or processed on the site during and after construction.
- b. Method of disposal and/or processing of solid waste during and after construction.
- c. Plans for recycling of solid waste during and after construction.

806.09 AIR QUALITY

- a. Expected changes in air quality due to activities at the site during and after construction.
- b. Plans for control of emissions affecting air quality.

806.10 NOISE

- a. Noise levels, above existing levels, anticipated to be generated at the site, (source and magnitude), during and after construction.
- b. Proposed method for control of additional noise on-site during and after construction.

806.11 IMPACT OF PROPOSED USE/DEVELOPMENT

A description of the impacts on the environment and mitigating factors shall be provided for the following:

- a. Existing plant species, (upland and marine), and effects thereon.
- b. Existing animal species and effects thereon.
- c. Existing wild fowl and other birds and effects thereon.

- d. Effects of drainage and runoff.
- e. Effects on ground water quality.
- f. Effects on surface water quality.
- g. Effects on air quality.
- h. Alternatives to proposed use/development, consistent with the zoning of the site.
- i. Projected amount and type of traffic to be generated and the effects of the same on public roads and highways.

806.12 IMPACT UPON CRITICAL AREAS

The applicant shall define, describe and identify upon a map, critical areas as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance. A statement of any potential impact upon critical areas shall be provided by the applicant, including but not limited to adverse impacts which cannot be avoided and/or mitigated as a resulting effect of the development.

806.13 OTHER GOVERNMENTAL JURISDICTION

A list of all licenses, permits and other approvals required by County, State or Federal law and the status of each.

806.14 REVIEW PROCEDURE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

- A. Upon receipt of an Environmental Impact Statement, the Board of Supervisors shall promptly forward the Environmental Impact Statement to the Township Planning Commission, the Township Planning Consultant, the Township Engineer and any other agency, firm or individual which the Board of Supervisors may desire for their consultation and input.
- B. The Planning Commission shall review the applicant's Environmental Impact Statement and provide the Board of Supervisors with its comments and recommendations within thirty (30) days from the date of its submission to the Planning Commission.
- C. The Board of Supervisors shall have the discretion to retain the expertise of appropriate parties in their review of the Environmental Impact Statement.

- D. A determination by the Board of Supervisors of a potential adverse impact which may result shall constitute sufficient basis for the denial of a conditional use permit.

***SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS FOR CERTAIN CONDITIONAL USES.
THESE REGULATIONS ARE IN ADDITION TO THOSE CONTAINED IN
SECTIONS 804 AND SECTION 806 OF THIS ORDINANCE.***

SECTION 807 SOLID WASTE FACILITY

A solid waste facility shall conclusively demonstrate conformance to all of the following items:

- A. The applicant shall provide a comprehensive soil analysis and groundwater report which shall conclusively demonstrate that the proposed design, construction and operation of the solid waste facility shall not pollute surface or groundwater, nor otherwise cause any potential health or environmental hazard. Said report shall be jointly signed and certified by the applicant and the consultant, who prepares the report, attesting to the accuracy of information and the validity of said report.
- B. The applicant shall sign an agreement prepared by the Township Solicitor, prior to final approval of the application for a Conditional Use Permit which shall specify all the terms and conditions of approval, including the Township's authority to revoke the Permit for the violation of any terms and/or conditions under which the application was approved. Prior to formal action to revoke the Conditional Use Permit, the Board of Supervisors shall convene a public hearing, pursuant to public notice, to consider testimony and evidence relative to the alleged violations. Based upon the testimony and evidence provided, the Board of Supervisors shall render a decision.
- C. The land area and/or parcel of land on which the solid waste facility is located shall not exceed twenty-five (25) acres, whether developed initially or cumulatively.
- D. The applicant of a proposed solid waste facility shall provide conclusive evidence, based upon a mining report, soil analysis, test borings and any other appropriate technical data which conclusively demonstrates that the subsurface conditions beneath any area to be utilized as a landfill is capable of sustaining the bearing load of projected and/or planned quantity of material to be deposited and/or disposed of upon the site. The applicant and the person, party or firm providing such evidence shall jointly sign and certify the accuracy and validity of the information and data which is provided as conclusive evidence.
- E. Any application for a Conditional Use Permit for a solid waste facility, which includes the operation of a landfill, shall include a proposed reuse of the property and/or area utilized as a landfill upon the cessation of landfill activities. The proposed reuse of the property shall not be inconsistent with the

Community Development Objectives of this Ordinance and land uses, existing and planned, on property which adjoins the site of the Facility.

- F. The applicant shall be required to create an escrow fund to finance the proposed and planned reuse and development of any area utilized as a landfill based upon the projected life expectancy of any area within the solid waste facility which is utilized as a landfill. Such fund shall be funded while the property is still being used for a landfill with annual increment payments. The annual increment payment shall be based upon the estimated cost of the proposed reuse of the site divided by the number of years which the landfill is expected to operate. Such fund shall be separate and distinct from any funding and/or bonding requirement pursuant to closure activities.
- G. A solid waste facility may conduct and operate all approved functional aspects within the Facility from the hours of 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. from Monday through Friday. Said Facility shall not conduct and/or operate any approved functional aspects associated with the Facility on Saturdays, Sundays and all legally recognized holidays by the federal government and/or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- H. The entire site of a solid waste facility shall be enclosed with industrial type gauge fencing which shall be ten (10) feet in height. All gates shall be closed and locked at the end of business hours. There shall be no advertising of any kind displayed upon the fence.
- I. No operations and/or activities permitted within a solid waste facility shall be permitted within one thousand (1,000) feet of any property line boundary.
- J. All solid waste facilities and staging areas which store the solid waste at any stage prior to disposal at an approved facility shall maintain the aforesaid solid waste within a completely enclosed building. Storage of materials, supplies or solid waste in motor vehicles, trucks, trailers or other containers normally used to transport the materials shall not be permitted unless the aforesaid motor vehicles, trucks, trailers or other containers shall be stored within a completely enclosed building.
- K. A solid waste facility shall provide for treatment and disposal of all liquid effluent and discharges generated by the facility due to the storage, washing or other process used in treating and/or processing the solid waste. Any water discharge from the facility after being treated by the waste water treatment system shall meet all applicable regulations and requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.
- L. All storm water collected on the site shall be treated by the facility's wastewater treatment system. Parking of motor vehicles containing solid waste or motor vehicles which have not been properly cleaned and washed shall only be permitted in completely enclosed buildings, handling areas or parking areas in which containment of spillage, leakage or other contaminants is provided.

- M. The owner and/or operator of any solid waste facility shall be required to monitor the ground and surface water in the vicinity of the facility. Water testing shall be conducted every three (3) months on any stream within 500 feet of any areas used for the storage or disposal of solid waste, if water drainage from the facility is discharged into said stream. For each testing period two (2) testing samples shall be collected: one sample shall be taken from the stream at a point upstream of the facility drainage area and one sample shall be taken from the stream at a point below the facility drainage area. In addition, the well location, if applicable, located on the premises shall also be sampled every three (3) months. All water samples shall be collected and analyzed by an independent party which is a certified water analysis laboratory for hydrocarbons or other parameters deemed appropriate by the Board of Supervisors, and the results shall be provided to the Township. If said samples exceed the limits established by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the facility shall immediately cease operation until such time as the source of the contamination has been identified and totally corrected.
- O. The area or areas upon which any permitted operations and/or activities within a solid waste facility are conducted shall be entirely screened. Such screening shall consist of a variety of evergreen trees, approved by the Board of Supervisors, planted not more than six (6) feet apart and being not less than eight (8') feet in height at the time of planting. Said screening shall be located not greater than three hundred (300) feet from the operations and/or activities which are subject to being screened. The applicant and/or operator of the Facility shall be responsible to maintain such screening, including the replacement of any trees which are damaged, die or otherwise fail to grow.
- P. The applicant shall provide a detailed narrative which fully describes the daily operations of all permitted functions and activities within the proposed solid waste facility, including the projected daily volume and tonnage of refuse being accepted for processing and/or disposal.
- Q. The applicant shall submit to the Board of Supervisors, a copy of their commercial policy of liability insurance covering third party claims for property damage and personal injury.
- R. Vehicular access for ingress, egress and regress to a solid waste facility shall be solely limited to private access roads. Such private access roads shall only have access to a state legislative route with no permitted access to or from any local streets and/or roads.
- S. The owner and or operator of a solid waste facility shall provide an emergency response plan to address potential hazards associated with its operations. Said plan shall be submitted for review and comment to the local fire companies which serve Rice Township.
- T. Any solid waste facility which processes sludge, prior to its final disposal, shall be designed to include a liner in accordance with the applicable standards of the Department of Environmental Protection for the liner within a proposed landfill.

- U. Any solid waste facility which includes incineration shall be designed and operated in a manner to limit emissions by not less than ten (10%) percent below the applicable allowable emission standards of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection or the United States Environmental Protection Agency, based upon the more restrictive regulations for reducing and/or limiting air pollution. Any emissions stack or similar structure shall not exceed one hundred (100) feet in height.
- V. The applicant shall in addition to other required information and data provide an "Impact Analysis" that addresses the impact of the proposed operation and activities of a solid waste facility in relationship to the following items:
 - 1. All streets and roads which shall and/or are likely to be utilized for means of access to and from the site, including projected truck traffic which shall be generated in relationship to the projected daily volume of waste being transported to the solid waste facility.
 - 2. The suitability of the site for the proposed operations and activities of the solid waste facility in relationship to the soils, slopes, woodlands, wetlands, flood plains, aquifers, natural resources and other natural features which are located both on-site and off-site of the Facility.
 - 3. The impact, both on-site and off-site, of the proposed operations and activities of the solid waste facility on the soils, slopes, woodlands, wetlands, flood plains, aquifers, natural resources and other natural features regarding the degree to which these are protected or destroyed, the tolerance of these resources to the proposed development and any adverse environmental impacts.
 - 4. The impact of the proposed operations and activities of the Solid Waste Facility upon any locations or structures of historical and/or cultural significance within 3,000 feet of any property line of the facility.

807.2 MITIGATION OF ADVERSE IMPACTS

In the event that any information, data, and/or "Impact Analysis" indicates a projected and/or potential adverse impact, the applicant shall fully mitigate such impact. A determination of a potential adverse impact which may result, based upon the Environmental Impact Statement or the Board of Supervisors' review of the same shall constitute sufficient basis for the denial of a conditional use permit.

807.3 HOST MUNICIPALITY FEE

A host municipality fee shall be executed between Rice Township and applicant, owner and/or operator of a solid waste facility prior to the commencement of construction of said Facility.

SECTION 808 EXCAVATION AND EXTRACTION OF MINERALS

Excavation and extraction of minerals, as defined in Article 2, shall be considered a temporary use, subject to the following requirements:

- A. Project Narrative: A written report shall be submitted by the applicant that includes the type of minerals proposed to be excavated, extracted, and/or removed from the site, the volume of such material and the maximum length of time associated with the proposed operation based upon the stated volume of material. Said narrative shall also describe normal, daily operational features performed upon the site, including but not limited to, proposed hours of operation, anticipated noise levels, and the type and volume of truck traffic to be generated with the proposed traffic routes to and from the site.
- B. Map: Submission of a map or maps at a scale of not greater than one (1) inch equals fifty (50) feet that outlines the entire property and the proposed area subject to excavation, extraction, and/or removal of minerals. Said map shall indicate existing contours prior to the start of work, and proposed final contours, including the proposed maximum depth of excavation at all points subject to excavation. Said map or maps shall also contain surface features showing the location of buildings, dwellings, places of worship, schools, railroads, highways and public uses within a distance of five hundred (500) feet from the perimeter of the proposed use.
- C. Bond, Backfilling and Fees: The applicant shall provide documentation that all applicable State requirements relative to providing a bond that guarantees the restoration and backfilling of any land proposed to be excavated or otherwise disturbed has been secured.
- D. Insurance: That a Certificate of Insurance evidencing that the quarry operator has general liability insurance with limits of \$500,000 per accident and \$1,000,000 in the aggregate for bodily injury and personal injuries, and \$1,000,000 per accident and in the aggregate for property damage, be filed with the Board of Supervisors; which Certificate shall indicate that Dorrance Township is listed as an additional insured on the aforementioned policy for losses arising out of the named insured's operations at the quarry.
- E. Distance Provisions: The perimeter of any excavation under this Section shall comply with the governing provisions of Chapter 77 of the Pennsylvania Code (Noncoal Mining), as amended.
- F. Timing: If blasting is a necessary part of the excavation/extraction process, blasting shall occur only between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. local time, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and the following holidays:

January 1st
Memorial Day
July 4th
Labor Day

Thanksgiving
Christmas

All blasting shall be in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The applicant shall provide the Township with not less than a forty-eight (48) hour advance notice.

- G. Location of Processing Equipment: To reduce airborne dust, dirt and noise, all structures for sorting, crushing, grinding, loading, weighing, washing and other operations shall be not less than five hundred (500) feet from both the right-of-way of any public street and the boundary of the subject property with any property located in any zoning district that allows a residence as a principal permitted use; unless a lesser distance is approved for either dimension by the Board of Supervisors as part of a conditional use approval decision.
- H. Drainage: All excavations shall be adequately drained with the intent to avoid the formation of stagnant pools of water. Adequate measures shall be taken prior to any excavation and fully documented prior to approval of the operation. This is not intended to supersede any reclamation plan approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.
- I. Compliance With State Requirements: Final and/or unconditional approval for excavation, extraction and/or minerals under the provisions of this Ordinance shall not be issued until the applicant documents that all required licenses and/or permits have been properly secured from the applicable State and /or Federal agencies, including but not limited to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

SECTION 809 SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES

The location and operation of a public or private sewage disposal facility, including but not limited to, sewage treatment plants, shall be designed and constructed in full compliance with the applicable regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Written approval from DEP shall be secured prior to the start of construction for the installation of such facilities. All sewage treatment facilities shall be completely screened from view on all sides by a Buffer Area as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance. No such facility shall be within two hundred (200) feet of any existing property line or within four hundred (400) feet of any existing residential use.

SECTION 810 JUNKYARDS AND/OR AUTOMOTIVE WRECKING YARDS

All new junk yards and automotive wrecking yards, or the proposed expansion of an existing junk yard and automotive wrecking yard, shall comply with the following:

- A. Such premises shall at all times be maintained so as not to constitute a nuisance or menace to the health of the community or residents nearby or a place for the breeding of rodents and vermin.

- B. Burning of any materials shall be prohibited.
- C. No oil, grease, tires or gasoline shall be burned at any time.
- D. No garbage, organic waste, rubbish, toxic materials and hazardous materials shall be stored on such premises.
- E. Whenever any motor vehicle shall be received on such premises as junk, all gasoline and oil shall be drained and removed therefrom and disposed of in a manner consistent with the applicable rules and regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.
- F. The storage of any combustible materials, such as gasoline, oil or related items, shall be placed in fireproof containers and stored within fireproof sheds.
- G. The manner of storage and arrangement of junk and the drainage facilities on the site shall be such as to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water upon the premises. A storm water drainage plan shall be required.
- H. There shall be no stockpiling of motor vehicles, nor shall there be any junk piled higher than four (4) feet.
- I. There shall be a roadway fourteen (14) feet in width provided for every forty (40) linear feet of junk. The roadway shall be kept open and unobstructed for proper access for fire fighting equipment and safety purposes.
- J. Junk shall not be stored within one hundred (100) feet of any adjoining property line or nearer than one hundred (100) feet to any adjoining or abutting street.
- K. All junkyards shall be completely screened from view on all sides by a buffer area as so defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance. The required fence shall be not closer than twenty (20) feet to any property line.
- L. Such premises may be open for business or any work in connection with the storage, processing and transportation or removal of junk only on Monday, through Saturday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., local time.

SECTION 811 SEXUALLY ORIENTED USES

No adult use, as so defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance, shall be located less than 1,000 feet from any of the following uses:

- 1. A residential dwelling.
- 2. A place of worship

3. A public or quasi-public use or structure.
4. A zoning boundary of any zoning district in which residences are permitted as a principal permitted use.

Measurements of the required distance shall be made in a straight line, from the nearest portion of the structure or premises of an adult use, to the nearest property line of the above noted uses. The structure and/or premises of an adult use, including all off-street parking areas shall be completely enclosed by a fence, not less than eight (8) feet in height and screened by a variety of evergreen trees which shall be planted not more than six (6) feet apart and being not less than eight (8) feet in height at the time of planting. The owner of the property shall be responsible to maintain such screening, including the replacement of any trees which are damaged, die, removed by whatever means or otherwise fail to grow.

SECTION 812 METHADONE TREATMENT FACILITY

- A. A methadone treatment facility shall be located upon a lot having an area of not less than twenty thousand (20,000) square feet, applicable for either new construction or for adaptive reuse of an existing structure.
- B. Any proposed methadone treatment facility shall include with its submission of a zoning permit application, an operational narrative which accurately describes the nature of medical services to be offered and the names of the medical practitioners providing said services. A licensed physician, an MD or a DO, shall be on duty at the facility during the methadone treatment facility's hours of operation
- C. Any existing structure proposed for adaptive reuse as a methadone treatment facility shall be brought into compliance with all current building codes and all other applicable Township, County, State and Federal regulations prior to occupancy.
- D. Any methadone treatment facility with direct access and/or frontage along a State Legislative Route shall include with its submission of a zoning permit application, a traffic impact analysis prepared by a professional licensed engineer with expertise in transportation and traffic planning. Such analysis shall demonstrate the following:
 1. The number of vehicle trips expected to be generated during an average weekday and during both a.m. and p.m. peak hours of adjacent street traffic.
 2. The number and types of vehicles, with an origin or destination at the subject site, the need for which is generated by said use.
 3. The routes, roadways or streets to reach the methadone treatment facility.

4. The impact of the levels-of service at intersections within one (1) mile of said methadone treatment facility.
 5. Recommended traffic control devices designed to mitigate the documented impact on adjacent roadways.
- E. A methadone treatment facility shall demonstrate its compliance with supplying the required number of off-street parking spaces as provided for in Article 12 of this Ordinance. All off-street parking areas shall be adequately lighted, with a lighting plan included within the submission of the required site plan.
- F. A methadone treatment facility, as so defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance, shall be located not less than five hundred (500) feet from any of the following uses:
1. School
 2. Public playground
 3. Public Park
 4. Residential Housing Area
 5. Child-care Facility
 6. Church
 7. Meetinghouse, or other actual place of regularly stated religious worship established prior to the proposed methadone treatment facility.

Measurements of the required distance shall be made in a straight line, from the nearest portion of the structure or premises of a methadone treatment facility, to the nearest property line of the above noted uses.

If a methadone treatment facility is proposed to be located less than five hundred (500) feet from any of the above uses, the following procedure shall apply:

1. At least fourteen (14) days prior to voting on the conditional use application, one (1) or more public hearings regarding the proposed methadone treatment facility shall be convened by the Board of Supervisors subject to public notice.
2. Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the public hearing, the Board of Supervisors shall provide written notice of said public hearing to all owners of real property located within five hundred (500) feet of the proposed location of the methadone treatment facility.

SECTION 813 COMMERCIAL COMMUNICATION TOWER, ANTENNA & ACCESSORY
EQUIPMENT BUILDINGS

A. STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY AND SAFETY

1. A commercial antenna and support structure for a Commercial Communication Tower shall be designed and constructed to meet or exceed all applicable standards of the American National Standards Institute, NSI/EPA-222-E manual, as amended and also to FAA standards for marking and lighting requirements of obstructions to air navigation as set within the most recent edition of Advisory Circular AC 70/7460-1H including any amendments thereto
2. A soil report complying with the standards of Appendix I: Geotechnical Investigations, ANSI/EIA-222-E manual, as amended, shall be submitted to document and verify the design specifications of the foundation for the commercial antenna and support structure, and anchors for the guy wires, if used.
3. The operational use of a commercial antenna, as so defined within this Ordinance, including those mounted upon a support structure or to an existing structure, shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the FCC and the FAA.
4. The applicant or owner of a commercial antenna and support structure shall provide a design certificate and an operational certificate, prepared by a professional engineer, which certifies compliance with the standards addressed in the above items A, B and C. The design certificate shall be submitted with the Zoning Application for the proposed commercial antenna and support structure. The operational certificate shall include “as-built” drawings and written certification from the applicant’s professional engineer that all applicable regulations have been met.

B. HEIGHT AND SETBACK REQUIREMENTS

1. A commercial antenna when mounted upon an existing structure, including an existing building, shall not exceed the height of the existing structure by more than eight (8) feet.
2. A commercial antenna and support structure shall be setback from any property line to a distance that is not less than one hundred and fifty (150%) percent of the height of the antenna and support structure as measured in linear feet.
3. Any building utilized as a component of a commercial enterprise in the collection and/or transmission of telecommunication signals, radio signals, television signals, wireless phone signals or similar signals shall be completely enclosed by a fence, eight (8) feet in height, with such building meeting the setback requirements for the zoning district in which it is located.

4. The applicant shall demonstrate, using technological evidence, that the commercial antenna and support structure must be located where it is being proposed and that it represents the minimum height required to function satisfactorily.
5. A commercial antenna and support structure shall be designed with excess capacity beyond the initial intended use in order to encourage secondary users to lease the balance of the capacity at reasonable rates. When a new antenna and support structure is proposed, the applicant must demonstrate that all alternatives to the construction of a new antenna support structure have been exhausted.
6. All commercial antennas that equal or exceed one hundred (100) feet in height shall be designed and equipped with FAA approved warning lights.
7. Up to the height of the tallest nearby trees, the commercial antenna and support structure shall be a brownish color, whether painted brown or caused by oxidation or otherwise, to lessen its visual impact. Above that height, it shall be designed in both color and structural configuration to be camouflaged with surrounding trees and vegetation in a manner that will minimize its visual impact.
8. A commercial antenna and support structure or an antenna mounted upon an existing structure shall be removed by the owner of the same within six (6) months of the discontinuance of its use. The owner shall provide Rice Township with a copy of the notice to the FCC of intent to cease operations. The six month period for the removal of the antenna and support structure or an antenna mounted upon an existing structure shall commence on the date indicated for ceasing operations.

C. SITE PLANS

1. A site plan in conformance with the governing standards of the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, as amended, shall also be required when the location of a free-standing commercial antenna and support structure represents a described parcel of land subject to a lease, within an existing deed of record.
2. A new site plan shall not be required when a proposed antenna is to be located on an existing free-standing commercial antenna support structure or a public utility transmission tower.

D. SUPPLEMENTAL STANDARDS AND CRITERIA

1. The applicant shall demonstrate that the proposed commercial antenna and support structure complies with all applicable State and Federal standards.

2. The applicant shall demonstrate that the proposed commercial antenna and its support structure are safe and the surrounding properties will not be negatively affected by support structure failure, falling ice or other debris.
3. All support structures shall be fitted with anti-climbing devices, as approved by the manufacturers.
4. A commercial antenna and support structure shall be designed with excess capacity beyond the initial intended use in order to encourage secondary users to lease the balance of the capacity at reasonable rates. When a new antenna and support structure is proposed, the applicant must demonstrate that all alternatives to the construction of a new antenna support structure have been exhausted.
5. The commercial antenna and support structure shall be a brownish color (whether painted brown or caused by oxidation or otherwise to lessen its visual impact) up to the height of the tallest nearby trees. Above that height, it shall be painted silver or another color that will minimize its visual impact.

SECTION 814 MOBILE HOME PARKS

The standards and regulations provided herein shall apply to both the development of new mobile home parks and the expansion of existing ones. The development of a mobile home park, including the expansion of an existing one, shall also be deemed as a subdivision or land development and shall be subject to applicable regulations of the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. Customary accessory residential uses shall be permitted, along with common areas for use by residents of the mobile home park.

- A. All mobile home parks shall have a total land area of not less than ten (10) acres.
- B. All mobile home parks shall be located on well drained land with the average natural slope not exceeding ten (10%) percent.
- C. All mobile home parks shall have access to public streets or roads.
- D. All mobile home parks shall be serviced by a centralized sewage disposal system and a central water supply and distribution system.
- E. Access to mobile home sites shall be from interior driveways, access drives, or private streets and shall not be from public streets or roads. Interior roads within a mobile home park shall conform to the design standards for a local road as provided for under the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

- F. Access to mobile home sites shall be from interior driveways, access drives, or private streets and shall not be from public street or roads. Entrance roads shall have a paved cartway width of at least twenty-four (24) feet.
- G. Every mobile home site shall be provided with a minimum of two (2) off-street parking spaces.
- H. All mobile home parks shall be provided with pedestrian walkways on at least one (1) side of every street.
- I. The minimum area of land per mobile home site shall be not less than seven thousand two hundred (7,200) square feet, with the dimensions being sixty feet by one hundred and twenty (60 x 120) feet. There shall be an interior spacing distance of not less than thirty (30) feet from the defined site on which the mobile home is located to the next defined site for a mobile home.
- J. Every mobile home park shall provide a defined recreational site or sites which shall contain an area of land not less than five (5%) percent of the total gross land area within the boundaries of the mobile home park. All recreational sites shall be located in areas which are readily accessible to all residents of the mobile home park. A recreational development plan shall be provided which identifies passive and active recreational features to be provided upon the site, including recreational equipment, play apparatus, benches, and all other features and facilities to be incorporated into the design of the recreational site. The location of the recreational site and the recreational development plan shall be subject to the review and approval of the Board of Supervisors. The recreational site must be identified and approved by the Board of Supervisors prior to final approval of the development or expansion of a mobile home park. To guarantee the installation of all improvements to the site, the applicant shall be required to complete the installation of all such improvements prior to receiving an unconditional final approval or to post an irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of 110% of the estimated cost of improvements. The procedures and standards contained within Section 509 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247, as amended shall apply to posting the aforementioned irrevocable letter of credit. The procedures and standards within Section 510 of Act 247, as amended, shall apply to the release of the irrevocable letter of credit upon the completion of the required improvements. The applicant shall be required to reimburse the Township for any consulting fees associated with the inspection of improvements to the site. Said reimbursement must be paid at the same meeting of the Board of Supervisors at which the applicant seeks final and unconditional approval of said improvements.
- K. Each mobile home site shall be provided with a stand or pad consisting of two (2) concrete strips to accommodate the supporting base or foundation of the mobile home.

- L. Every mobile home in the park shall be enclosed from the bottom of the mobile home to the ground or stand using industry-approved skirting material compatible with the home.
- M. Every mobile home shall be securely anchored or tied-down on at least the four (4) corners and/or in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations furnished with each home.
- N. The owner/operator of each mobile home park shall provide a refuse disposal plan.
- O. An approved soils erosion and sedimentation plan and a stormwater management plan shall be required prior to the unconditional approval for the development or expansion of a mobile home park.
- P. An approved Department of Environmental Protection Planning Module shall be required prior to the unconditional approval for the development or expansion of a mobile home park.

SECTION 815 WIND ENERGY FACILITIES

A. INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED

The applicant for a Wind Energy Facility shall be required to submit the following information:

- The applicant and landowner's name and contact information.
- The tax map numbers, existing use and acreage of the site parcel.
- A survey map at an appropriate scale showing the proposed location of the wind energy facility (including access roads) as it relates to the boundaries of the parcel, adjacent ownerships and existing residences, schools, churches, hospitals, libraries, federal, state, county or local parks, and recognized historic or heritage sites within a distance of 2,000 feet or less from any property boundary.
- Standard drawings of the wind turbine structure, including the tower, base and footings, drawings of access roads, and including an engineering analysis and certification of the tower, showing compliance with the applicable building code.
- The make, model, picture and manufacturer's specifications, including noise decibels.
- Data pertaining to the tower's safety and stability, including safety results from test facilities.
- A completed Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with Section 806 of this Ordinance.

- A project visibility map, based on a digital elevation model, showing the impact of topography upon visibility of the project from other locations, to a radius of three miles from the center of the project. The scale used shall depict the three-mile radius as no smaller than 6 inches, and the base map used shall be a published topographic map showing man-made features, such as roads and buildings.
- No fewer than four, and no more than the number of proposed individual wind turbines, plus three color photos, no smaller than 3" by 5", taken from locations within a three-mile radius from the site and to be selected by the Board of Supervisors, and computer-enhanced to simulate the appearance of the as-built site facilities as they would appear from these locations.
- Copies of all proposed leases required to be secured by the applicant, if the applicant is not the sole owner of the parcel or parcels on which the Wind Energy Facility is proposed to be constructed.

B. APPROVAL STANDARDS

In addition to all other applicable criteria and requirements for approval of a conditional use, the following standards shall apply:

- The minimum distance between the ground and any part of the rotor blade system shall be thirty (30) feet.
- To limit unauthorized access, a fence eight feet high with a locking portal shall be placed around the facility's tower base.
- Wind energy facilities shall not be artificially lighted, except to the extent required by the FAA or other applicable authority.
- All wind turbines shall have an automatic braking, governing or feathering system to prevent uncontrolled rotation, overspeeding and excessive pressure on the tower structure, rotor blades and turbine components.
- All power transmission lines from a Wind Turbine Tower to on-site substations shall be underground.
- Prior to issuance of a building permit, the applicant shall provide the Township proof of a level of insurance to be determined by the Board of Supervisors in consultation with the Township's insurer, to cover damage or injury that might result from the failure of a tower or towers or any other part or parts of the generation and transmission facility. Said insurance must be maintained for the life of the Wind Energy Facility, until such time that all components of the Wind Energy Facility are decommissioned and/or removed.
- Appropriate warning signs shall be posted. At least one sign shall be posted at the base of the tower warning of electrical shock or high voltage. A sign shall be

posted on the entry area of fence around each tower or group of towers and any building, containing emergency contact information, including a local telephone number with 24 hour, 8 days a week coverage.

- Any Wind Energy Facility found to be unsafe by the local enforcement officer or agent of the Township shall be repaired by the owner to meet federal, state and local safety standards or removed within six months. If any Wind Energy Facility is not operated for a continuous period of 12 months, the Township will notify the landowner by registered mail and provide 45 days for a response. In such a response, the landowner shall set forth reasons for the operational difficulty and provide a reasonable timetable for corrective action. If the Township deems the timetable for corrective action as unreasonable, they must notify the landowner and such landowner shall remove the turbine within 120 days of receipt of notice from the Township.
- The owner of a Wind Energy Facility shall have it inspected at least every two years for structural and operational integrity by a licensed professional engineer, and shall submit a copy of the inspection report to the Township. If such report recommends that repairs or maintenance are to be conducted, the owner shall provide written to the Township with a written schedule for the repairs or maintenance.

C. SITING AND INSTALLATION:

A Wind Energy Facility shall:

- Use existing roads to provide access to the facility site, or if new roads are needed, minimize the amount of land used for new roads and locate them so as to minimize adverse environmental impacts.
- Combine transmission lines and points of connection to local distribution lines.
- Connect the facility to existing substations, or if new substations are needed, minimize the number of new substations.
- All wiring between wind turbines and the wind energy facility substation shall be underground.
- The wind power generation facility, if interconnected to a utility system, shall meet the requirements for interconnection and operation as set forth in the electric utility's then current service regulations applicable to wind power generation facilities and shall provide evidence of a signed interconnection agreement, or letter of intent, with the interconnecting utility company.

D. SETBACKS:

- The minimum setback distance between each wind turbine tower and overhead utility or transmission lines, other wind turbine towers, electrical substations, meteorological towers, and public roads shall be equal to no less than 1.5 times

the sum of proposed structure height plus the rotor radius.

- The minimum setback distance for each wind turbine tower and all surrounding property lines and dwellings shall be not less than 1,500 feet.
- Each wind turbine shall be set back from the nearest public road a distance no less than 1.1 times its total height, determined at the nearest boundary of the underlying right-of-way for such public road.
- Each wind turbine shall be set back from the nearest above-ground public electric power line or telephone line a distance no less than 1.1 times its total height, determined from the existing power line or telephone line.

E. NUISANCE ISSUES:

- Individual wind turbine towers shall be located so that the level of noise produced by wind turbine operation shall not exceed 55 dBA, measured at the site property line.
- No individual tower facility shall be installed in any location where its proximity with fixed broadcast, retransmission or reception antenna for radio, television or wireless phone or other personal communications systems would produce electromagnetic interference with signal transmission or reception.

F. ENVIRONMENTAL AND VISUAL:

- Wind Energy Facilities shall not be used for displaying any advertising except for reasonable identification of the manufacturer or operator of the wind energy facility.
- The design of the buildings and related structures shall, to the extent reasonably possible, use materials, colors, textures, screening and landscaping that will blend the facility into the natural setting and existing environment.
- Where wind characteristics permit, wind turbine towers shall be set back from the tops of visually prominent ridgelines to minimize the visual contrast from any public access.
- Wind turbine towers, the proposed structure height plus the rotor radius shall not exceed 350 feet.
- Towers shall be designed and located to minimize adverse visual impacts from neighboring residential areas, to the greatest extent feasible.
- Avoid, to the extent practicable, the creation of artificial habitat for raptors or raptor prey, such as a) electrical equipment boxes on or near the ground that can

provide shelter and warmth, b) horizontal perching opportunities on the towers or related structures or c) soil where weeds can accumulate.

- Wind turbine towers shall be set back at least 500 feet from any bodies of water including but not limited to lakes, ponds, streams, creeks and rivers.
- Wind turbine towers shall be set back at least 500 feet from identified wetlands and its delineated boundaries.
- Wind Energy Facilities shall provide conclusive documentation that the location and operation of the proposed facility will not adversely affect the wild life habitat, including but not limited to bats and birds of the region and associated migration routes.

G. TRAFFIC ROUTES:

- Construction of Wind Energy Facilities poses potential risks because of the large size construction vehicles and their impact on traffic safety and their physical impact on local roads. Construction and delivery vehicles for Wind Energy Facilities shall use traffic routes established as part of the application review process. Factors in establishing such corridors shall include (1) minimizing traffic impacts from construction and delivery vehicles; (2) minimizing Wind Energy Facilities related traffic during times of school bus activity; (3) minimizing wear and tear on local roads; and (4) minimizing impacts on local business operations. Permit conditions may limit Wind Energy Facilities -related traffic to specified routes, and include a plan for disseminating traffic route information to the public.
- The applicant is responsible for remediation of damaged roads upon completion of the installation or maintenance of a Wind Energy Facility. A public improvement bond shall be posted prior to the issuance of any building permit in an amount, determined by the Township, sufficient to compensate the Township for any damage to local roads.

H. DECOMMISSIONING AND RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS

- The applicant shall include the following information regarding decommissioning of the project and restoring the site: The anticipated life of the project;

The estimated decommissioning costs in current dollars;

The method and schedule for updating the costs of decommissioning and restoration;

The method of ensuring that funds will be available for decommissioning and restoration; and

The anticipated manner in which the project will be decommissioned and the site restored.

- The Board of Supervisors shall require the applicant to provide an appropriate and adequate demolition bond for purposes of removing the Wind Energy Facility in case the applicant fails to do so as required above. Proof of this bond shall be provided each year and shall be a continuing condition for the life of the project.
- The sufficiency of the demolition bond shall be confirmed at least every five years by an analysis and report of the cost of removal and property restoration to be performed by a licensed professional engineer, the cost of same to be borne by the applicant. If said analysis and report determines that the amount of the bond in force is insufficient to cover the removal, disposal and restoration costs, the bond shall be increased to the amount necessary to cover such costs within 10 days of the applicant's receipt of such report.

ARTICLE 9

SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS

SECTION 901 PURPOSE AND INTENT

Certain uses of land and/or buildings, as specified herein, whether permitted by right, special exception and or conditional use, shall be subject to supplemental regulations in addition to those of the district in which the use is located.

SECTION 902 USE REGULATIONS

902.01 ANIMAL HOSPITAL

An animal hospital shall maintain all activities within a completely enclosed soundproof building, and no objectionable odors shall be vented outside the building. No animal hospital shall be located less than one-hundred (100) feet from any property line.

902.02 ANIMAL KENNELS

Animal kennels in which animals are kept, boarded or trained may be either enclosed buildings or a combination of buildings and open runways. If all activities are maintained within a completely enclosed building, no objectionable odors shall be vented outside the building. If open runways are used, the building and runways shall be located not less than one hundred (100) feet from all property lines. Where the property abuts a district having residences as a principal permitted use, the building and runways shall be not less than two hundred (200) feet from such property lines.

902.03 AUTOMOBILE RELATED ACTIVITIES

- A. **Automotive Repairs (Repair Garage):** Activities including the repair of automobiles, trucks, snowmobiles and motorcycles shall be conducted within a completely enclosed building where adequate measures shall be taken to minimize noise, vibrations, fumes and glare. Said buildings shall be equipped with oil containment facilities/equipment which shall prohibit any oil from being discharged upon the ground or into streams, aquifers and/or environment. Refuse and/or waste oil shall be removed from site with disposal required in accordance with governing standards of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Only vehicles to be repaired on the premises or picked up by the vehicles' owner may be stored in the yard area. Where the operation abuts on the side or rear property line of any district having residences as a principal permitted use, a solid wall or solid opaque fencing eight (8) feet in height, designed to conceal and screen the automotive repair facility from adjoining properties, shall be constructed and maintained in good condition along such boundary. Outdoor trash dumpsters shall be concealed within an area surrounded by a solid opaque fencing not less than six (6) feet in height. The provision of any outside lighting shall be directed away from adjacent properties.
- B. **Automotive Sales:** Where the operation of an automotive sales use abuts on the side or rear property line of any district having residences as a principal

permitted use, a solid wall or solid opaque fencing eight (8) feet in height, designed to conceal and screen the automotive sales facility from adjoining properties, shall be constructed and maintained in good condition along such boundary. Outdoor trash dumpsters shall be concealed within an area surrounded by solid opaque fencing not less than six (6) feet in height. The provision of any outside lighting shall be directed away from adjacent properties.

- C. Gasoline Service Stations (Also Includes Convenience Stores With Gasoline Sales): When a service station abuts on the rear or side lot line on the side or rear property line of any district with residences as a principal permitted use, a solid wall or solid opaque fencing eight (8) feet in height, designed to conceal and screen the gasoline service station from adjoining properties, shall be constructed and maintained in good condition along such boundary. Outdoor trash dumpsters shall be concealed within an area surrounded by solid opaque fencing not less than six (6) feet in height. The provision of any outside lighting shall be directed away from adjacent properties. When a service station occupies a corner lot, the access driveways shall be located at least sixty (60) feet from the intersection of the front and side street lines of the lot. All access driveways shall not exceed twenty-five (25) feet in width. Gasoline pumps or other service appliances and canopies may be located in the required front yard subject to having a setback of not less than twenty feet from the right-of-way line of the adjoining road. All repairs, service, storage or similar activities in connection with the use shall be conducted within the building where adequate measures shall be taken to minimize noise, fumes and glare. Outside lighting shall be directed away from adjacent properties
- D. Car Wash: Appropriate drainage facilities for washing activities shall be provided. The facility shall be designed with a water reclamation system. The site shall be sufficiently large to accommodate three (3) cars per stall waiting washing during peak periods so that lines along public streets are avoided. Such operations shall also comply with any applicable regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Car wash operations abutting on the side or rear property lines of a district having residences as a principal permitted use shall provide a solid wall or solid opaque fencing eight (8) feet in height and well maintained along such boundary. Outdoor trash dumpsters shall be concealed within an area by solid opaque fencing, not less than six (6) feet in height. Outdoor lighting shall be directed away from adjacent properties.

902.04 BANKS

Banks and other similar financial offices shall provide sufficient space to accommodate parking, vehicular circulation areas for drive-in tellers, access areas for parking lots separated from drive-in areas, and areas for pedestrian traffic separated from vehicular traffic for safety. Access driveways shall be no more than twenty-five (25) feet in width. Canopies over drive-through areas shall meet all yard setback requirements.

902.05 BED AND BREAKFAST

A Bed and Breakfast shall be within an owner occupied dwelling containing not more than three (3) bed and breakfast units which are rented on a nightly basis for periods of normally not more than a week. Dining and other facilities shall not be open to the public, but shall be exclusively for the use of the residents and registered guests. Breakfast shall be the only meal served. Two off street parking spaces shall be provided for each rental unit.

902.06 BOARDING/ROOMING HOUSE

The property shall be limited to providing lodging for not more than four (4) persons, excluding the owner of the property. Off-street parking spaces shall be provided for each person residing therein.

902.07 BULK FUEL STORAGE

Bulk fuel storage shall be located on a tract of land not less than five (5) acres. Storage tanks shall be located not less than one hundred (100) feet from any property line and shall be not less than five hundred (500) feet from any dwelling, school, church or similar use. Cylinder filling rooms, pumps, compressors and truck filling stations shall be located two hundred fifty (250) feet from all property lines. The tank storage area shall be fenced with an eight (8) feet high industrial gauge fence. If the storage property abuts on the side or rear property line containing a residence, the fence shall be screened from view by a dense growth of evergreens at least five (5) feet in height at the time of planting. Bulk fuel storage facilities shall be developed in full compliance with all applicable federal, state and insurance regulations.

902.08 CEMETERIES

The property shall not be less than ten (10) acres. A structure, grave or place of permanent burial shall be set back not less than fifty (50) feet from the property line. The cemetery shall be enclosed along all boundaries by a fence, wall or shrubbery, or any combination thereof, at least four (4) feet in height. The interior roads shall have a minimum width of fifteen (15) feet and shall be properly maintained with either gravel or paving.

902.09 CLUB/PRIVATE LODGE

Buildings utilized for such purposes shall not be less than forty (40) feet from any property line. Where the use abuts on the rear or side lot line of any district with residences as the principal permitted use, a solid wall or solid opaque fencing not less than six (6) feet in height, designed to conceal and screen the use from adjoining properties, shall be constructed and maintained in good condition along such boundary. Outdoor trash dumpsters shall be concealed within an area surrounded by solid opaque fencing not less than six (6) feet in height. The provision of any outside lighting shall be directed away from adjacent properties.

902.10 CONTRACTORS' STORAGE YARDS

Commercial or industrial uses utilizing outdoor storage space of more than 1,000 square feet, shall be located on a tract of land not less than two (2) acres. Supplies stored outdoors shall be neatly arranged and no required yard setback areas shall be used for storage. There shall be a roadway fourteen (14) feet in width provided for every forty linear (40) feet of stored materials. The roadway shall be kept passable for fire-fighting equipment. Where the operation abuts on the rear or side lot line on the side or rear property line of any district having residences as the principal permitted use, a solid wall or solid opaque fencing eight (8) feet in height, designed to conceal and screen the outdoor storage areas from adjoining properties, shall be constructed and maintained in good condition along such boundary. Outdoor trash dumpsters shall be concealed within an area surrounded by solid opaque fencing not less than six (6) feet in height. The provision of any outside lighting shall be directed away from adjacent properties.

902.11 DAY CARE FACILITIES

All day care facilities shall comply with the following:

- A. The applicant or owner shall provide evidence of certification of compliance with all appropriate regulations of any designated State agency whose approval and/or license is required by the laws of the Commonwealth.
- B. Noise and all other possible disturbing aspects connected such use shall be controlled to the extent that the operation of such use shall not unduly interfere with the use and enjoyment of properties in the surrounding area.
- C. All day care facilities shall have an outdoor play area which shall be completely enclosed with a fence six (6') feet in height. Outdoor play activities shall be limited to the hours between 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. local time. The minimum area of said play area shall be three-hundred (300) square feet or ten (10) square feet per child, whichever is greater.
- D. The applicant shall supply evidence that vehicular traffic congestion will be avoided in "pick-up and drop-off points" utilized in transporting individuals to and from the facility.

902.12 DWELLING OVER OR ATTACHED TO A BUSINESS

A dwelling unit over or attached to business establishments may be permitted provided that such dwelling is occupied by the owner or manager of such business. Said dwelling unit shall be designed as living quarters with private access, having adequate natural light and kitchen and bathroom facilities. The required off-street parking shall include residence parking spaces in addition to commercial parking spaces as required by Article 12.

902.13 ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES

Entertainment facilities as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance shall provide proper parking areas with vehicular circulation and access designed to minimize any potential traffic congestion. Such facilities shall not be closer than fifty (50) feet from any boundary of a district having residences as principal permitted use, shall provide adequate screening from any residential district, and shall be conducted entirely within an enclosed structure.

902.14 FORESTRY ACTIVITIES

In order to preserve forests and the environmental and economic benefits that they provide, it is the policy of Rice Township to encourage the owners of forest land to continue to use their land for forestry purposes, including the long-term production of timber, recreation, wildlife, historical and amenity values. The timber harvesting regulations set forth in this Section are intended to further this policy by:

1. promoting good forest stewardship;
2. protecting the rights of adjoining property owners;
3. minimizing the potential for adverse environmental impacts;
4. preserving historical and environmental sensitive areas; and
5. avoiding unreasonable and unnecessary restrictions of the right to practice forestry.

“Forestry activities that include timbering operations that exceed five (5) acres shall be conducted in accordance with the following requirements:

1. A Zoning Permit Application shall be submitted to the Rice Township Zoning Officer prior to harvesting or otherwise removing trees on any tract of land larger than five (5) acres;
2. Prior to the start of operations, a Forestry Management Plan shall be prepared and filed with the submission of the Zoning Permit Application. Said plan shall be prepared by a qualified forester or forest technician, with a four year degree from an accredited college;
3. The Forestry Management Plan shall be consistent with the Timber Harvesting Guidelines of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association;
4. Prior to the approval of the Zoning Permit Application, an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan shall be submitted by the Applicant to the Luzerne County Conservation District for its review, recommendation and approval;
5. Clear cutting shall be prohibited except on tracts of less than five (5) acres;
6. When harvesting or otherwise removing on tracts larger than five (5) acres, at least 30% of the forest cover (canopy) shall be kept and the residual trees shall be well distributed. At least 30% of these residual trees shall be composed of highest value species as determined and documented by the Forestry Management Plan;

7. Clear cutting is prohibited on acres with slopes greater than 15% or within the 100 year floodway.

902.15 FUNERAL HOME

Funeral homes shall accommodate all of the parking areas required as provided in Article 12 of this Ordinance. In addition, sufficient area shall be provided for vehicular circulation on the lot and for the assembly area for the procession beyond the street right-of-way line. Points of vehicular access to the site shall not create traffic hazards on the street. Loading and unloading areas for ambulances and hearses shall be within an enclosed building or shall be screened from view from adjacent properties by a solid wall or solid opaque fencing six (6) feet in height. Outside lighting shall be directed away from adjacent properties.

902.16 GROUP RESIDENCE

Any party wishing to establish and/or operate a "Group Residence", in addition to all other applicable zoning regulations and/or requirements, shall be subject to the following supplemental requirements:

- A. The maximum occupancy of a Group Residence shall not exceed eight (9) persons, excluding staff. The occupancy of said Group Residence shall be governed by the standards and requirements as provided for within the most recent housing code standards by the governing code as provided for under the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code.
- B. The Group Residence shall be under the jurisdictional and regulatory control of a governmental entity (County, State and/or Federal).
- C. The applicant and/or operator of a Group Residence shall provide written documentation from the applicable governmental entity which certifies said Group Residence complies with the location, supervised services, operation, staffing and management of all applicable standards and regulations of the subject governing program.
- D. The applicable requirements and standards which govern off-street parking for a single family dwelling shall also govern for a Group Residence, however two (2) additional off-street parking spaces shall be provided and if there is any required staffing associated with the management and operation of a Group Residence.

902.17 HOME OCCUPATIONS

A home occupation which is conducted within a dwelling unit or an existing accessory building to the dwelling shall be subject to the following provisions:

- A. The occupation shall be carried on wholly indoors, within the principal building or within a building accessory thereto.
- B. There shall be permitted a sign, not to exceed two (2) square feet in surface area, placed flat against the building as a wall sign, and shall not be

permitted above the first story level. No other exterior display or exterior storage of materials or any other exterior indication of the home occupation shall be permitted.

- C. There shall be no maintenance of a stock in trade or show windows or displays or advertising visible outside the premises.
- D. There shall be no repetitive servicing by truck.
- E. No offensive noise, vibration, smoke, dust, odors, heat or glare shall be produced.
- F. The home occupation shall be carried on only by members of the immediate family residing in the dwelling unit, plus not more than two (2) additional employees. Licensed medical practitioners and attorneys may have more than two (2) additional employees, subject to approval by the Zoning Hearing Board.
- G. The floor area devoted to a home occupation, regardless of where located on a lot, shall be equivalent to not more than twenty-five (25%) percent of the floor area of the dwelling unit.
- H. Each home occupation shall have off-street parking as indicated below, in addition to that required for the dwelling unit:
 - (1) Four (4) spaces for each physician, dentist, or other licensed medical practitioner.
 - (2) Three (3) spaces for all other home occupations.

902.18 INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES

In addition to the applicable requirements of this Ordinance, all industrial activities and uses permitted by right, special exception and/or conditional use shall comply with all regulations governing odors, fumes, dust, smoke, vibration, noise, sewage, industrial waste, fire hazards and any other of the activities and uses with side effects that are deemed injurious to the public health, safety and welfare by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to provide the Zoning Officer with a complete listing of all State and Federal regulations governing the proposed use and written compliance from the governing agency. All industries are required to supply the Township Emergency Management Agency and the Fire Department with all applicable MSDS sheets, emergency operations and evacuation plans.

902.19 MOTELS AND HOTELS

Motel and Hotel uses shall require a minimum lot size of not less than three (3) acres with a lot width of not less than two hundred (200) feet.

- A. The hotel/motel shall be serviced by centralized sewage and centralized water.
- B. There shall be more than ten (10) sleeping rooms.
- C. Fifty (50%) percent or more of the gross floor area shall be devoted to sleeping rooms.
- D. There may be club rooms, ballrooms, and common dining facilities.
- E. In the case of a corner lot, access drives shall be not less than eighty (80) feet from the intersection of any two streets as measured from the intersection of their right-of-way lines.

902.20 NO IMPACT HOME-BASED BUSINESS

A No Impact Home-Based Business, as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance, shall be permitted by right in all Residential Zoning Districts and zoning districts in which residences are permitted as a principal permitted use, except that such permission shall not supersede any deed restriction, covenant, or agreement restricting the use of the land, nor any master deed, bylaw, or other document applicable to common interest ownership community. The following standards and criteria shall apply to a No Impact Home-Based Business:

- A. The business activity shall be compatible with the residential use of the property and surrounding residential uses.
- B. The business shall employ no employees other than the family members residing in the dwelling.
- C. There shall be no display or sale of retail goods and no stockpiling or inventory of a substantial nature.
- D. There shall be no outside appearance of a business, including, but not limited to, parking, signs or lights.
- E. The business activity shall not use any equipment or process which creates noise, vibration, glare, fumes, odors, or electrical or electronic interference, including interference with radio or television reception, which is detectable in the neighborhood.
- F. The business activity shall not generate any solid waste or sewage discharge, in volume or type, which is not normally associated with a residential use in the neighborhood.
- G. The business activity shall not occupy more than twenty-five (25%) of the habitable floor area.
- H. The business shall not involve any illegal activity.

Said furnaces shall only be located within a rear yard of a property. An outdoor fuel burning furnace shall comply with the following standards

- A. A safe flue or chimney shall be provided which has a minimum termination height of fifteen (15) feet above the natural ground level upon which the furnace is located.
- B. A fan or blower attached to the appliance to increase the efficiency of the furnace.
- C. An outdoor fuel burning furnace shall be located not less than one hundred (100) feet from any property line and not less than twenty (20) feet to any principal structure or building located upon the property.
- D. All outdoor fuel burning furnace are required to meet emission standards currently required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Emission standards currently required by the EPA are hereby adopted by reference together with any amendments or modifications made to them in the future.
- E. All outdoor fuel burning appliances shall be installed, operated and maintained in strict conformance with the manufacturer's instructions and the regulations promulgated hereunder. In the event of a conflict, the regulations promulgated within this Section shall apply unless the manufacturer's instructions are stricter, in which case the manufacturer's instructions shall apply.
- F. The owner of the outdoor fuel burning furnace shall produce the manufacturer's instructions for all devices that do not conform to the requirements of this Section.
- G. All outdoor fuel burning furnaces may only be utilized for the sole purpose of furnishing heat to a structure or building and/or providing hot water during the time period of September 1 through April 30; and subject to meeting the requirements of this Section.
- H. No homemade outdoor fuel burning appliances will be allowed.
- I. Only natural wood, coal, heating oil, natural gas, kerosene or wood specifically permitted by the manufacturer in writing may be burned in outdoor furnaces. The burning in outside furnaces of processed wood products and non-wood products, household or other garbage, recyclable material, rubber tires, railroad ties, leaves, laminated wood, wet or soggy wood, painted or treated wood and any item not specifically and in writing permitted by the manufacturer is prohibited.
- J. All storage of materials to be burnt in the outdoor fuel burning furnace shall be neatly stacked and/or stored under cover and free from insects (termites, ants, etc.) or any type of disease carrying rodents.
- K. Ashes or waste cannot be accumulated in a large area on the property. They may be dispersed on the property as long as no accumulation can be seen (for example: spread in a driveway). Any large accumulation of ashes or waste must be disposed of weekly with the owner's trash.

902.22 OUTDOOR STORAGE (COMMERCIAL)

Outdoor storage, as defined in Article 2, when proposed as a principal use of land shall be enclosed with a chain link fence eight (8) feet in height. A Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan and Stormwater Drainage Plan shall be required for all areas of impervious surface to be provided for such storage. A complete listing of all types of machinery, material and items to be stored therein shall be attached to the required Zoning Application. No hazardous substances, as so defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance, shall be permitted upon the site.

902.23 PLACE OF WORSHIP:

A parking area shall accommodate all parking spaces as required in Article 12 of this Ordinance. Access driveways shall be not greater than twenty-five (25) feet in width. In the case of a corner lot, access driveways shall be not less than sixty (60) feet from the intersection of the two streets, as measured from the intersection of their right-of-way lines.

902.24 PUBLIC RECREATIONAL FACILITIES - (OUTDOORS)

All such facilities shall conform to the following regulations:

- A. No outdoor recreation activity, excluding trails and nature paths, shall be conducted closer than thirty-five (35) feet to any property line.
- B. Storm drainage from the site shall be channeled to natural drainage courses and away from adjoining properties.

902.25 PUBLIC USES

MUNICIPAL, POLICE AND FIRE BUILDINGS: Where the parking area abuts the side or rear property lines of an adjoining residential use, a fence being not less than six (6) feet in height along with a planting of shrubbery or evergreen trees shall be provided.

902.26 PUBLIC UTILITY BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Public utility facilities as defined in Article 2 shall conform to the following regulations for properties containing such uses:

- A. Access and parking shall be provided only in relationship to the maintenance and servicing of such facilities.
- B. A chain-link fence and locked gate eight (8) feet in height shall surround the building or structures of such facilities.
- C. Outside lighting shall be directed away from adjacent properties.
- D. The location, design and operation of such facilities shall not adversely affect the character of any adjacent residential properties.

- E. A buffer area not less than ten (10) feet in depth and comprised of trees and/or shrubs designed to conceal such buildings or structures of such facilities shall be required.

902.27 RESTAURANTS AND TAVERNS

Access drives shall not exceed twenty-five (25) feet in width and for those establishments located on a corner lot, no access drive shall be located less than sixty (60) feet from an intersection, as measured from the right-of-way lines, from the intersection of the two abutting streets. Outdoor trash dumpsters shall be concealed within an area surrounded by solid opaque fencing not less than six (6) feet in height. The provision of any outside lighting shall be directed away from adjacent properties.

902.28 RESTAURANT, FAST FOOD

Access drives shall not exceed twenty-five (25) feet in width and for those establishments located on a corner lot, no access drive shall be located less than sixty (60) feet from an intersection, as measured from the right-of-way lines, from the intersection of the two abutting streets. Outdoor trash dumpsters shall be concealed within an area surrounded by solid opaque fencing not less than six (6) feet in height. The provision of any outside lighting shall be directed away from adjacent properties. All drive-through lanes shall be distinctly marked and shall be separate from circulation lanes. Lanes shall not cross any principal pedestrian access to the building or site. To avoid internal traffic congestion, the site layout shall provide a minimum queuing distance of 150 feet for vehicles between start of lane order to service window and a minimum queuing distance of fifty (50) feet from start of lane to order.

902.29 RIPARIAN BUFFER:

In all Zoning Districts, a minimum setback of one hundred (100) feet from any Natural Watercourse, (as defined in Article 2) shall be required for any form of development and/or improvements

902.30 SINGLE RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES, CONTAINING
MULTIFAMILY DWELLING UNITS

Such structures shall contain a lot area of not less than two thousand five hundred (2,500) square feet for each dwelling. A minimum lot width of not less than one hundred (100) feet shall be required. Each sideyard shall have a setback of not less than fifteen (15) feet.

902.31 TOWNHOUSES

Townhouses which are not being developed as part of a Planned Residential Development, shall be subject to the following provisions and all applicable provisions of the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance:

- A. Minimum lot size for the development of Townhouses shall be four (4) acres.
- B. Minimum Lot Width shall be two-hundred (200) feet.

- C. Maximum percentage of building coverage on a lot per dwelling unit, exclusive of common or public open areas, shall be forty (40%) percent.
- D. Minimum lot width per dwelling unit shall be not less than twenty (20) feet.
- E. Minimum lot depth per dwelling unit shall be not less than one-hundred (100') feet.
- F. Minimum lot area per dwelling unit shall be not less than 2,000 square feet.
- G. Minimum front yard setback shall be not less than thirty (30) feet.
- H. No side yard setbacks shall be required for attached interior Townhouse units. A minimum sideyard setback of not less than fifteen (15) feet shall be required only at the ends of the rows of Townhouses.
- I. Minimum rear yard setback shall be not less than thirty (30) feet.
- J. Minimum width of each dwelling unit shall be not less than twenty (20) feet.
- K. Maximum building height shall be 2¹/₂ stories or thirty-five (35) feet.
- L. Minimum distance between principal structures shall be not less than thirty (30) feet.
- M. Minimum front yard setback for off-street parking areas shall be not less than ten (10) feet.
- N. Minimum rear yard setbacks for off-street parking areas shall be not less than fifteen (15) feet.
- O. Two (2) off-street parking spaces shall be provided for each dwelling unit.
- P. Unattached accessory structures such as pools, garages, carports and sheds shall be prohibited in the front yard. Unattached accessory structures located in the side or rear yard shall have not less than five (5) feet side and rear yard setbacks. Attached accessory structures shall have the same setbacks as required for principal structures.

902.32 TRUCKING FACILITIES

The property shall not be less than three (3) acres in area. Access drives shall be no more than twenty-five (25') feet in width; parking and loading areas shall conform to the regulations within Article 12. No truck parking or terminal operation shall be allowed within one-hundred (100) feet of any lot line. Outside lighting shall be directed away from adjacent properties.

902.33 WAREHOUSE AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES

All materials shall be stored within a completely enclosed building and yard areas shall be kept clear of junk, trash or other types of debris. Access drives shall not exceed twenty-five (25) feet in width; parking and loading areas shall conform to the regulations of Article 12 of this Ordinance. No warehouse activities, including parking and/or loading areas, shall be allowed within fifty (50) feet of any property line.

902.34 WAREHOUSE (SELF-STORAGE)

These facilities may be a building or group of buildings in a controlled-access and fenced compound, containing varying sizes of individual compartmentalized and controlled-access stalls or lockers for dead storage of customers' goods and personal property, with storage space available for rental to the general public. All storage shall be contained within a completely enclosed building or buildings. There shall be a minimum spacing of twenty-five (25) feet between buildings for traffic circulation, parking and fire lane purposes. All outside lighting shall be directed away from adjacent properties.

<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE 10 NONCONFORMING LOTS, USES, STRUCTURES AND BUILDINGS</p>
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SECTION 1001 INTENT

Within the zoning districts established by this Ordinance or subsequent amendments thereto, there may exist or will exist certain nonconforming uses of structures and/or land which if lawful before this Ordinance was passed or amended, may be continued, subject to certain limitations, although such uses would be prohibited, regulated or restricted under the terms and provisions of this Ordinance or subsequent amendments thereto.

SECTION 1002 NONCONFORMING LOTS OF RECORD

In any zoning district, structures, both principal and accessory, maybe erected on any single lot of record at the effective date of adoption or amendment of this Ordinance, notwithstanding limitations imposed by other provisions or regulations of this Ordinance, even though such lots fail to meet the requirements for the area and/or width of the zoning district in which such lot is located. The erection of a structure on such a lot shall, however, conform to front, rear and sideyard requirements for the zoning district in which such lot is located. Variances from the aforementioned yard requirements may be obtained only through action of the Zoning Hearing Board.

If two (2) or more adjacent lots, with continuous frontage, in single ownership, are lots of record at the effective date of the adoption or amendment of this Ordinance, and if such lots do not meet the required lot area and/or width requirements, such lots shall be considered to be an undivided parcel and no portions of such parcel shall be used or sold in a manner which further diminishes compliance with the required lot area and/or width requirement for the zoning district in which such lots are located.

SECTION 1003 CONTINUATION OF NONCONFORMITY

Any lawful nonconforming use and/or nonconforming structure may be continued, including normal maintenance of the same, except as otherwise provided in this Article, but any nonconforming use and/or structure shall not be enlarged, reconstructed, structurally altered or changed except as permitted by provisions of this Article.

SECTION 1004 REGISTRATION OF NONCONFORMING USES AND STRUCTURES

The Zoning Officer may prepare and maintain an accurate listing of all nonconforming uses and structures. The Zoning Officer or the property owner may initiate the process of certifying the nonconformity of a given property. The Zoning Officer shall issue a Certificate of Nonconformity where he finds the use or structure, although not in compliance with all applicable requirements of the zoning district in which it is located, to be a lawful nonconforming use or structure.

SECTION 1005 CHANGES OF NONCONFORMING USES

The Zoning Hearing Board may grant a special exception to allow one (1) nonconforming use to be changed to another nonconforming use, if the Board finds that all of the following provisions will be met:

- A. No structural alterations are made.
- B. The proposed change shall be less objectionable in external effects than that of the previous or existing nonconforming use, and shall be more consistent with its physical surrounding.
- C. There shall be no increase in traffic generation or congestion, including both vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- D. There shall be no increase in the danger of fire or explosion.
- E. There shall be no increase in noise, smoke, dust, fumes, vapors, gases, heat, odor, glare, vibration, lighting or electrical disturbances.
- F. There shall be no increased threat to health by any reason, including that of rodent, vermin or otherwise.

SECTION 1006 ENLARGEMENT OF NONCONFORMING USES AND STRUCTURES

The Zoning Hearing Board may grant a special exception for the enlargement of a nonconforming use and/or structure, if the Board finds the following standards will be met:

- A. The enlargement will not replace a conforming use.
- B. The nonconforming structure and/or use, after enlargement, shall comply with the yard and lot coverage requirements applicable to the zoning district in which it is located.
- C. The use and/or structure, after enlargement, shall comply with all applicable off-street parking and/or loading requirements for said use and/or structure.
- D. Not more than one (1) enlargement of a nonconforming use and/or structure shall be permitted.
- E. A nonconforming structure and/or use shall not be enlarged beyond the limits of the zoning lot on which it is located. Expansion to an adjoining lot shall be prohibited, even if such adjoining lot was in the same ownership at the effective date of the adoption of this Ordinance.
- F. The enlargement shall not exceed twenty-five (25%) percent of the floor area or land area as it existed at the time the structure or use first became nonconforming.

SECTION 1007 RESTORATION OF USE

Any voluntary and/or unintentional destruction of a nonconforming use and/or structure which has been damaged or destroyed by fire, explosion, windstorm, flood or

other similar act or cause to the extent of more than sixty (60%) percent of its reproduction value at the time of the damage shall not be restored except in conformity with the regulations of the zoning district in which it is located.

When damage is less than sixty (60%) percent of its reproduction value, a nonconforming building or other structure may be repaired or reconstructed and used as before the time of the damage, provided such repairs or reconstruction are completed within one (1) year of the date of such damage, unless a variance is secured from the Zoning Hearing Board.

A conforming residential use, which is constructed on a lot that is nonconforming with respect to lot area, lot width, and/or yard areas, may be reconstructed on the same lot subject to receiving approval from the Zoning Hearing Board for any necessary variances.

SECTION 1008 TERMINATION OF NONCONFORMING USE AND/OR STRUCTURE

1008.1 NONCONFORMING USE AND/OR STRUCTURE

A nonconforming use and/or structure shall not be reconstructed when damaged to an extent greater than sixty (60%) percent of its reproduction value at the time of the damage and said nonconforming use and/or structure shall be deemed terminated.

1008.2 CHANGE OF NONCONFORMING USE

Where a nonconforming use is changed into a conforming use, a nonconforming use shall not thereafter be resumed. A change of one (1) nonconforming use, without approval by the Zoning Hearing Board, shall be considered an abandonment of the prior nonconforming use, which shall not thereafter be resumed.

1008.3 ABANDONMENT OF NONCONFORMING USE

The right to a nonconforming use shall be terminated and a nonconforming use shall not be resumed if a nonconforming use is abandoned. A nonconforming use shall be deemed abandoned, if it is changed as set forth in Section 1008.2 of this Ordinance or if it is discontinued for a continuous period of one (1) year and the owner of said property fails to obtain a Certificate of Intention in accordance with Section 1010 of this Ordinance which indicates his or her intent to resume the nonconforming use.

1008.4 NONCONFORMING MOBILE HOMES

The removal of a mobile home as a nonconforming use upon a property with the intent to replace it with another mobile home may be permitted in accordance with the following standards:

1. The property owner shall provide the Zoning Officer with written notice of his intent to replace the structure and the date on which the current mobile home will be removed from the lot.
2. The placement of the new mobile home upon the lot shall be in conformance with all applicable setback requirements and area requirements for the zoning district in which it is located.
3. A new mobile home shall be located upon the lot in conformance with Section 321 of this Ordinance and shall be connected with all utilities, including sewage, and ready for occupancy within one hundred and eighty (180) days from the date on previous mobile home was removed.

1008.5 UNSAFE STRUCTURES

If a nonconforming structure, containing a nonconforming use, becomes physically unsafe due to lack of maintenance or repairs and has been legally condemned, it shall not thereafter be restored, repaired or rebuilt except in conformity with uses permitted within the zoning district in which such structure is located.

SECTION 1010 CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION FOR A NONCONFORMING USE

A Certificate of Intention shall be required in any instance when a nonconforming use of a structure, building and/or land is to be discontinued for a period of more than one (1) year and the owner or operator of the nonconforming use wishes to maintain a legal nonconforming status. A Certificate of Intention form shall be completed by the owner or operator of the discontinued nonconforming use. Said completed Certificate of Intention form shall be submitted to and approved by the Zoning Officer. The applicant shall indicate in writing the reason or basis for the discontinuation of the nonconforming use and the anticipated date on which the nonconforming use will resume. A Certificate of Intention, as issued and approved by the Zoning Officer, shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance. A Certificate of Intention may be renewed annually by the owner or operator of the nonconforming use. Failure to renew a Certificate of Intention shall constitute a deemed abandonment of the use and forfeiture of the legal nonconforming use status of the property. A Certificate of Intention may not be renewed to exceed a period of two years beyond the original date of issuance.

<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE 11 SIGN REGULATIONS</p>
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SECTION 1101 SIGNS

1101.1 TYPE AND USE OF SIGNS

All signs shall be classified according to type and use as provided herein:

- A. **IDENTIFICATION SIGN**: A sign which communicates the name and/or address of an occupant or a permitted home occupation upon the zoning lot on which the sign is located.
- B. **BUSINESS SIGN**: A sign which communicates information concerning a business, profession, commodity, service, entertainment or development which is sold, offered, prepared, manufactured or conducted upon the zoning lot where the sign is located.
- C. **BILLBOARD OR OFF PREMISE ADVERTISING SIGN**: A sign which communicates information concerning a subject, business, profession, activity, commodity, service, entertainment or development not related to, sold, offered, prepared or manufactured on the zoning lot where the sign is located.
- D. **REAL ESTATE SIGN**: A temporary sign, having an area not greater than eight (8) square feet in area which advertises the sale, rental or development of the premises upon which the sign is located.
- E. **SUBDIVISION/DEVELOPMENT ADVERTISING SIGN**: A temporary real estate sign, not greater than sixty (60) square feet in area, which advertises the sale of property within an approved subdivision or planned residential development.
- F. **INSTITUTIONAL SIGN**: A sign which identifies a use pertaining to a school, church, hospital or other institution of a similar public or semipublic nature.
- G. **ON-SITE DIRECTIONAL AND/OR INFORMATIONAL SIGN**: A sign commonly associated with, and limited to, information and directions necessary for visitors entering or exiting a property, including signs marking entrance and exits, parking areas, circulation direction, restrooms and pick-up and delivery areas. Such signs shall contain no advertising material.
- H. **SUBDIVISION/DEVELOPMENT IDENTIFICATION SIGN**: A sign that displays the name of a subdivision and/or development at an entrance to the site upon which the subdivision or development is located.
- I. **EVENT SIGNS**: A temporary sign advertising private not-for-profit events and fund-raisers such as picnics, bazaars, gaming events, arts and crafts shows, and similar types of fundraising activities.

SECTION 1102 CONSTRUCTION TYPES

All signs shall be classified according to construction types as provided herein:

- A. FREESTANDING SIGN: A sign not attached or applied to a principal building but supported by another structure, including structures designed for the sign itself and accessory structures.
- B. WALL SIGN: A sign attached, painted or affixed to the wall of a principal structure or accessory structure, not projecting over any public right-of-way and not extending more than two (2') feet from the building or structure.
- C. PROJECTING SIGN: A sign which projects outward or extends more than two (2) feet from the building or structure.

SECTION 1103 PERMITTED SIGNS BY ZONING DISTRICT

The establishment, erection or reconstruction of any sign shall be in accordance with the regulations as set forth herein:

- A. IDENTIFICATION SIGN: Such signs shall be permitted in all zoning districts.
- B. BUSINESS SIGNS: Such signs shall be permitted in B-1, B-2, C-1, A-1 and an I-1 Zoning Districts.
- C. REAL ESTATE SIGNS: Such signs shall be permitted in all zoning districts.
- D. SUBDIVISION/DEVELOPMENT ADVERTISING SIGNS: Such signs shall be permitted in all zoning districts and any PRD zoning district, upon the creation of such.
- E. INSTITUTIONAL SIGNS: Such signs shall be permitted in all zoning districts.
- F. ON-SITE DIRECTIONAL AND/OR INFORMATIONAL SIGN: Such signs shall be permitted in all zoning districts.
- G. BILLBOARD SIGNS: Such signs shall be permitted in an I-1 zoning district.
- H. SUBDIVISION/DEVELOPMENT IDENTIFICATION SIGNS: Such signs shall be permitted in all zoning districts.
- I. EVENT SIGNS: Such signs shall be permitted in all zoning districts.

SECTION 1104 AREA, HEIGHT AND SETBACK REQUIREMENTS

The establishment, erection or reconstruction of permitted signs shall be governed by the following regulations:

- A. IDENTIFICATION SIGN: An identification sign shall not exceed two (2) square

feet in area. Such a sign shall be setback not less than ten (10) feet from the front lot line. The maximum height of an identification sign, if free standing, shall not exceed ten (10) feet in height, or if attached to a building shall not be higher than the first story of the building to which it is attached.

- B. BUSINESS SIGN: A business sign shall not exceed the square feet of area for the following Zoning Districts:

B-1 District - Thirty-two (32) square feet.

B-2 District - Sixty-four (64) square feet

C-1 District - Thirty-two (32) square feet

A-1 District - Thirty-two (32) square feet

I-1 District - One Hundred (100) square feet

In a shopping center or an integrated grouping of commercial or industrial uses which is classified as a "Land Development", in addition to permitting each individual business establishment to display a business sign, one (1) sign shall be permitted on the lot, that indicates the name of the shopping center and/or the names of the business establishments located therein. Only one (1) such sign shall be permitted on the lot and such sign shall not exceed two hundred (200) square feet in area.

A freestanding business sign shall have a minimum front yard setback of not less than twenty-five (25%) percent of the required setback for a principal structure in the zoning district in which the sign is located. If an existing building has a front yard setback which is less than ten (10) feet, the sign shall be attached flat against the building as a wall sign.

The maximum height of any business sign shall not exceed eighteen (18) feet.

- C. REAL ESTATE SIGN: A temporary real estate sign shall not exceed eight (8) square feet in area and shall be located on the same lot on which the property is offered for sale or rental. The sign shall be setback not less than ten (10') feet from the front lot line and shall be removed from the premises within thirty (30) days after the sale or rental of the property.
- D. SUBDIVISION/DEVELOPMENT ADVERTISING SIGN: A subdivision/development advertising sign shall be considered a temporary real estate sign and shall not exceed sixty (60) square feet in area. The sign shall be located on the same property on which lots and/or homes in the subdivision are offered for sale. Not more than one (1) sign shall be erected in any subdivision, and such signs shall be setback not less than thirty-five (35') feet from the front lot line. The sign shall be removed from the premises within thirty (30) days after the last lot and/or home is sold.
- E. INSTITUTIONAL SIGN: An institutional sign for public and semipublic facilities, such as schools, churches, hospitals, libraries, colleges or other institutions of a similar nature shall not exceed thirty (30) square feet in area. The maximum height of such signs shall not exceed the maximum height restriction established for a

principal structure in the district in which the sign is located. An institutional sign shall be not less than ten (10') feet from the front lot line.

- F. ON-SITE DIRECTIONAL AND/OR INFORMATIONAL SIGN: An on-site directional and/or informational sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area. A front, rear or side yard setback of not less than five (5') feet shall be required for such signs. The maximum height of such signs shall not exceed six (6') feet.
- G. BILLBOARD SIGN OR OFF PREMISE ADVERTISING SIGN: The following regulations shall apply to any billboard and/or off-premise advertising sign. The advertising surface area of any panel shall not exceed 300 square feet and not more than one (1) double-faced panel shall be permitted on the same structure or standard.
- Such a sign shall not be located within 200 feet of any residential structure or residential zoning district.
 - There shall be a minimum spacing distance of 1,000 feet between all such signs.
 - Such signs shall be setback not less than two-hundred (200) feet from the center line of any public right-of-way for vehicular traffic
 - Such signs shall not be attached to a building nor shall such signs be permitted to project above the maximum height limitation for the zoning district in which it is located.
- H. SUBDIVISION/DEVELOPMENT IDENTIFICATION SIGN: A subdivision/development identification sign shall not exceed ten (10) square feet in area. Not more than one (1) sign shall be erected at any entrance point to the subdivision/development. Such signs shall be setback not less than ten (10) feet from the front lot line.
- I. EVENT SIGN: An event sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area, having dimensions of 2 feet x 3 feet. Such signs shall not be attached to any tree, utility pole or structure within a public right-of-way. Such signs shall not be posted more than forty-five (45) days in advance of the scheduled event and shall be removed within thirty (30) days following the event.
- J. NUMBER OF SIGNS: Excluding on-site directional and/or informational signs, not more than two (2) signs shall be permitted on any property located in any zoning district. In the case of a property located upon a corner lot, a total of three (3) signs may be permitted.

SECTION 1105 SETBACK FOR FREESTANDING SIGNS

The minimum front yard, side yard setback and rear yard setback for any freestanding sign shall be not less than twenty-five (25%) percent of the required setback for a principal structure in the zoning district in which the sign is located.

SECTION 1106 SIGNS RELATED TO NONCONFORMING USES

An existing sign related to a legally established nonconforming use shall be considered a nonconforming sign that may be continued at its present dimensions and location, but shall not be enlarged. Where a nonconforming use is lawfully changed to another nonconforming use, a new sign shall be permitted being the same type and size as the previous sign. The new sign shall be erected on the property at the same location as the previous sign. The sign may be erected at a different location provided it meets all applicable regulations within Article 5 and for the zoning district in which it is located.

SECTION 1107 AREA COMPUTATION OF SIGNS

The area of a sign shall be construed to include all lettering, wording and accompanying design and symbols, together with the background including border and trim, whether open or enclosed on which they are displayed, but not including any supporting framework and bracing that are incidental to the display itself. Computation of the area for particular signs shall be in accordance with the following regulations:

- A. WALL SIGN: For a sign painted upon or applied to a building, the area shall be considered to include all lettering, wording and accompanying design or symbols together with any backing associated with the sign.
- B. SEPARATE SYMBOLS: Where the sign consists of individual letters or symbols attached to or painted on a surface; building, wall or window, the area shall be considered to be that of the smallest rectangle or other shape that encompasses all of the letters and symbols.
- C. DOUBLE-FACE SIGN: With the exception of a billboard, when computing the area of a double-face sign, only one (1) sign shall be considered, provided both faces are identical.
- D. CYLINDRICAL SIGN: The area of a cylindrical sign shall be computed by multiplying one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the circumference by the height of the sign.

SECTION 1108 VERTICAL CLEARANCE

A freestanding sign and a projecting sign shall have a vertical distance of not less than nine (9) feet as measured from the lowest edge or point of the sign to the highest ground elevation located beneath the sign.

SECTION 1109 PROHIBITED SIGNS

The following types of signs shall not be permitted in any zoning district:

- A. Signs that are located in such a position which endangers vehicular and/or pedestrian traffic by obscuring the site distance.
- B. Signs which by design and/or location may be confused with traffic signs or

signals.

- C. Any sign located in or extending into a public right-of-way, including sidewalk areas, except an official street sign or traffic control sign.
- D. Any freestanding or projecting sign within an area bounded by the intersection of two (2) public or private streets, for a distance of twenty (20') feet along the centerline of the right-of-way of such streets from the point of their intersection.
- E. Freestanding or projecting signs over any type of public right-of-way, including sidewalk areas.
- F. Sequential, flashing or oscillating signs.
- G. Signs which due to their construction and/or location would constitute a hazard or a potential danger to the community.

SECTION 1110 PERMITS REQUIRED

A zoning permit shall be required for the erection, alteration or relocation of any sign that exceeds eight (8) square feet in surface area. Real estate signs and subdivision/land development signs shall be exempt.

ARTICLE 12
OFF-STREET PARKING AND LOADING

SECTION 1201 **PURPOSE**

Off-street parking, loading and unloading facilities shall be provided to lessen traffic congestion in the streets. The facilities required by these provisions shall be available throughout the hours of operation for the particular business or use for which such facilities are provided. As uses herein, the term "parking space" includes covered garage or carport or uncovered parking lot space located off the public right-of-way.

SECTION 1202 **SIZE OF OFF-STREET PARKING SPACES**

Each off-street parking space shall have an area of not less than one hundred and sixty two (162) square feet, being nine (9) feet in width and eighteen (18) feet in length, exclusive of access drives or aisles.

SECTION 1203 **DIMENSIONS AND DESIGN**

The dimension and design of off-street parking areas, including parking garages, shall comply with the following:

- A Stall width shall be not less than nine (9) feet.
- B Stall depth shall be not less than eighteen (18) feet.
- C The minimum width of aisles providing access to stalls, with one-way traffic, varying with the angle of parking shall be as follows:

<u>Angle of Parking</u>	<u>Minimum Aisle Width</u>
Parallel	Twelve (12) feet
30 degrees	Eleven (11) feet
45 degrees	Thirteen (13) feet
60 degrees	Eighteen (18) feet
90 degrees	Twenty (20) feet

- D The minimum width for aisles providing access to stalls with two-way traffic shall be twenty-four (24) feet.
- E Interior access ways and aisles shall be designed so as to prevent the blocking of vehicles entering or exiting the site.

SECTION 1204 **SIZE OF OFF-STREET LOADING SPACES**

Each off-street loading space shall be not less than fifty (50) feet in depth, twelve (12) feet in width and provide an overhead clearance of not less than fourteen (14) feet. All loading areas shall be designed, constructed and used so that all vehicular maneuvering is contained within the lot and no vehicle shall be permitted to back into or out of the public right-of-way.

SECTION 1205 ACCESS TO OFF-STREET PARKING OR LOADING AREAS

There shall be adequate ingress or egress to all parking spaces. There shall be provided an access drive leading to off-street parking and/or loading areas. Such access drive shall not be less than ten (10) feet in width for residential uses and not less than twenty (20) feet, or greater than thirty (30) feet for any nonresidential use. Access drives to such off-street parking and/or loading areas shall be limited to well defined locations, not to exceed two (2) along each front, side or rear lot lines. For corner properties, all access drives shall be not less than thirty-five (35) feet from the intersection of streets, as measured along the right-of-way lines, unless a greater distance is required for a specific use as contained within Article 8, Supplemental Regulations.

SECTION 1206 LOCATION OF OFF-STREET PARKING AREAS

The required off-street parking spaces for any type of use shall be located on the same lot as the principal use to which it is accessory. The required off-street parking may be permitted on another lot subject to the following requirements:

- A. The lot to be used for off-street parking and the lot on which the principal use is located shall be in the same zoning district.
- B. The lot to be used for off-street parking and the lot on which the principal use is located shall be held under the same ownership.
- C. The lot to be used for off-street parking shall be not less than four hundred (400) feet to any lot line on which the principal structure is located.

SECTION 1207 DRAINAGE AND SURFACING OF OFF-STREET PARKING AREAS

Any off-street parking area shall be graded for proper drainage and shall be surfaced so as to provide a pavement structure of bituminous asphalt, or concrete. The design, location and material for any proposed catch basins may be referred to the Township Engineer for review and approval.

SECTION 1208 SCREENING AND LANDSCAPING

A. SIDE YARDS AND REAR YARDS

The side and rear yards areas of properties that contain off-street parking for ten (10) or more vehicles and/or any off-street loading areas, shall be screened along such borders as provided herein:

- 1. A planting strip not less than five (5) feet in depth, containing ornamental grass, shrubbery, plants and/or a similar vegetative cover that are a minimum of three (3) feet in height at the time of planting.
- 2. Such borders shall also be screened by a substantial, tight fence, six (6) feet in height, or in lieu of a fence, an evergreen hedge not less than five (5) feet

in height at the time of planting with a spacing distance of not greater than four (4) feet between each planting.

B. FRONT YARDS

The front yards areas of properties that contain off-street parking for ten (10) or more vehicles and/or any off-street loading areas, shall be screened along such borders as provided herein:

1. A planting strip not less than ten (10) feet in depth shall be provided between the parking areas and the abutting street right-of-way except for the location of access drives to the property. Said planting strip shall contain ornamental grass, shrubbery, plants or a similar vegetative cover.
2. Said planting strip shall also contain one (1) shade tree for each forty (40) linear feet of planting strip. Said trees shall be not less than eight (8) feet in height at the time of planting.

C. INTERIOR LANDSCAPING

Off-street parking areas that contain twenty (20) or more parking spaces, in addition to the compliance with regulations contained under items A and B of this Section, shall provide interior landscaping to said parking area. Said landscaping shall be not less than five (5%) percent of the total area that is paved and utilized for parking and or loading. Interior landscaped areas shall contain ornamental grass, shrubbery, plants or a similar vegetative cover and a minimum of one (1) shade tree not less than eight (8') feet in height at the time of planting.

SECTION 1209 LIGHTING

Any lighting used to illuminate off-street parking or loading areas shall be arranged to reflect the light away from adjoining properties and the public right-of-way.

SECTION 1210 DRIVEWAYS

- A. Residential: All driveways shall have a minimum setback distance of ten (10) feet to any sideyard or rear yard property line. Townhouses, with exception of end units, shall be excluded from this provision.
- B. Nonresidential Uses: All driveways shall have a minimum setback distance of fifteen (15) feet to any sideyard or rear yard property line.

SECTION 1211 PARKING IN YARD AREAS

Required parking for residential properties shall be permitted within the required front, rear and/or side yard setbacks, provided that the minimum setback distance to any area used for off-street parking is not less than ten (10) feet to the nearest point of a side yard or rear yard property line and not less than fifteen (15) feet from the front yard property line.

Any off-street parking areas for a nonresidential use, when abutting a residential zoning district or a residential property shall be setback a minimum of fifteen (15) feet from the rear yard and any side yard property line.

SECTION 1212 EXISTING STRUCTURES AND USES

Structures and uses in existence at the date of adoption of this Ordinance shall not be subject to the off-street parking or off-street loading requirements, so long as a structure or use is not changed, altered or expanded. Existing off-street parking or off-street loading facilities provided prior to the adoption of this Ordinance shall not be reduced below the minimum required in this Ordinance.

SECTION 1213 CHANGES OF STRUCTURES OR USES

Whenever the existing use of a building, structure or land is proposed to be changed to a new use, off-street parking and/or off-street loading facilities shall be provided as required for such new use. However, if said building or structure was erected or the use of the land established prior to the effective date of this Ordinance, additional off-street parking or off-street loading facilities shall be mandatory only in the amount by which the requirements for the new use would exceed those for the existing use.

SECTION 1214 FRACTIONAL SPACE

When required parking computation results in fractions, any fraction less than one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) shall be disregarded and any fraction equal to or greater than one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) shall be construed to require a full space.

SECTION 1215 MULTIPLE ACTIVITIES OR USES

In any instance where a nonresidential structure, building or use of land contains more than one (1) defined use, the required parking for each specific use shall be provided.

SECTION 1216 OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS

Any structure, building or use of land hereafter erected, converted, enlarged or placed into use shall comply with the minimum off-street parking spaces as provided herein:

1. Residential Structure: Two (2) spaces for each dwelling unit.
2. Boarding House or Rooming House: Two (2) spaces for each guestroom.
3. Personal Care Facility: Two (2) spaces for each person residing therein based upon the maximum number persons permitted under its State license.
4. Churches and Similar Places of Worship: One (1) space for every four (4) seats in the main assembly room or one (1) space for each twelve (12) feet of bench length.

5. Places of Public or Private Assembly, including Auditoriums or Meeting Halls: One (1) space for every four (4) seats or one (1) space for each fifty (50) square feet of floor area when there is no fixed seating.
6. Schools, Elementary and Secondary: One (1) space for each staff member, plus one (1) space for every twenty (20) classroom seats.
7. Day Care Facility: One (1) space for each employee, plus one (1) space for every five (5) persons, based upon the maximum number of persons which the facility is licensed to serve.
8. Medical or Dental Offices or Clinics: Six (6) spaces for every doctor, dentist, chiropractor or other licensed medical practitioner, plus one for each staff member.
9. Methadone Treatment Facility: Twelve (12) spaces for every doctor, licensed medical practitioner, and/or counselor; employed at the facility, plus one (1) additional space for every one hundred (100) square feet of gross floor area.
10. Clubs/Lodges (Private) One (1) space for every one hundred (100) square feet of gross floor area.
11. Public Uses: One (1) space for every two hundred (200) square feet of gross floor area, excluding storage area for vehicles and/or equipment.
12. Public Utility Facilities: Two spaces per facility; if the facility includes maintenance and/or storage yards then the required number of spaces shall be one (1) space for each employee assigned to work at such facility.
13. Outdoor Recreational Facilities: In cases where such facilities include spectator seating, there shall be one (1) space for every four (4) seats; facilities which do not provide any spectator seating shall provide one (1) space for every two thousand (2,000) square feet in the recreational site, plus an additional ten (10) spaces, if there is a swimming pool and an additional two (2) spaces if there is playground equipment.
14. Retail Businesses: One (1) space for every two hundred (200) square feet of gross floor area.
15. Restaurants and Taverns: One (1) space for every two and one half (2^{1/2}) seats, plus two (2) spaces for every three (3) employees based upon the maximum working shift.
16. Fast Food Restaurants: One (1) space for every eighty (80) square of service or dining area. A fast food restaurant with a drive-in window shall, in addition to the above requirements, provide stacking spaces for the drive-through window services in conformance with Section 802.28 of this Ordinance.

17. Personal Services: As defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance, such establishments shall provide one (1) space for every three hundred (300) square feet of gross floor area.
18. Animal Hospital: Five (5) spaces for every veterinarian.
19. Animal Kennel: One (1) space for each kennel and three (3) additional spaces for staff.
20. Group Residence: One (1) space for each two employees based upon the maximum working shift and one (1) space for each two residents who are eligible to operate a vehicle.
21. Offices: One (1) space for every two hundred (200) square feet of gross floor area.
22. Funeral Homes: Twenty (20) spaces for each viewing parlor.
23. Self-Storage Warehouse: One (1) space for every ten (10) stalls or lockers available for rental, plus one (1) for each employee on the maximum working shift.
24. Gasoline Service Stations: Two (2) exterior spaces for each service bay, one (1) space for each pump, plus one (1) space for every two hundred (200) square feet of gross floor area which is used for the sale of retail goods, including food and/or beverages.
25. Automotive Sales: One (1) exterior space for every six hundred (600) square feet of gross interior floor space plus one (1) additional space per each 5,000 square feet of open sales or display area.
26. Automotive Repairs: One (1) exterior space for every two hundred (200) square feet of gross interior floor area.
27. Equipment Sales and Repairs: One (1) exterior space for every two hundred (200) square feet of gross floor space.
28. Entertainment Facilities: Such facilities as defined in Article 2 of this Ordinance, shall require one (1) space for every two hundred (200) square feet of gross floor area.
29. Motels and Hotels: One (1) space for each unit for guest accommodations plus one (1) space for each two (2) employees on the maximum working shift. Any such facility which also serves food and/or beverages shall also comply with the parking requirements of a restaurant or tavern.
30. Hospitals/Nursing Homes: One (1) space for every three (3) beds, based upon the maximum number of beds permitted under its State license, plus one (1) space each employee on the maximum working shift.

31. Industrial, Manufacturing, Wholesale and Warehouse Establishments, Truck Terminals, Research and Testing Facilities: One (1) space for every five hundred (500) square feet of gross floor area; plus one (1) space for each employee on the maximum working shift; in any case, however, the total parking area shall be not less than twenty-five (25%) percent of the total gross square feet of the building.
32. Sexually Oriented Use:
- a. Adult Bookstore: One (1) space for every one hundred (100) square feet of gross floor area, plus two additional (2) spaces for every three (3) employees based upon the maximum working shift.
 - b. Adult Entertainment: One (1) space for every one hundred (100) square feet of gross floor area, plus:
 - one (1) additional space for every two (2) seats and/or, one (1) space for each fifty (50) square feet of floor area when there is no fixed seating.
 - two (2) additional spaces for every three (3) employees based upon the maximum working shift.
 - c. Massage Parlor: One (1) space for every one hundred (100) square feet of gross floor area, plus two (2) additional spaces for every three (3) employees based upon the maximum working shift.

SECTION 1217 PARKING FOR OTHER COMMERCIAL USES

Any commercial use or nonresidential use of a structure, building or land, not specifically listed within Section 1215 of this Ordinance shall provide one (1) off-street parking space for every two hundred (200) square feet of gross floor area or lot area.

SECTION 1218 OFF-STREET LOADING REQUIREMENTS

All commercial and industrial establishments shall provide off-street loading, unloading and commercial vehicle storage space adequate for their needs. In no case shall a public right-of-way be used for the loading, unloading or storage of such vehicles.

SECTION 1219 PROVISION OF HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES

Any business, individual or corporation that owns, leases or operates a facility which includes the provision of public accommodations and/or commercial facilities shall be governed by the provision of this section. A commercial facility shall include any business whose operations are open to the general public. A facility which provides public accommodations shall include, but may not be limited to the following:

- places of lodging
- establishments serving food or drink
- places of exhibition or entertainment

- places of public gathering
- sales or rental establishments
- service establishments, stations used for specified public transportation.
- places of public display or collection
- places of recreation
- places of education
- social service center establishments, and places of exercise or recreation.

SECTION 1220 DESIGN FEATURES FOR HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACES

The following provisions shall apply for required handicapped parking spaces:

1. An area not less than five (5) feet in width shall be provided between each handicapped parking space. Said area shall be marked and/or designed to prevent parking therein.
2. An area not less than eight (8) feet in width shall be provided between each van accessible parking space. Said area shall be marked and/or designed to prevent parking therein.
3. Vehicular access to handicapped parking areas shall have a minimum vertical clearance of not less than nine and one half (9½) feet.
4. An off-street parking area shall be designed to provide convenient, accessible routes from the handicapped parking areas to an accessible building entrance and to public streets and sidewalks which adjoin the off-street parking area.

Handicapped accessible spaces, serving a particular facility, shall be located on the shortest accessible route of travel from the parking area to an accessible entrance.

SECTION 1221 SIGNAGE FOR HANDICAPPED PARKING

Handicapped accessible parking spaces shall be designated as reserved by a sign showing the symbol of accessibility. Parking spaces designed for vans shall have an additional sign reading "Van-Accessible" mounted below the accessibility sign. Such signs shall be located in a manner so a vehicle cannot obscure them.

SECTION 1222 MINIMUM NUMBER OF HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE SPACES

When parking spaces are provided for self-parking by employees or visitors, or both, within the total number of off-street parking spaces required under Section 1215 and/or Section 1216 of this Ordinance, the following table shall be used to determine the required number of handicapped accessible spaces.

<u>TOTAL NUMBER OF SPACES</u>	<u>REQUIRED NUMBER OF ACCESSIBLE SPACES</u>
1 TO 25	1
26 TO 50	2
51 TO 75	3

TOTAL NUMBER OF SPACESREQUIRED NUMBER OF ACCESSIBLE SPACES

76 TO 100

4

101 TO 150

5

151 TO 200

6

201 TO 300

7

301 TO 400

8

401 TO 500

9

501 TO 1000

2 PERCENT OF TOTAL

ARTICLE 13
FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT

SECTION 1301 **INTENT**

The intent of the regulations set forth in this Article is to:

- A. Promote the general welfare, health, and safety of the community.
- B. Encourage the utilization of appropriate construction practices in order to prevent or minimize flood damage in the future.
- C. Minimize danger to public health by protecting water supplies and natural drainage.
- D. Reduce financial burdens imposed on the community, its governmental units, and its residents, by preventing excessive development in areas subject to flooding.

SECTION 1302 **SPECIAL DEFINITIONS**

The definitions of terms provided herein shall apply to the enforcement and administration of the regulations contained within this Article.

1302.1 **Accessory Use or Structure**

A use or structure on the same lot with, and of a nature customarily incidental and subordinate to the principal use or structure.

1302.02 **Base Flood**

A flood having a one(1%) percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year and also referred to as a 100 Year Flood.

1302.03 **Basement**

The lowest level or story of a building which has its floor subgrade (below ground level) on all sides.

1302.4 **Completely Dry Space**

A space which will remain totally dry during flooding; the structure is designed and constructed to prevent the passage of water and vapor.

1302.05 **Development**

Any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, the placement of manufactured homes, streets and other paving, utilities, filling, grading, excavation, mining, dredging, drilling operations, storage of equipment or material, and the subdivision of land.

1302.06 Essentially Dry Space

A space which will remain dry during flooding, except for the passage of some water vapor or minor seepage; the structure is substantially impermeable to water.

1302.07 FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency

1302.08 Flood Maps

The most recent map prepared by FEMA which delineates the special hazard areas and risk premium zones applicable in Rice Township.

1302.09 Flood

The temporary inundation of normally dry land.

1302.10 Flood, One Hundred Year

See "Base Flood".

1302.11 Flood Fringe

The portion of a One-Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain that is beyond the delineated limits of the Floodway, based upon the most current Flood Insurance Study and Flood Maps.

1302.12 Flood Insurance Study

A study prepared by FEMA, for Rice Township which includes an examination, evaluation and determination of flood hazards, and if appropriate, corresponding water surface elevations.

1302.13 Flood Plain, One Hundred Year

The areas specifically identified as being subject to inundation by the Base Flood and/or the One Hundred Year Flood, which can be comprised of a Special Flood Plain Area, a General Flood Plain Area, a Flood Fringe Area and a Floodway as delineated in the Flood Insurance Study and accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

1302.14 Floodproofing

Any combination of structural and non-structural additions, changes or adjustments to structures which reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate and/or improved real property, water and sanitary facilities, structures and their contents.

1302.15 Floodway

The designated area of a Flood Plain required to carry and discharge flood waters of a given magnitude. For the purposes of this Ordinance, the Floodway shall be capable of accommodating a flood of the One Hundred (100) Year magnitude.

1302.16 Freeboard

A margin of safety, expressed in feet above the flood elevation of a One Hundred Year Flood.

1302.17 Historic Structure

Any structure that is:

1. Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register.
2. Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district.
3. Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior.
4. Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:
 - a. by an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior.

OR

- b. directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

1302.18 Lowest Floor

The lowest floor of the lowest fully enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished, flood resistant partially enclosed area, used solely for the parking of vehicles, building access or incidental storage in an area other than a basement area is not considered the lowest floor of a building, provided, that such space is not designed and built so the structure is in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirements contained within this Article.

1302.19 Manufactured Home

A transportable, single-family dwelling intended for permanent occupancy, office, or place of assembly, contained in one (1) or more sections, built on a permanent chassis, which arrives at a site complete and ready for occupancy except for minor and incidental unpacking and assembly operations, and constructed so that it may be used with or without a permanent foundation. The term includes park trailers, travel trailers, recreational and other similar vehicles which are placed on a site for more than 180 consecutive days.

1302.20 Manufactured Home Park

A parcel of land under single ownership, which has been planned and improved for the placement of (2) or more manufactured homes for non-transient use.

1302.21 New Construction

Structure for which the start of construction commenced on or after August 15, 1980 and includes any subsequent improvements thereto.

1302.22 Obstruction

Any structure or assembly of materials including fill above or below the surface of land or water, and any activity which might impede, retard or change flood flows.

1302.23 Recreational Vehicle

A vehicle which exhibits the following:

- (a) is built upon a single chassis;
- (b) is four-hundred (400) square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projections;
- (c) is designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck;
- (d) is designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

1302.24 Substantial Improvement

Any repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the “start of construction” or the improvement.

This term includes structures which have incurred “substantial damage,” regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either (a) any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of State or municipal health, sanitary or safety code specifications which are identified by the municipal code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions, or (b) any alteration of a "historic structure," provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure’s continued designation as a “historic structure.”

SECTION 1303 ABROGATION AND GREATER RESTRICTIONS

The provisions of this Article supersede any other conflicting provisions which may be in effect in identified Flood Plain areas. However, any other ordinance provisions shall remain in full force and effect to the extent that those provisions are more restrictive. If there is any conflict among any of the provisions of this Article and Ordinance, or any other Ordinance of Rice Township, the more restrictive shall apply.

SECTION 1304 SEVERABILITY

Should any section or provision contained within this Article be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decisions shall not affect validity of this Ordinance as a whole, or any other part thereof.

SECTION 1305 WARNING AND DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

The degree of flood protection sought by the provisions of this Article is considered reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based upon acceptable engineering methods of study. Larger floods may occur. Flood heights may be increased by man-made or natural causes such as ice jams and bridge openings restricted by debris. This Article does not imply that areas outside the various One Hundred (100) Year Flood District(s), or that land uses permitted within such district(s) will be free from flooding or flood damages. The provisions and regulations contained within this Article shall not create liability on the part of Rice Township or any officer or employee thereof for any flood damages that result from reliance on this Article or of any decision lawfully made thereunder.

SECTION 1306 OVERLAY OF FLOOD PLAIN DISTRICTS

The various One Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain Districts within a One Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain shall include all areas which are subject to inundation by waters of a One Hundred (100) Year Flood. The source of delineating the boundaries of the various One Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain Districts shall be based upon the most recent Flood Insurance Study and Flood Maps as prepared by FEMA. The various One Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain Districts shall be deemed an overlay on any existing or hereafter established zones or districts upon Rice Township's Official Zoning Map.

SECTION 1307 IDENTIFICATION OF ONE HUNDRED (100) YEAR FLOOD PLAIN DISTRICTS

1307.1 FLOODWAY AREA

The area identified as the "Floodway" in the AE Zone in the Flood Insurance Study prepared by FEMA. The term shall also include the floodway areas which have been identified in other available studies or sources of information for those floodplain areas where no floodway has been identified in the Flood Insurance Study. The floodway shall be deemed as a portion of the One-hundred (100) Year Flood Plain subject to inundation and designed to carry and discharge the waters of the One-hundred Year Flood without any increase in the water surface elevation of that flood.

1307.2 FLOOD FRINGE AREA

The remaining portions of the One-Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain in those areas identified as an AE Zone in the Flood Insurance Study, where a floodway has been delineated, but beyond the delineated limits of the designated floodway.

The basis for the outermost boundary of this area shall be the one hundred (100) year flood elevations as shown in the flood profiles contained in the Flood Insurance Study.

1307.3 SPECIAL FLOOD PLAIN AREA

The areas identified as an AE Zone in the Flood Insurance Study, where one (100) year flood elevations have been provided, but where no floodway has been delineated.

1307.4 GENERAL FLOOD PLAIN AREA

The areas identified as Zone A in the Flood Insurance Study for which no one-hundred (100) year elevations have been provided. When available, information from other Federal, State, and other acceptable sources shall be used to determine the one-hundred (100) year elevation, as well as the floodway area, if possible. When no other information is available, one-hundred (100) year flood elevation shall be determined by using a point on the boundary of the identified floodplain areas which is nearest the construction site in question.

In lieu of the above, the Township may require the applicant to determine the elevation with hydrologic and hydraulic engineering techniques. Hydrologic and hydraulic analyses shall be only undertaken by professional engineers or others of demonstrated qualifications, who shall certify the technical methods used correctly reflect currently acceptable technical concepts. Studies, analyses, computations, etc., shall be submitted in sufficient detail to allow a thorough technical review by the Township.

A zoning permit and approval of the same shall be required for the use of any property located within any of the above noted flood districts which constitutes a "development" in accordance with the definition of said term as provided under Section 1302.05 of this Ordinance.

SECTION 1308 CHANGES TO DELINEATED BOUNDARIES

The delineation of a One-Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain as provided for under Section 1307, may be modified by the Rice Township Board of Supervisors, subject to approval to

FEMA, where studies and/or information documents the need for such revision. Any change shall be subject to compliance with the following:

- A. The party supplying the required documentation shall be submitted under the signature of a registered professional engineer, who is qualified to perform hydrologic and hydraulic computations.
- B. The party submitting such documentation shall confirm with FEMA that the methodology and data contained therein is consistent with that used in the preparation of the most recent Flood Insurance Study for Rice Township. Said confirmation from FEMA shall be secured in writing.
- C. All information and documentation provided for under this Article for any proposed modification of the boundaries of a One Hundred (100) Year Flood shall be submitted concurrently to both FEMA and to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.
- D. Prior to the Rice Township Board of Supervisors' approval of any proposed modifications of the boundaries of a One Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain, written approval and concurrence of the subject modification from FEMA shall be secured.
- E. Any proposed modification of a boundary of a One Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain, shall be governed by the applicable provisions contained in Article 14 of this Ordinance.

SECTION 1309 INITIAL DETERMINATION OF BOUNDARIES

The Zoning Officer, in the course of reviewing proposed developments, shall be responsible for determining the applicable boundaries of a One Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain. Any party who wishes to dispute or challenge the determination of the Zoning Officer may appeal such decision to the Rice Township Zoning Hearing Board. The burden of proof shall be on the appellant.

SECTION 1310 ALTERATIONS TO WATERCOURSES

No encroachment, alteration, or improvement of any kind shall be made to any watercourse until all adjacent municipalities which may be affected by such action have been notified by Rice Township or the party proposing such, and until all required permits or approvals have been first obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and FEMA. In addition, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, shall be notified prior to any alteration or relocation of any watercourse. Any party proposing an alteration to a watercourse must provide all necessary documentation to certify that the flood carrying capacity within the watercourse shall be maintained upon completion of the proposed alteration.

SECTION 1311 FLOODWAY RESTRICTIONS

Within an identified Floodway no encroachment shall be permitted, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other type of development, unless it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with

standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase in flood levels during the occurrence of a One-Hundred (100) Year Flood. Such analysis shall be performed by a registered professional engineer, who is qualified to perform hydrologic and hydraulic computations. The applicant's engineer shall be required to:

- A. Contact the FEMA Regional Office in Philadelphia to confirm that the proposed methodology and data are consistent with those used in the preparation of the applicable Flood Insurance Study for Rice Township. Said confirmation from FEMA shall be secured in writing.
- B. Include with said analysis all necessary information including but not necessarily limited to valley cross sections, plan views, all assumptions and computations, and bridge, culvert, drainage basins and dam data, if applicable.
- C. Provide written certification that the proposed encroachment will not result in any increased flood heights during the occurrence of a One Hundred (100) Year Flood.
- D. In the event that a proposed development or encroachment includes modifications or alterations to the channel of the watercourse, as a means to offset any anticipated rise in the elevation of a base flood, Section 1310, in addition to the provisions of this Section, shall apply.

The above information shall be submitted to the Zoning Officer, the Township Engineer, FEMA and DEP for review and comment. In addition to receiving a positive review and approval from FEMA, the applicant shall be required to secure a Water Obstruction Permit from DEP under Title 25, Chapter 105 of the Pennsylvania Code. No zoning permit shall be issued until the Zoning Officer finds that all applicable requirements have been met.

SECTION 1312 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL FLOOD
PLAIN AREA AND GENERAL FLOOD PLAIN AREA

Within any special floodplain area, no new construction or development shall be allowed unless it is demonstrated that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, will not increase the elevation of the one hundred (100) year flood more than one (1) foot at any point.

Within any Special Floodplain Area or General Floodplain Area the following provisions shall apply:

- 1. No new construction or development shall be located within the area measured fifty (50) feet landward from the top of bank of any watercourse.
- 2. Any new construction or development, which would cause an increase in 100 year flood heights shall be prohibited within any floodway area.

SECTION 1313 STRUCTURAL ANCHORING AND FLOODPROOFING REQUIREMENTS

All buildings and structures which represent new construction and/or substantial improvement shall be firmly anchored in accordance with accepted engineering practices to prevent flotation, collapse and lateral movement. The Zoning Officer shall require the applicant to submit the written opinion of a registered professional engineer that the proposed structural design meets this standard prior to the issuance of a zoning permit.

SECTION 1314 ISSUANCE OF BUILDING PERMIT

Prior to the issuance of any building permit, the Code Enforcement Officer or the person so authorized by Rice Township to issue building permits shall review the application for the permit to determine if all other necessary government permits required by State and Federal laws have been obtained, such as those required by the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (1966-537, as amended), the Pennsylvania Dam Safety Act (1937-394, as amended), the United States Clean Water Act, Section 404, 33 U.S.C. 1344. No building permit shall be issued until such a determination has been made.

SECTION 1315 FLOODPROOFING

Zoning approval of any proposed use, development and/or substantial improvement, which is located within a One-Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain shall be conditioned upon strict compliance with all applicable floodproofing provisions as contained within this Article, and other applicable codes and ordinances of Rice Township including but not limited to the following standards:

1315.1 RESIDENTIAL

Any new construction or substantial improvement to residential structures located completely or partially within a One-Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain shall be designed and constructed to have the lowest floor, including basement, elevated to not less than one and one half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) feet above the corresponding base flood elevation.

1315.2 NONRESIDENTIAL

Any new construction or substantial improvement to nonresidential structures located completely or partially within an identified One-Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain shall be designed and constructed to provide:

- A. The lowest floor, including basement, shall be elevated not less than one and one half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) feet above the corresponding base flood elevation.

OR

- B. Any nonresidential structure, or part thereof, having a lowest floor (including basement) which is not elevated to at least one and one half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) feet above One-Hundred Year (100) flood elevation, shall be floodproofed in a completely or essentially dry manner in accordance with the standards contained in the publication titled "Floodproofing Regulations" published by the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers, dated March 31, 1992, or the most recent revision to said publication. All plans and specifications for such floodproofing shall be accompanied by a statement certified by a registered professional engineer or architect which states that the proposed design and methods of construction are in conformance with the aforementioned standards.

1315.3 ACCESSORY STRUCTURES

Accessory structures to a principal building or use need not to be elevated or flood proofed to remain dry, but shall comply, at minimum with the following requirements:

- A. The structure shall not be designed or used for human habitation, but shall be limited to the parking and storage of vehicles, or for the storage of tools, material and equipment related to the principal use or activity.
- B. The gross floor area shall not exceed 750 square feet.
- C. The structure shall have a low damage potential.
- D. The structure shall be located upon the site so as to cause the least obstruction to the flow of floodwaters.
- E. Power lines, wiring and outlets shall be not less than one and one half (1½) feet above the 100 year flood elevation.
- F. Permanently affixed utility equipment and appliances such as furnaces, heaters, washers, dryers, etc. are prohibited.
- G. Sanitary facilities are prohibited.
- H. The structure shall be adequately anchored to prevent flotation and movement and shall be designed to automatically provide for the entry and exit of floodwaters for the purpose of equalizing hydrostatic forces on the walls. Design for meeting this requirement must be certified by either a registered professional engineer or architect, or meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:
 - 1. A minimum of two openings having a net total area of not less than one (1) square inch for every square foot of enclosed space.
 - 2. The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one (1) foot above grade.
 - 3. Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, etc. or other coverings or devices provided they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.

1315.4 MANUFACTURED HOMES

Where permitted in accordance with the underlying zoning districts, all manufactured homes and improvements thereto which are located completely or partially within an identified One-Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain shall be governed by the following provisions:

- A. Placed upon a permanent foundation.
- B. Elevated so that the lowest floor of the manufactured home is one and one-half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) feet or more above the elevation of the One Hundred Year Flood.
- C. Anchored to resist flotation, collapse or lateral movement.

Within any identified floodway, manufactured homes shall be prohibited.

1315.5 USE OF FILL

If fill is to be used to raise the lowest floor of the structure, including basement, to an elevation of one and one half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) feet above the base flood elevation the fill shall:

- A. Extend laterally at least fifteen (15) feet beyond the building line from all points.
- B. Consist only of soil or small rock materials.
- C. Be compacted to provide necessary permeability and resistance to erosion, scouring or settling.
- D. Be no steeper than one (1) vertical foot to two (2) horizontal feet unless substantial data justifying steeper slopes are submitted to, and approved by the Code Enforcement Officer or the person so authorized by Rice Township to issue building permits.
- E. Be utilized in a manner and extent to which it does not adversely affect adjacent properties.

1315.6 DRAINAGE FACILITIES

Storm drainage facilities shall be designed to convey the flow of storm water runoff in a safe and efficient manner. The system shall insure proper drainage along streets, and provide positive drainage away from buildings. The system shall also be designed to prevent the discharge of excess runoff onto adjacent properties.

SECTION 1316 UTILITIES

1316.1

New and replacement public and private utilities and facilities, such as sanitary sewers, gas lines, electric systems, telephone systems and water systems shall be designed and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damages.

1316.2

Within any structure the following items shall be either floodproofed or elevated to be not less than one and one half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) feet above the base flood elevation.

- A. Water heaters of any type.
- B. Furnaces
- C. Air Conditioning and ventilating systems.
- D. Electrical distribution panels.
- E. Similar mechanical equipment or apparatus.

Water supply systems and sanitary sewage systems of structures shall be designed to prevent the infiltration of flood waters into the system and discharges from the system into flood waters.

All gas and oil supply systems shall be designed to prevent the infiltration of flood waters into the system and discharges from the system into flood waters. Additional provisions shall be made for the drainage of these systems in the event that flood water infiltration occurs.

SECTION 1317 CERTIFICATION OF FLOODPROOFING

When floodproofing methods are utilized in accordance with Section 1315 of this Ordinance, a registered professional engineer or architect shall certify in writing that the floodproofing methods utilized are adequate to withstand flood depths, pressures, velocities, impact and uplift forces and other factors associated with a One-Hundred (100) Year Flood. The certification shall also indicate the specific elevation in relation to mean sea level to which such structures are floodproofed. In addition to certification of as-built drawings, a certification by an architect or professional engineer shall be required immediately following the completion of construction or substantial improvements, including completion and filing of an Elevation Certificate and/or a Floodproofing Certificate as provided by FEMA. This certification must indicate the mean sea level of the lowest floor and/or, as applicable, the mean sea level to which floodproofing measures have been taken. Such certification is required prior to the issuance of an Occupancy Permit by the Zoning Officer, Code Enforcement Officer or the person so authorized by Rice Township to issue an Occupancy Permit.

SECTION 1318 FULLY ENCLOSED AREAS BELOW THE LOWEST FLOOR

Within an identified One Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain, any fully enclosed areas of a structure below the lowest floor shall be limited to unfinished space limited to the parking of vehicles, building access or storage. Such enclosed areas, including new construction and substantial improvements may be located below the base flood elevation subject to the following:

- A. Be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for entry and exit of floodwaters.
- B. Provide a minimum of two (2) openings having a total net area of not less than one square (1) inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding.
- C. The bottom of the aforementioned openings addressed in item B. shall be no higher than one (1) foot above grade with the option of being equipped with screens, louvers, valves or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.

- D. Provide written certification from a registered professional engineer or architect that the criteria of the above items, (A), (B) and (C) have been met.

In addition to the above, the owner of the property shall record upon the deed of said property, a restriction which limits the use of the fully enclosed areas of a structure below the lowest floor to the parking of vehicles, building access or storage. A copy with said restriction shall be provided to the Zoning Officer.

SECTION 1319 PROHIBITED USES

The development of the following uses, including their construction, expansion, enlargement, and/or substantial improvement, is hereby prohibited in any area of a designated One Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain:

- (1) Manufactured home park;
- (2) Nursing Homes (Public or Private);
- (3) Hospitals and Clinics (Public or Private);
- (4) Jails, Prisons, or any similar detention facility.
- (5) On-lot sewage disposal systems, including the encroachment of such a system within fifty (50) feet of any wetlands.

SECTION 1320 REGULATIONS FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

1320.1 Classification

For the purpose of administration the following materials and substances are hereby deemed and classified as potential hazards when located in a One Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain:

Acetone
Ammonia
Benzene
Calcium carbide
Celluloid
Carbon disulfide
Chlorine
Hydrocyanic acid
Hydrochloric acid
Magnesium
Nitric acid and oxides of nitrogen
Petroleum products (gasoline, fuel oil, etc.) Phosphorus
Potassium
Sodium
Sulfur and sulfur products
Pesticides (including insecticides, fungicides and rodenticides)
Radioactive substances
Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB)
Dioxin

1320.2 Prohibited Uses

The use of any property for the production of or requiring the storage or maintenance of any quantities of radioactive substances, Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) or Dioxin shall be expressly prohibited anywhere within a One Hundred (100) Year Flood Plain.

1320.3 Restrictions in Flood Fringe Area, Special Flood Plain Area and General Flood Plain Area

With the exclusion of Radioactive Substances, Polychlorinated Biphenyl and Dioxin, the use of any property which includes the storage, production or maintenance of a supply of more than 550 gallons or comparable volume of those materials and substances listed in Section 1320.1 of this Article, may be located within a Flood Fringe area, a Special Flood Plain area and General Flood Plain area subject to the use being permitted in the underlying zoning district and further subject to being elevated or floodproofed to remain completely dry at an elevation of not less than one and one-half (1^{1/2}) feet above the base flood elevation.

1320.4 Restrictions for Floodway

The use of any property which includes the storage, production or maintenance of material and substances listed in Section 1320.1 of this Ordinance shall be prohibited in a designated Floodway.

SECTION 1321 IMPROVEMENTS

The following provisions shall apply whenever any improvement is made to an existing structure located within any identified floodplain area:

- A. No expansion or enlargement of an existing structure shall be allowed within any floodway area that would cause any increase in the elevation of the one hundred (100) year flood.
- B. No expansion or enlargement of an existing structure shall be allowed within any Special Flood Plain Area that would, together with all other existing and anticipated development, increase the one hundred (100) year flood elevation more than one (1) foot at any point.
- C. Any modification, alteration, reconstruction or improvement of any kind to any existing structure which equals or exceeds fifty (50%) percent of its market value, shall constitute a substantial improvement and shall be permitted subject and conditioned upon full compliance with all applicable floodproofing provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 1322 VARIANCES

In addition to the criteria contained in Section 1509 of this Ordinance, the following additional standards and criteria shall apply for a request for a variance:

1. No variance shall be issued for any proposed development, use and/or activity within any designated floodway which would result in any increase in flood levels during a One Hundred (100) Year Flood.
2. No variance shall be issued which would allow for the development, use and/or activity of those specifically prohibited in Section 1319, PROHIBITED USES and Section 1320, REGULATIONS FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS of this Ordinance.
3. No variance shall be granted for any construction, development, use or activity within a Special Flood Plain Area that would, together with all other existing and anticipated development, increase the one hundred (100) flood elevation more than one (1) foot at any point.
4. A variance shall authorize the least reduction and/or modification necessary to provide relief in consideration of the flood hazard.
5. A variance shall only be issued upon:
 - A. A showing of good and sufficient cause.
 - B. A determination that failure to grant the variance would result in an exceptional hardship to the applicant.
 - C. A determination that granting the variance will not result in a prohibited increase in flood heights, additional threat to public safety, extraordinary public expense, create nuisances, cause fraud on, or victimize the public or conflict with any local laws or ordinances.

SECTION 1323 MODIFICATION OF FREEBOARD REQUIREMENT
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

The Township shall notify the applicant in writing over the signature of the Chairman or Secretary of the Zoning Hearing Board that:

- A. The issuance of a variance to construct a structure below the base flood level can result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars for each one hundred (\$100.00) dollars of flood insurance coverage.
- B. Such construction below the base flood elevation increases risk to life and property.
- C. The issuance of a variance from the required one and one half (1½) feet of freeboard per Section 1315 of this Ordinance, but above the base flood elevation may result in increased premium rates for flood insurance and increased risks to the structure, its contents and occupants.

Such notification shall be maintained with a record of all variances approved and/or considered by the Zoning Hearing Board, including justification for their issuance or denial. Such information shall be placed on file with the Secretary to the Zoning Hearing

Board and shall be submitted annually to FEMA and the Rice Township Board of Supervisors

ARTICLE 14
ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 1401 ZONING OFFICER

1401.1 APPOINTMENT

A Zoning Officer, who shall not hold any elected office within Rice Township, shall be appointed by the Township Board of Supervisors. The Zoning Officer shall meet qualifications established by Rice Township, which shall at minimum include a working knowledge of municipal zoning.

1401.2 DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE ZONING OFFICER

It shall be the duty of the Zoning Officer to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance in accordance with its literal terms and said Officer shall not have the power to permit any construction, alteration or any use or change of use to land or structure which does not conform to the applicable provisions within this Ordinance. The Zoning Officer's duties shall include but are not limited to the following:

- (A) Receive and review all applications for zoning permits and to approve and issue zoning permits when warranted.
- (B) Keep an official record of all business and activities, including all complaints of zoning violations of any of the provisions of this Ordinance and the resulting action of said complaints.
- (C) Conduct inspections of properties as required to fulfill his/her duties. In conducting such activities, the Zoning Officer may have access to any land, building or structure, subject to the consent and/or right of entry by the owner or tenant or by securing a search warrant issued by a Court of proper jurisdiction.
- (D) Issue permits as authorized by the Zoning Hearing Board or the Planning Commission, pursuant to the requirements and applicable procedures of this Ordinance or by written order of a Court of proper jurisdiction.
- (E) Issue Certificates of Zoning Compliance in accordance with the terms and provisions of this Ordinance.
- (F) Issue Certificates of Nonconformity to nonconforming uses and/or structures and to maintain a listing of such as required.
- (G) Maintain the Zoning Map, showing the current zoning districts of all land and the zoning text, including amendments thereto.
- (H) Notify the Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors of required and/or requested hearings based upon the completion of his review and processing of applications for a zoning permit. The submission of an application for a zoning permit to the Zoning Officer and his determination that a hearing before

the Board is either required or requested shall be a prerequisite for any application being forwarded to the Zoning Hearing Board for consideration.

- (I) Participate in proceedings before the Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors and at their request, furnish such facts, records and similar information which may assist them in rendering decisions.
- (J) In the event of a violation of this Ordinance, provide written notice to the person responsible for such violation, indicating the nature of the violation and ordering the action necessary to correct the violation. Such written notice may be served personally or by certified mail. Corrective action may include an order to cease and desist the illegal use and/or activity of land, buildings, signs, or structures; or to remove illegal buildings, structures, additions, signs, and/or structural alterations.

SECTION 1402 ZONING PERMIT

1402.1 ISSUANCE OF PERMIT

No building, structure or sign shall be erected, constructed, moved, added to or structurally altered, nor shall any land, structure or building be put to any use without first obtaining a zoning permit from the Zoning Officer. No application shall be submitted to or considered by the Zoning Hearing Board until the Zoning Officer has received an application for a Zoning Permit and has determined that an approval and/or review by the Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors is required or requested by the applicant. No such permit shall be issued except in conformity with the provisions of this Ordinance or upon written approval from the Zoning Hearing Board in the form of a Special Exception, Variance or an Administrative Appeal, upon written approval from the Board of Supervisors in the form of a Conditional Use Permit or as otherwise provided for by this Ordinance or any Court of proper jurisdiction. Normal and routine maintenance and repairs to a structure shall be exempt from obtaining a zoning permit. Interior remodeling of a structure shall also be exempt from obtaining a zoning permit provided that such remodeling does not include structural alterations or result in a change in the use of the structure.

1402.2 FORM OF APPLICATION

All applications for permits shall be made in writing by the owner, his authorized agent or equitable owner and shall be filed with the Zoning Officer on forms prescribed by the same. All applications which seek approval, involving new construction, additions, structural alterations, a change of use and/or any other form of improvements to a property shall be accompanied by two (2) sets of plans and information which includes but is not limited to the following:

- (A) A plan drawn to scale, indicating the actual dimensions and shape of the lot to be built upon and a written statement that the applicant is the owner or authorized agent of the owner or equitable owner.
- (B) The exact size and location on the lot of existing and/or proposed structures, buildings or signs, including proposed additions thereto.

- (C) The number and type of dwelling units, if applicable.
- (D) The amount and location of parking and/or loading facilities.
- (E) The existing use and/or proposed use of the property.
- (F) The height of the building, structure and/or sign.
- (G) A detailed scale drawing of all signs, existing and proposed, indicating their location and how they are and/or will be affixed to the property.
- (H) Existing and/or proposed access to the site, including the name of the public street and/or road.
- (I) Any other information deemed necessary by the Zoning Officer to determine conformance with the provisions and regulations of this Ordinance.

1402.3 PROCESSING APPLICATIONS

The Zoning Officer shall return one (1) copy of the plans and accompanying information to the applicant upon marking such copies approved or denied and attested to the same by his signature. One (1) copy of the plans and accompanying information shall be retained by the Zoning Officer and kept on file.

1402.4 TIME PERIOD FOR PROCESSING APPLICATION

A properly completed zoning permit shall be approved or denied within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of a completed application and plans along with any additional information as required by the Zoning Officer. A zoning permit shall not be deemed complete, until all applicable and associated fees are paid in full. In cases of denial, the applicant shall be informed of his/her rights of appeal as prescribed within this Ordinance. Such notice shall be in writing under the signature of the Zoning Officer.

1402.5 EXPIRATION OF ZONING PERMIT

A zoning permit shall expire one (1) year from the date of issuance, if the work described in said permit has not commenced, including permits authorized to be issued by the Zoning Hearing Board. If the work described within the zoning permit has commenced within the prescribed one (1) year period, the permit shall expire two (2) years from the date of issuance. In such cases, should the applicant wish to pursue the work described within the expired permit, a new application shall be required with the payment of new fees.

1402.6 REVOCATION OF PERMITS

The Zoning Officer may revoke a permit or approval issued in error under the provisions of this Ordinance or in the case of any false statements or misrepresentation of fact in the

application or on the plans on which the permit or approval was based or for any other just cause as set forth in this Ordinance.

SECTION 1403 CERTIFICATE OF ZONING COMPLIANCE

A Certificate of Zoning Compliance, issued by the Zoning Officer, shall be required prior to the occupation for the use or change of use of any building, structure or land.

Residential accessory structures and agricultural uses shall be exempt from securing a Certificate of Zoning Compliance. It shall be unlawful to use and/or occupy any structure, building and/or land or portions thereof in any manner until a Certificate of Zoning Compliance has been issued and obtained from the Zoning Officer.

1403.1 APPLICATIONS

All applications for a Certificate of Zoning Compliance shall be made in writing on forms prescribed by the Zoning Officer and shall include all information necessary for the Zoning Officer to ascertain compliance with the subject zoning permit and this Ordinance.

1403.2 ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF ZONING COMPLIANCE

A Certificate of Zoning Compliance shall not be issued until the Zoning Officer has certified the proposed use complies with all provisions and regulations of this Ordinance or upon written order from the Zoning Hearing Board or any Court of proper jurisdiction.

1403.3 TIME LIMITATION

An application for a Certificate of Zoning Compliance shall be approved or denied within thirty (30) days after the Zoning Officer has been officially notified of either the completion of construction or the request to occupy and use land where no construction is involved.

SECTION 1404 ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

1404.1 NOTICE OF VIOLATION

If in the judgment of the Zoning Officer, it appears that a violation of this Ordinance has occurred, the Zoning Officer shall initiate enforcement proceedings by sending a violation notice to the owner of record of the parcel of land on which the violation has occurred, to any person who has filed a written request to receive violation notices regarding the parcel of land and to any other person requested in writing by the owner of record. The violation notice shall include, but may not be limited to the following:

- A. The name of the owner of record and any other person against whom Rice Township intends to take action.
- B. The location and/or address of the property in violation.
- C. The specific violations with a description of the requirements which have not

been met, citing in each instance the applicable sections and provisions of this Ordinance.

- D. The date by which the steps for compliance must be commenced and the date by which the steps for compliance must be completed.
- E. That the recipient of the violation notice has the right to appeal the violation notice and request a hearing on the same before the Zoning Hearing Board within thirty (30) days from the issuance of the violation notice. Section 1606 (M) shall govern the procedural process of any appeal of a violation notice.
- F. Failure to comply with the notice within the specified time period, unless extended by an appeal to the Zoning Hearing Board, constitutes a violation, with a description of sanctions which shall result to correct or abate the violation.

1404.2 CAUSES OF ACTION

In case any building, structure, landscaping or land is, or is proposed to be, erected, constructed, reconstructed, altered, converted, maintained or used in violation of this Ordinance, Township Board of Supervisors or, with the approval of the Township Board of Supervisors, an officer or agent of Rice Township, or any aggrieved owner or tenant of real property who shows that his property or person will be substantially affected by the alleged violation, in addition to other remedies, may institute any appropriate action or proceedings to prevent, restrain, correct or abate such building, structure, landscaping or land, or to prevent, in or about such premises, any act, conduct, business or use constituting a violation of this Ordinance. When such action is instituted by a landowner or tenant, notice of that action shall be served upon Rice Township not less than thirty (30) days prior to the time the action is begun by serving a copy of the complaint to the Township Board of Supervisors. No action may be taken until such notice has been given.

1404.3 JURISDICTION

District Justices shall have initial jurisdiction over proceedings brought under Section 1404.4 of this Ordinance.

1404.4 ENFORCEMENT REMEDIES

Any person, partnership or corporation who or which has violated or permitted the violation of the provisions of this Ordinance shall, upon being found liable therefor in a civil enforcement proceedings commenced by Rice Township or the Zoning Officer, shall pay a judgment of not more than five-hundred (\$500.00) dollars, plus all court costs, including reasonable attorney fees incurred by Rice Township as a result of said proceedings. No judgment shall commence or be imposed, levied or payable until the date of the determination of a violation by the District Justice. If the defendant neither pays nor timely appeals the judgment, Rice Township may enforce the judgment pursuant to the applicable rules of civil procedure. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation, unless the District Justice determining that there has been a violation further determines that there has been a good faith basis for the person, partnership or

corporation violating this Ordinance to have believed that there was no such violation. In such cases, there shall be deemed to have been only one such violation until the fifth day following the date of the determination of a violation by the District Justice and thereafter each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation. All judgments, costs and reasonable attorney fees collected for the violation of this Ordinance shall be paid over to Rice Township.

The Court of Common Pleas, upon petition, may grant an order of stay, upon cause shown, tolling the per diem fine pending a final adjudication of the violation and judgment.

Nothing contained in this Section shall be construed or interpreted to grant any person or entity other than Rice Township the right to commence any action for enforcement pursuant to this Section.

SECTION 1405 SCHEDULE OF FEES, CHARGES AND EXPENSES

The Township Board of Supervisors shall establish by resolution a schedule of fees, charges and expenses and collection procedures for Zoning Permits, Certificates of Zoning Compliance, Certificates of Nonconformance, appeals to the Zoning Hearing Board, applications for conditional uses, amendments to the Zoning Ordinance or Zoning Map and any other matters pertaining to the administration of this Ordinance. The schedule of fees, charges and expenses shall be available for public inspection and may be altered or amended by resolution of the Township Board of Supervisors. No action shall be taken on any application, appeal or certificate until all related fees, charges and expenses have been paid in full. An application shall not be deemed as filed until completed and submitted with payment in full of appropriate fees and applicable supporting documentation.

**ARTICLE 15
AMENDMENTS**

SECTION 1501 AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

The provisions of this Ordinance and the boundaries of the zoning districts as set forth upon the Zoning Map, may from time to time be amended by the Township Board of Supervisors in accordance with the provisions as set forth in the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247, as amended. Prior to adopting any amendment to this Ordinance or to the Zoning Map, the following procedures shall be met:

- (A) Any proposed amendment, not initiated by the Rice Township Planning Commission, shall be referred to the Township Planning Commission not less than thirty (30) days prior to a public hearing before the Township Board of Supervisors to provide the Township Planning Commission an opportunity to submit any comments or recommendations regarding the proposed amendment.
- (B) Prior to voting on the enactment of any proposed amendment, the Township Board of Supervisors shall hold a public hearing pursuant to public notice. If, after any public hearing held upon a proposed amendment, said amendment is substantially changed, or is revised to include land not previously affected by the proposed amendment, the Township Board of Supervisors shall hold another public hearing before proceeding to vote on the amendment.
- (C) Any recommendation of the Township Planning Commission shall be submitted to the Township Board of Supervisors in writing.
- (D) Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the public hearing, the Township Board of Supervisors shall submit the proposed amendment to the Luzerne County Planning Commission for its comments and recommendation. In addition to the proposed amendment, the Township Board of Supervisors shall submit any required fees charged by the Luzerne County Planning Commission for their review.
- (E) Proposed action shall not be taken until the Township Planning Commission and the Luzerne County Planning Commission comments and recommendations are submitted to the Township Board of Supervisors. If either Commission fails to act within thirty (30) days, from its receipt of the proposed amendment, the Township Board of Supervisors may proceed without such recommendation.
- (F) When a proposed amendment involves a Zoning Map change, the following procedures shall be applicable:
 - 1. Notice of the public hearing shall be conspicuously posted by Township at points deemed sufficient along the perimeter of the tract to notify potentially interested citizens. The affected tract or area shall be posted not less than one (1) week prior to the date of the public hearing.
 - 2. Notice of the public hearing shall be mailed by Township, at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the public hearing, by first class mail to the addresses to which real estate tax bills are sent for all real and to those properties

located within a distance of two hundred (200) feet of any property boundary line of the property subject to the proposed zone change as evidenced by tax records within the Luzerne County Tax Assessment Office. The party requesting the zoning boundary amendment shall be responsible for securing such information and providing the same to the Township. The notice shall include the location, time and date of the public hearing. A good faith effort and substantial compliance shall be deemed to satisfy this requirement. While it shall be the intent of Rice Township to provide written notice to such owners, failure to do so shall not invalidate an otherwise duly enacted ordinance that amends in the Zoning Map.

3. The above requirement shall not apply when the rezoning constitutes a comprehensive rezoning.

SECTION 1502 APPLICATIONS FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE TEXT OR MAP

The application for a proposed amendment, which is not submitted as a curative amendment, to the text of this Ordinance or to the Zoning Map, shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Officer, who shall process said application in accordance with Section 1501 of this Ordinance. An application shall contain the following information as applicable:

- (A) The applicant's name and address and/or the name and address of his authorized agent or the equitable owner.
- (B) A copy of the deed to the property, and when the applicant is not the owner of the property, appropriate documentation to establish the applicant's standing as the equitable owner.
- (C) A signed statement by the owner of record, or applicant as the case may be, attesting to the truth of the facts of all information contained within the application.
- (D) A scaled plan of the area proposed to be rezoned, which indicates abutting streets, the zone classification of adjoining properties and the names and addresses of the true and correct owners of record within the area proposed to be rezoned and physically bordering the area to be rezoned as evidenced by tax records within the Luzerne County Tax Assessor's Office.
- (E) Plans, drawings and explanatory material, which describes in detail the applicant's proposed use and/or development of the property.
- (F) Specify those Sections of this Ordinance or areas upon the Zoning Map which will be affected by the proposed amendment.

SECTION 1503 CURATIVE AMENDMENTS

1503.1 INITIATED BY LANDOWNER

A landowner who desires to challenge on substantive grounds the validity of this Ordinance or the Zoning Map, or any provision thereof, which prohibits or restricts the use

or development of land in which he has an interest, may submit a curative amendment to the Township Board of Supervisors with a written request that his challenge and proposed amendment to cure the alleged defect, be heard and decided by the Township Board of Supervisors. In addition to the written request and proposed amendment, the landowner shall also submit plans, drawings and explanatory material, which describes in detail his proposed use or development. The Township Board of Supervisors shall commence a public hearing pursuant to public notice within sixty (60) days of the landowner's request. The sixty (60) day period shall not commence until all required information and material is submitted, along with all related fees. Failure to convene a public hearing within sixty (60) days of the landowner's request shall not result in a deemed approval.

The curative amendment and supporting information shall be referred to the Township Planning Commission and the Luzerne County Planning Commission for its review and comment not less than thirty (30) days prior to the public hearing.

The public hearing before the Township Board of Supervisors shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures contained in Section 1506 of this Ordinance and all references therein to the Zoning Hearing Board shall, for the purposes of this Section, be references to the Township Board of Supervisors. Public notice of the required public hearing shall include notice of the validity of those particular provisions of this Ordinance and/or the Zoning Map which are in question, along with the place where the proposed amendment, plans, drawings, explanatory material and any other pertinent information may be examined by the public.

If the Township Board of Supervisors determines that a validity challenge has merit, it may accept a landowner's curative amendment, with or without revisions, or it may adopt an alternative amendment which will cure the challenged defects. The Township Board of Supervisors shall consider in addition to the landowner's proposed curative amendment, plans, drawings and explanatory material the following items:

- (A) The impact of the proposal upon roads, sewer facilities, water supplies, schools and other public service facilities.
- (B) If the proposal is for a residential use, the impact of the proposal upon regional housing needs and the effectiveness of the proposal in providing housing units of a type actually available and affordable by classes of persons otherwise unlawfully excluded by the challenged provisions of this Ordinance and/or Zoning Map.
- (C) The suitability of the site for the intensity of use proposed in relationship to the site's soils, slopes, woodlands, flood plains, aquifers, natural resources and other natural features.
- (D) The impact of the proposed use on the site's soils, slopes, woodlands, wetlands, flood plains, aquifers, natural resources and other natural features, in relationship to the degree to which these are protected or destroyed, the tolerance of the resources to development and any adverse environmental impacts.
- (E) The impact of the proposal on the preservation of agriculture and any other land uses which are essential to the public health and welfare.

The proposed curative amendment shall be deemed denied in accordance with any of the following:

- (A) Failure to commence the public hearing within sixty (60) days of the landowner's request.
- (B) When the Township Board of Supervisors notifies the landowner that it will not adopt the curative amendment.
- (C) When the Township Board of Supervisors adopts another curative amendment which is unacceptable to the landowner.
- (D) When the Township Board of Supervisors fails to act on the request within forty-five (45) days after the close of the last public hearing on the request, unless the time is extended by mutual consent by the landowner and the Township Board of Supervisors.

1503.2 INITIATED BY THE TOWNSHIP

If the Township Board of Supervisors determines this Ordinance or the Official Zoning Map, or any portion thereof, to be substantially invalid, it shall declare such by a formal action and propose to prepare a curative amendment to overcome such invalidity. Within thirty (30) days following said declaration, the Township Board of Supervisors shall by resolution make specific findings setting forth the declared invalidity which may include:

- (A) References to specific uses which are either not permitted or not permitted in sufficient quantity.
- (B) Reference to a class of use or uses which require revision.
- (C) Reference to the entire Ordinance and/or Map which requires revisions.

Within one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of the declaration and proposal as set forth in this Section, the Township Board of Supervisors shall enact a curative amendment to correct those portions deemed invalid or reaffirm the validity of those portions initially deemed to be invalid. Upon the initiation of procedures as set forth in this Section, the Township Board of Supervisors shall not be required to entertain or consider any landowner's curative amendment, nor shall the Zoning Hearing Board be required to consider a substantive challenge to the validity of the Zoning Ordinance or Zoning Map, pursuant to Section 1508 (A) of this Ordinance, based upon grounds identical to or substantially similar to those specified in the Township Board of Supervisors' resolution.

The Township Board of Supervisors, having utilized the procedures as set forth in this Section, may not again utilize said procedure for a thirty-six (36) month period following the date of the enactment of a curative amendment or reaffirmation of the validity of this Ordinance and/or Zoning Map. However, if after the date of declaration and proposal, there is a substantially new duty or obligation imposed upon township by virtue of a change in statute or by virtue of a Pennsylvania Appellate Court decision, Township may utilize the provisions of this Section to prepare a curative amendment to fulfill said duty or obligation.

SECTION 1504 ENACTMENT OF AMENDMENTS

A proposed amendment to this Ordinance or to the Zoning Map shall be enacted in conformance with the following:

- (A) The Township Board of Supervisors shall conduct a public hearing pursuant to public notice and in accordance with the procedures as contained within Section 1501 of this Ordinance.
- (B) Public notice shall include the time, place and date of the meeting at which enactment will be considered and a place within Township where copies of the proposed amendment may be examined without charge or obtained for a charge not greater than the cost thereof.
- (C) Public notice shall include either the full text of the amendment or the title and a brief summary of the amendment as prepared by the municipal solicitor. If the full text is not included, then a copy of such shall be supplied to the newspaper in which the public notice is published, and an attested copy to the County Law Library.
- (D) In the event substantial changes are made to the proposed amendment, before voting upon enactment, the Township Board of Supervisors shall, not less than ten days prior to enactment, readvertise in one newspaper of general circulation in Township, a brief summary setting forth all the provisions in reasonable detail together with a summary of the changes.

SECTION 1505 NOTIFICATION TO COUNTY

Within thirty (30) days after the enactment of an amendment to this Ordinance or to the Zoning Map, a copy of the amendment shall be forwarded to the Luzerne County Planning Commission.

ARTICLE 16
ZONING HEARING BOARD

SECTION 1601 MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD

The membership of the Zoning Hearing Board shall consist of three (3) residents of Rice Township appointed by the Rice Township Board of Supervisors by resolution. The terms of office for Board members shall be three (3) years and shall be so fixed that the term of office of one member shall expire each year. The Board shall promptly notify the Township Board of Supervisors of any vacancies which occur. Appointments to fill vacancies shall be only for the unexpired portion of the term. Members of the Board shall hold no other office in the Township, including membership upon the Planning Commission.

SECTION 1602 ALTERNATES TO ZONING HEARING BOARD

The Township Board of Supervisors may appoint by resolution one resident of Rice Township to serve as an alternate member of the Board. When seated pursuant to the provisions of Section 1604 of this Ordinance, an alternate shall be entitled to participate in all proceedings and discussions of the Board to the same and full extent as provided by law for Board Members, including specifically the right to cast a vote as a voting member during proceedings, and shall have all the powers and duties set forth in this Ordinance and as otherwise provided by law. An alternate shall hold no other office in the Township, including membership on the Planning Commission. An alternate may participate in any proceedings or discussions of the Board, but shall not be entitled to vote as a member of the Board unless designated as a voting alternate member pursuant to Section 1604 of this Ordinance. The term of office for an alternate member of the Zoning Hearing Board shall be one (1) year.

SECTION 1603 REMOVAL OF MEMBERS

Any Board member or alternate may be removed for malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance in office or for any other just cause by the Township Board of Supervisors. Prior to any vote by the Township Board of Supervisors, the member shall receive notice fifteen (15) days in advance of the date at which it intends to take such a vote. A hearing before the Township Board of Supervisors shall be held in connection with the vote, if the member requests a hearing in writing.

SECTION 1604 ORGANIZATION OF BOARD

The Board shall elect from its own membership its officers, who shall serve annual terms as such and may succeed themselves. For the conduct of any hearing and the taking of any action, a quorum shall be not less than a majority of all the members of the Board. The Board, however, may appoint a hearing officer from its own membership to conduct any hearing on its behalf and the parties may waive further action by the Board as provided in Section 1606. If by any reason of absence or disqualification of a member, a quorum is not reached, the chairman of the Board shall designate the alternate member of the Board to be seated to establish a quorum. The alternate member of the Board shall continue to serve on the Board in all proceedings involving the matter or case for which the alternate was initially appointed until the Board has made a final determination of the matter or case.

The Board may make, alter and rescind rules and forms for its procedure, consistent with ordinances of Rice Township and laws of the Commonwealth. The Board shall keep full public records of its business, which records shall be the property of the Township, and shall submit an annual report of its activities to the Township Board of Supervisors.

SECTION 1605 EXPENDITURES FOR SERVICES

Within the limits of appropriated funds, the Board may employ or contract for secretaries, clerks, legal counsel, consultants, and technical services which they may deem necessary to augment the Board in the performance of their duties.

SECTION 1606 HEARINGS

The Zoning Hearing Board shall conduct hearings and render decisions in accordance with the following:

- A. Notice of hearings before the Board shall be by public notice; a notice published once a week for two (2) successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township. Such notice shall state the time and place of the hearing and the particular nature of matters to be considered at the hearing by the Board. The first publication shall not be more than thirty (30) days and the second publication shall not be less than seven (7) days from the date of the hearing.
- B. Written notice of all hearings before the Board shall be conspicuously posted on the affected property not less than one week prior to the hearing.

Written notice of all hearings before the Board shall be conspicuously posted on the affected property by the owner at least one week prior to the hearing. The owner shall provide the Hearing Board with a notarized affidavit of posting.

Written notice shall be given to the following parties:

- 1. The Zoning Officer.
- 2. The applicant.
- 3. The owner of record of the subject property before the Board, if different than that of the applicant.
- 4. The owner of record of any property which has an adjoining or contiguous property boundary with the subject property before the Board. An adjoining or contiguous property boundary shall be deemed to also include such properties which have any amount of opposite front, rear or sideyard areas including those properties that are separated from the subject property before the Board by a public or private street, road, alley and/or similar right-of-way. In cases of a corner property subject to a hearing before the Board, in addition to the owners of record with an adjoining or contiguous property boundary, notice shall also be given to any owner of record of any property

which has frontage along the intersection of the public or private streets or roads in question.

5. Any party or person who has submitted a written request to receive notification on the subject property.

The applicant shall be responsible for providing the Zoning Hearing Board with the names and addresses of the true and correct owners of record based upon the records contained in the Luzerne County Tax Assessor's Office. While it shall be the intent of the Rice Township Zoning Hearing Board to provide written notice to property owners which have a common side yard, rear yard or opposite frontage to the subject property before the Board, failure to do so, shall not represent a basis for appeal or otherwise invalidate a decision and/or finding of the Zoning Hearing Board.

- C. The Township Board of Supervisors may prescribe reasonable fees with respect to hearings before the Board. Fees for said hearings may include compensation for the secretary, and if applicable, members of the Zoning Hearing Board, notice and advertising costs and necessary administrative overhead connected with the hearing. The costs, however, shall not include legal expenses of the Board or expenses for engineering, architectural or other technical consultants or expert witnesses.
- D. The first hearing shall be held within sixty (60) days from the applicant's request, unless the applicant has agreed in writing to an extension of time. The sixty (60) day time period shall not commence until the applicant has submitted a properly completed application, with all required signatures, supporting information, the names and mailing addresses of parties to receive notice of the hearing, and all required fees. Each subsequent hearing shall be held within forty-five (45) days of the prior hearing, unless otherwise agreed to by the applicant in writing or on the record. An applicant shall complete the presentation of his case-in-chief within one hundred (100) days of the first hearing. Upon the request of the applicant, the Zoning Hearing Board or Hearing Officer shall assure that the applicant receives at least seven (7) hours of hearings within the one hundred (100) days, including the first hearing. Persons opposed to the application shall complete the presentation of their opposition to the application within one hundred (100) days of the first hearing held after the completion of the applicant's case-in-chief. An applicant may, upon request, be granted additional hearings to complete his case-in-chief provided the persons opposed to the application are granted an equal number of hearings. Persons opposed to the application may, upon written consent or consent on the record by the applicant and municipality, be granted additional hearings to complete their opposition to the application provided the applicant is granted an equal number of additional hearings for rebuttal.
- E. Hearings shall be conducted by the Board or the Board may appoint any member or an independent attorney as a hearing officer. The decision, or where no decision is called for, the findings shall be made by the Board, unless the appellant or applicant, as the case may be, in addition to the Township, agree to waive any decision or findings by the Board and accept the decision or findings of the hearing officer as final. If the decision or findings of the hearing officer are to be accepted as final, all parties to the hearing must agree to such stipulation at the outset of the hearing.

- F. The parties to the hearing shall be the Township, any person affected by the application who has made a timely appearance of record before the Board, and any other person including civic or community organizations permitted to appear by the Board. The Board shall have power to require that all persons who wish to be considered parties to the hearing enter appearances in writing on forms provided by the Board for such purpose.
- G. The presiding chairman or acting chairman of the Board or hearing officer shall have the power to administer oaths and issue subpoenas to compel attendance of witnesses and the production of relevant documents and papers, including witnesses and documents requested by parties to the hearing.
- H. The parties to the hearing shall have the right to be represented by legal counsel and shall be afforded the opportunity to respond and present evidence and arguments and to cross-examine adverse witnesses on all relevant issues.
- I. Formal rules of evidence shall not apply, but irrelevant, immaterial or unduly repetitious evidence may be excluded.
- J. The Board or the hearing officer, as the case may be, shall keep a stenographic record of the proceedings. The appearance fee for a stenographer shall be shared equally by the applicant and the Board. The cost of the original transcript shall be paid by the Board if the transcript is ordered by the Board or hearing officer, or shall be paid by the person appealing from the decision of the Board, if such appeal is made and in the event the cost of additional copies shall be paid by the person requesting such copies. In other cases the party requesting the original transcript shall bear the cost thereof.
- K. The Board, collectively or individually, or the hearing officer, shall not communicate directly or indirectly with any party or his representatives in connection with any issue before the Board involved except upon notice and opportunity for all parties to participate, shall not take notice of any communication, reports, staff memoranda, or other materials, except advice from its solicitor, unless all parties are afforded an opportunity to contest the material so noticed and shall not inspect the site or its surroundings after the commencement of hearings with any party or his representative unless all parties are given an opportunity to be present.
- L. The Board or the hearing officer, as the case may be, shall render a written decision or, if no decision is called for, provide written findings on the application within forty-five (45) days after the last hearing before the Board or hearing officer. If the application is contested or denied, each decision shall be accompanied by findings of fact and conclusions based thereon, together with the reasons therefor. Conclusions based on any provisions of the Ordinance or any other ordinance, rule or regulation, shall contain a reference to the provisions relied upon and the reasons why the conclusion is deemed appropriate in light of the facts found. If the hearing is conducted by a hearing officer, and there has been no stipulation that his decision or findings are final, the Board shall make his report and recommendations available to the parties of record within forty-five (45) days. The parties shall be entitled to make written representations thereon to the Board prior to final decision or entry of findings, with the Board's decision entered no later than thirty (30) days after the

report of the hearing officer. If the Board fails to commence, conduct or complete the required hearing as provided for under Section 1606(D), the decision shall be deemed to have been rendered in favor of the applicant, unless the applicant has agreed in writing or on the record to an extension of time. If a decision has been rendered in favor of the applicant because of the failure of the Board to meet or render a decision as herein above provided, the Board shall give public notice of said decision within ten (10) days from the last day it could have met to render a decision in the same manner as provided under Section 1606(A) and written notice of the decision shall be mailed to those parties identified under Section 1606(B). If the Board fails to provide such notice, the applicant may do so. Nothing contained within this Section shall prejudice the right of any party opposing the application to appeal the decision to a court of competent jurisdiction.

- M. In any appeal of an enforcement notice under Section 1304.1 of this Ordinance to the Zoning Hearing Board shall require that the Zoning Officer and/or Township provide its evidence first to the Board regarding the basis, nature and supporting information regarding the subject enforcement notice. Upon the conclusion of the same, the appealing party shall provide the Board with his/her evidence in contesting the subject enforcement notice. Any filing fees paid by a party to appeal an enforcement notice to the Zoning Hearing Board shall be returned to said party, if Zoning Hearing Board or any subsequent Court rules in favor of the appealing party.
- N. The final decision or, where no decision is called for, the findings shall be rendered by the Zoning Hearing Board at a public hearing and/or public meeting. A copy of the written decision or findings shall be delivered to the applicant personally or mailed to him not later than the day following the date of the Board's decision or findings. The Zoning Hearing Board shall provide by mail or otherwise, to all persons who have filed their name and address with the Board, not later than the last day of the hearing, a statement of brief notice of the decision or findings and a statement of the place and at which a copy of the full decision or findings may be examined.

SECTION 1607 MEDIATION OPTION

1607.1

Mediation may be utilized as an aid designed to supplement, as opposed to replacing, any proceedings before and under the jurisdiction of the Zoning Hearing Board. In no case, however, shall the Board or any member of the Board, initiate the use of mediation. No member of the Board shall be allowed to participate as a mediating party or be present during any sessions of mediation. Nothing within this Section shall be interpreted as expanding or limiting municipal police powers or modifying any principles of substantive law.

1607.2

Mediation shall be voluntary among all subject parties with the appropriateness of mediation determined by the particular issues of each case and the willingness among all the subject parties to negotiate. In order to supplement proceedings before the Zoning Hearing Board, the following information shall be submitted to the Board in written form and signed by all parties to the mediation, the selected mediator, and the Zoning Hearing Board.

- A. Method and commitment of funding of mediation.
- B. The mediator shall be an attorney and/or an individual who is certified by the American Arbitration Association, who shall possess a working knowledge of municipal zoning and subdivision practices and procedures.
- C. A schedule which shall clearly prescribe the time limitations for both the start and completion of mediation. The completion date shall be adhered to even if the negotiations fail to result in a mediated agreement by said date.
- D. Suspension of the appropriate time limitations which apply to the Zoning Hearing Board in convening a hearing and/or rendering a decision, once a hearing is convened, subject to executing a document of expressed written consent by the mediating parties, and by the Zoning Hearing Board.
- E. Identification of all subject parties and affording them the opportunity to participate.
- F. A determination of whether some or all of the mediation sessions shall be opened or closed to the public, subject to governing legal constraints.
- G. An agreement among the mediating parties, that any mediated solution be in written form and subject to review and approval by the Zoning Hearing Board.
- H. Any mediation which concludes within the prescribed time limits under Item C of this Section, which does resolve in whole or in part, the issues subject to mediation, shall then proceed under the hearing process before the Zoning Hearing Board.
- I. No offer or statements made in the mediation sessions, excluding the final written mediated agreement, shall be admissible as evidence in any subsequent judicial or administrative proceedings.

SECTION 1608 JURISDICTION OF ZONING HEARING BOARD

The Zoning Hearing Board, in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247, as amended, shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear and render final adjudication in the following matters:

- A. Substantive challenges to the validity of any land use ordinance, except for those brought before the Township Board of Supervisors under Section 1403.1 of this Ordinance.
- B. Challenges to the validity of any land use ordinance, based upon procedural questions or alleged defects in the process of enactment or adoption. Challenges based upon procedural questions or alleged defects shall be raised by an appeal to the Board within thirty (30) days after the effective date of the Ordinance subject to the appeal.
- C. Appeals from the determination of the zoning officer, including but not limited to, the granting or denial of any permit, or failure to act on the application therefor, the issuance of any cease and desist order, the revocation of a zoning permitted/or

building permit or the registration or refusal to register any nonconforming use, structure or lot.

- D. Appeals from a determination by the zoning officer with reference to the administration of any flood plain provision or regulation within any land use ordinance.
- E. Applications for variances, pursuant to Section 1609 of this Ordinance.
- F. Applications for special exceptions pursuant to Section 1610 of this Ordinance.
- G. Appeals from the determination of the zoning officer or municipal engineer in the administration of any land use ordinance or provision thereof with reference to sedimentation and erosion control and storm water management not related to development which is classified as a subdivision, land development, or a planned residential development.

SECTION 1609 VARIANCES

1609.1 INITIAL DETERMINATION BY ZONING OFFICER

An application for a variance shall not be submitted to or considered by the Zoning Hearing Board until the following procedure has been completed:

1. The applicant submits an application for a Zoning Permit to the Zoning Officer in accordance with Section 1402 of this Ordinance.
2. The Zoning Officer is reviewing the subject application renders a determination that the proposed development and/or use of property fails to comply with an applicable provisions and/or regulations of this Ordinance.
3. The Zoning Officer specifies the applicable Sections of this Ordinance relative to the applicant's need to secure a variance(s) from the Zoning Hearing Board.

1609.2 PROVISIONS FOR GRANTING VARIANCES

The Zoning Hearing Board shall hear requests for variances if it is alleged that the provisions of this Ordinance inflict unnecessary hardship upon the applicant. The Board may by rule prescribe the form of application and may require preliminary application to the zoning officer. The Board may grant a variance, provided that all of the following findings are made where relevant in a given case:

1. That there are unique physical circumstances or conditions, including irregularity, narrowness, or shallowness of lot size or shape, or exceptional topographical or other physical conditions peculiar to the particular property and that the unnecessary hardship is due to such conditions and not the circumstances or conditions generally created by the provisions of the zoning ordinance in the neighborhood or district in which the property is located.
2. That because of such physical circumstances or conditions, there is no possibility that

the property can be developed in strict conformity with the provisions of the zoning ordinance and that the authorization of a variance is therefore necessary to enable the reasonable use of the property.

3. That such unnecessary hardship has not been created by the appellant.
4. That the variance, if authorized, will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood or district in which the property is located, nor substantially or permanently impair the appropriate use or development of adjacent property, nor be detrimental to the public welfare.
5. That the variance, if authorized, will represent the minimum variance that will afford relief and will represent the least modification possible of the regulation in issue.

In granting any variance, the Board may attach such reasonable conditions and safeguards as it may deem necessary to implement the purposes of this Ordinance and the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247, as amended.

SECTION 1610 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS

1610.1 INITIAL DETERMINATION BY ZONING OFFICER

An application for a special exception use shall not be submitted to or considered by the Zoning Hearing Board until the following procedure has been completed:

1. The applicant submits an application for a zoning permit to the Zoning Officer in accordance with Section 1402 of this Ordinance and a Site Plan in accordance with Section 603 of this Ordinance.
2. The Zoning Officer shall initially review the Site Plan to determine its compliance with Section 703 of this Ordinance.
3. The Zoning Officer shall also render a determination regarding whether the proposed development and/or use is required to secure any variances from the Zoning Hearing Board, in addition to securing a special exception approval.

1610.2 PROVISIONS FOR GRANTING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION APPROVAL

The Zoning Hearing Board shall hear and decide requests for uses and/or development which are permitted as special exception uses. Special exception uses may be referred to the Planning Commission for its review, comments and recommendations prior to final action by the Board. The Board shall grant approval only upon the determination that the proposed use and/or development conforms with all applicable standards and provisions within this Ordinance and the following expressed standards and criteria:

1. The proposed use shall not jeopardize Community Development Objectives as the Rice Township Comprehensive Plan, including any updates, revisions and/or amendments thereto.
2. Public services and facilities such as streets, sewers, water, police, and fire

protection shall be adequate for the proposed use and/or development.

3. Existing streets and proposed access to the site shall be adequate regarding the width and pavement for emergency service vehicles.
4. Existing streets and proposed access to the site shall be adequate to accommodate anticipated traffic volumes in a manner that avoids undue traffic congestion, and provides for the safety and convenience of pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The proposed use shall not result in unsafe or dangerous traffic conditions.
5. The proposed use shall be compatible with adjoining development and the character of the zoning district and neighborhood in which it is proposed to be located. The nature and intensity of the operation of the proposed use shall be considered regarding its compatibility or lack thereof.
6. The proposed use shall not substantially impair the value of other property in the neighborhood where it is proposed to be located.
7. The proposed use and/or development shall not be more objectionable in its operations in terms of noise, fumes, odors, vibration, or lights than would be the operations of any permitted use in the subject Zoning District.
8. The submission of any reports and/or studies, required by the Zoning Hearing Board within the context of the definition "Impact Analysis" as contained within Article 2 of this Ordinance, which conclusively demonstrates that the proposed use or development will not have a negative impact upon the particular subject or subjects as defined by the Zoning Hearing Board, in requiring such reports and/or studies.
9. The proposed use and/or development shall not be injurious to the public interest.

In granting approval, the Zoning Hearing Board may attach such reasonable conditions and safeguards as it may deem necessary to implement the purposes of this Ordinance and the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247, as amended.

SECTION 1611 PARTIES APPELLANT BEFORE THE BOARD

Appeal and/or applications for hearings before the Zoning Hearing Board pursuant to those matters contained within Section 1609 of this Ordinance, may be filed with the Board in writing by the affected landowner or by any aggrieved person or party. The Board shall not accept appeals or applications for hearings from any tenant or equitable owner of a property without the express written consent of the landowner. In such cases, the landowner's signature shall be required upon all applicable forms, applications or documents which are to be submitted to the Board.

SECTION 1612 TIME LIMITATIONS

1612.1

No person shall be allowed to file any proceeding with the Zoning Hearing Board later than thirty (30) days after an application for the development, preliminary or final, has been

approved by an appropriate municipal officer, agency or body if such proceeding is designed to secure reversal or to limit the approval in any manner unless such person alleges and proves that he had no notice, knowledge, or reason to believe that such approval had been given. If such person has succeeded to his interest after such approval, he shall be bound by the knowledge of his predecessor in interest. The failure of anyone other than the landowner to appeal from an adverse decision on a tentative plan for a Planned Residential Development, pursuant to Section 709 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247, as amended, or from an adverse decision by a zoning officer on a challenge to the validity of an ordinance or map based upon substantive grounds, pursuant to Section 916.2 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247, as amended, shall preclude an appeal from a final approval except in the case where the final submission substantially deviates from the approved tentative approval.

1612.2

Any landowner wishing to appeal a decision of the Zoning Hearing Board shall be required to file such appeal to a court of competent jurisdiction within thirty (30) days after the notice of the Board's determination is issued. Failure to do so within the prescribed thirty (30) day time period shall preclude any further appeal of the Board's decision.

SECTION 1613 STAY OF PROCEEDINGS

1613.1

Upon filing of any proceeding referred to in Section 1608 of this Ordinance, and during its pendency before the Zoning Hearing Board, all land development pursuant to any challenged ordinance, order or approval of the Zoning Officer or of any agency or body, and all official action thereunder, shall be stayed unless the Zoning Officer or any other appropriate agency or body certifies to the Board facts indicating that such stay would cause imminent peril to life or property, in which case the development or official action shall not be stayed otherwise than by a restraining order, which may be granted by the Board or by the court having jurisdiction of zoning appeals, on petition, after notice to the zoning officer or other appropriate agency or body. When the application for development, preliminary or final, has been duly approved and proceedings designed to reverse or limit the approval are filed with the Board by persons other than the applicant, the applicant may petition the court having jurisdiction of zoning appeals to order such persons to post a bond as a condition to continuing the proceedings before the Board.

1613.2

After the petition is presented, the court shall hold a hearing to determine if the filing of the appeal is frivolous. At the hearing, evidence may be presented on the merits of the case. It shall be the burden of the applicant for a bond to prove the appeal is frivolous. After consideration of all the evidence presented, if the court determines that the appeal is frivolous, it shall grant the petition for a bond. The right to petition the court to order the appellants to post bond may be waived by the appellee, but such waiver may be revoked by him if an appeal is taken from a final decision of the court.

1613.3

The question whether or not such petition should be granted and the amount of the bond shall be within the sound discretion of the court. An order denying a petition for bond shall be interlocutory. An order directing the responding party to post a bond shall be interlocutory.

1613.4

If an appeal is taken by a respondent to the petition for a bond from an order of the court dismissing a zoning appeal for refusal to post a bond and the appellate court sustains the order below to post a bond, the respondent to the petition for a bond, upon motion of the petitioner and after hearing in the court having jurisdiction of zoning appeals, shall be liable for all reasonable costs, expenses, and attorney fees incurred by the petitioner.

ARTICLE 17
PLANNED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

SECTION 1701 **PURPOSE**

The provisions of this Article are intended to permit and encourage innovations in residential development through permitting a greater variety, type, design, and layout of dwellings; and by allowing the development of well-planned, higher density, residential neighborhoods or groups of residences on sites larger than normal building lots. To give the site planner maximum freedom, more intensive use of land may be permitted, and the coverage, height, setback and other requirements may be varied under circumstances which will ensure more imaginative use of a building site than can be achieved under the standard regulations of this Ordinance. This provision is intended to encourage a more efficient use of open space, and public services. This development may contain individual single-family to multi-family dwellings, and common property which is planned and developed as a unit.

SECTION 1702 **REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

Pursuant to Section 702 of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247, as amended, the authority to approve or disapprove applications and plans for a planned residential development is vested with the governing body. The Rice Township Board of Supervisors hereby retains such authority. The Board of Supervisors grants Rice Township Planning Commission to act in an advisory capacity to review and to provide comment to the Board of Supervisors when considering a Planned Residential Development.

SECTION 1703 **USE REGULATIONS**

The principal permitted uses shall include:

- A. Single-family Detached Dwellings
- B. Two-family Dwellings
- C. Townhouses
- E. Accessory Uses: Customary accessory uses and buildings to the above shall be permitted in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 1704 **DENSITY REGULATIONS**

The following methodology shall be applicable to determine area requirements within this Article:

A **Gross Area:**

All land within a parcel proposed to be developed as a PRD.

B. Net Area Available for Development:

The Gross Area minus the sum of all environmentally constrained land or other areas as listed below:

- flood plains
- wetlands that cannot be reasonably incorporated into usable common open space.
- natural bodies of water including ponds, creeks, streams or, lakes,
- existing public or private street
- utility right-of ways, both subsurface and overhead, that cannot be reasonably incorporated into usable common open space.
- rock outcrops
- slopes which equal or exceed twenty-five (25%) percent,
- any other area which contain critical areas (as defined in Article 2) and/or environmental sensitive features that may not be suitable for development.

C. Net Residential Area:

The “Net Area Available for Development” minus required open space. ,

D. Common Open Space:

Not less than twenty (20%) percent of “Net Area Available for Development” shall be designated, designed and devoted to common open space for the use and enjoyment of the residents therein.

E. Residential Density:

The permitted maximum residential density for the Net Residential Area of a PRD shall be as follows:

Zoning District	Minimum Lot Area of District	Maximum Density for PRD¹
C-1	100,000 sq. ft.	one unit per each 50,000 sq .ft
A-1	80,000 sq. ft.	one unit per each 40,000 sq. ft

¹ Maximum density based upon public sewer and water; otherwise the maximum density shall be increased to that of the underlying District.

SECTION 1705 DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS

All planned residential developments shall be subject to the following:

- A. Minimum Tract Area: A planned residential development shall have a gross land area of not less than twenty-five (25) acres.
- B. Distance Between Buildings: No buildings or structure, including porches, decks or balconies shall be less than thirty (30') feet to any other building or structure.

- C. Setback Requirements: The minimum front, side and rear setbacks for a Planned Residential Development shall each be not less than fifty (50) feet to the property lines of adjoining properties. A planting strip of not less than twenty (20) feet in width shall be along all property lines at the periphery of the development where necessary to preserve the privacy of neighboring residents.

Land adjacent to a lake, pond, stream, wetlands, or watercourse shall remain as permanent open space for a distance of not less than one hundred (100') feet from the water's edge, unless superseded by more restrictive standards.

- D. Maximum Building Height: No structures within a PRD shall exceed 2¹/₂ stories, with a maximum height not to exceed forty-five (45) feet.

SECTION 1706 SPECIAL PROVISIONS

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY

The tract of land for a PRD may be owned, leased or controlled either by a single person, or corporation or a group of individuals or corporations. An application must be filed by the owner or jointly by owners of all property included in the project. In the case of multiple ownership, the approved plan shall be binding on all owners.

When common property exists, the ownership of such common property may be either public or private. When common property exists in private ownership, satisfactory arrangements must be made for the improvements, operation and maintenance of common property and facilities including private streets, drives, service and parking areas and recreational and open space areas.

MAINTENANCE OF COMMON PROPERTY

In the event that the organization established to own and maintain the common property, or any successor organization, fails to maintain such property in reasonable order, the Township Supervisors may serve written notice upon such organization or upon the residents and owners of the development setting forth the manner in which the organization has failed to maintain the common property in reasonable condition. Said notice shall include a demand that such deficiencies of maintenance be cured within thirty (30) days thereof, and shall state the date and place of a hearing thereon which shall be held within fourteen (14) days of the notice.

At such hearing, the Township may modify the terms of the original notice as to the deficiencies and may give an extension of time within which they shall be cured. If the deficiencies set forth in the original notice or in the modifications thereof shall not be cured within 30 days or any extension thereof, the Township, in order to preserve the taxable values of the properties within the development and to prevent the common property from becoming a public nuisance, may enter upon said common open space and maintain the same for a period of one year. Said entry and maintenance shall not vest in the public any rights to use the common open space except when the same is voluntarily dedicated to the public by the residents and

owners. Before the expiration of said year, the Township shall, upon its initiative or upon the request of the organization theretofore responsible for the maintenance of the common property, call a public hearing upon notice to such organization, or to the residents and owners of the development to be held by the Township, at which hearing such organization or the residents and owners of the development shall show cause why such maintenance by the Town shall not, at the election of the Township, continue for a succeeding year.

If the Township shall determine that such organization is ready and able to maintain said common property in a reasonable condition, it shall cease to maintain said common property at the end of said year. If the Township shall determine such organization is not ready and able to maintain said common property in a reasonable condition, the Township may at its discretion, continue to maintain said common property during the next succeeding year, subject to a similar hearing and determination in each year thereafter.

The cost of such maintenance by the Township shall be assessed ratably against the properties within the planned residential development that have a right of enjoyment of the common open space, and shall become a lien on said properties. The municipality at the time of entering upon said common open space for the purpose of maintenance shall file a notice of lien in the office of the prothonotary of the County, upon the properties affected by the lien within the planned residential development.

The decision of the Board of Supervisors shall be subject to appeal to court in the same manner, and within the same time limitation, as is provided for zoning appeals as provided for under the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247, as amended

SECTION 1707 DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

A Planned Residential Development shall be subject to the following standards and regulations:

- A. Requirements For Improvements and Design: All improvements, including but not limited to, streets, curbing, sidewalks, stormwater detention facilities, drainage facilities, water supply facilities, sewage disposal, street lighting, tree lawns, etc., unless otherwise exempted, shall be designed and constructed in conformance with the standards and requirements of the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
- B. Sewage Disposal: Disposal of sanitary sewage shall be by means of centralized sewers and shall conform to the design standards of the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. The proposed sewage collection system and treatment facility shall require DEP approval as a prerequisite and/or condition to tentative approval of a development plan.
- C. Water Supply: The water supply shall be off-site system supplied by a certified public utility, a bona fide cooperative association of lot owners,

or by a municipal corporation, authority or utility. A copy of a Certificate of Public Convenience from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission or an application for such certificate, a cooperative agreement or a commitment or agreement to serve the planned residential development in question shall be required. Whichever form is appropriate, shall be considered as acceptable evidence.

SECTION 1708 PHASING OF DEVELOPMENT

A planned residential development may be constructed in phases subject to the following:

- A. The application for tentative approval shall cover the entire area to be developed with a schedule delineating all proposed phases, as well as the dates by which applications for final approval of each phase shall be filed. Such schedule shall be updated annually by the applicant on or before the anniversary date of the approval of the development plan, until all phases are completed and granted final approval by the Board of Supervisors. Any modification in the aforesaid schedule shall be subject to approval of the Board of Supervisors in its discretion.
- B. Not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total number of dwelling units to be constructed shall be included in the first phase.
- C. The second and any subsequent phases shall be completed in accordance with the tentatively approved plan, with each phase containing not less than fifteen (15%) of the total number of dwelling units.
- D. The Board of Supervisors may impose further conditions upon the filing of any phase of a development plan, as it may deem necessary to assure the orderly development of the plan and/or to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

SECTION 1709 ENFORCEMENT AND MODIFICATION OF PROVISIONS OF PLAN

To further the mutual interest of the residents of the planned residential development and of the public in the preservation of the integrity of the development plan, as finally approved, and to insure that modifications, if any, in the development plan shall not impair the reasonable reliance of said residents upon the provisions of the development plan, nor result in changes that would adversely affect the public interest, the enforcement and modifications of the provisions of the development as finally approved, whether those are recorded by plat, covenant, easement or otherwise, shall be subject to the following:

- A. Provisions of the development plan relating to the use, bulk and location of buildings and structures; the quantity and location of common open space, except as otherwise provided herein; and the intensity of use or the density of residential units shall run in favor of the Township and shall be enforceable in law or in equity by the Township, without

limitation on any powers of regulation otherwise granted the Township by law.

- B. All provisions of the development plan shall run in favor of the residents of the planned residential development, but only to the extent expressly provided in the development plan and in accordance with the terms of the development plan, and to that extent said provisions, whether recorded by plat, covenant, easement or otherwise, may be enforced at law or in equity by said residents acting individually, jointly or through an organization designated in the development plan to act on their behalf; provided, however, that no provisions of the development plan shall be implied to exist in favor of residents of the planned residential development except as to those portions of the development plan which have been finally approved and have been recorded.
- C. All those provisions of the development plan authorized to be enforced by the Township under this Section may be modified, removed or released by the Township, except grants of easements relating to the service or equipment of a public utility, subject to the following conditions:
 - (1) No such modification, removal or release of the provisions of the development plan by the Township shall affect the rights of the residents of the planned residential development to maintain and enforce those provisions, at law or in equity, as provided in this Section.
 - (2) No modification, removal or release of the provisions of the development plan by the Township shall be permitted except upon a finding by the Board of Supervisors, following a public hearing pursuant to public notice, called and held in accordance with the provisions of this Section, that the same is consistent with the efficient development and preservation of the entire planned residential development, does not adversely affect either the enjoyment of land abutting upon or across the street from the planned residential development or public interest, and is not granted solely to confer a special benefit upon any person.
- D. Residents of the planned residential development may, to the extent and in the manner expressly authorized by the provisions of the development plan, modify, remove or release their rights to enforce the provisions of the development plan, but no such action shall affect the right of the Township to enforce the provisions of the development plan in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

SECTION 1710 APPLICATION FOR TENTATIVE APPROVAL

The application for approval, tentative and final, of a planned residential development as provided for by this Ordinance, shall be in lieu of all other procedures or approvals

otherwise required by the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance of the Township, except where specifically indicated. The procedures herein described for approval or disapproval of a development plan for a planned residential development and the continuing administration thereof are established in the public interests in order to provide an expeditious method for processing a development plan for a planned residential development and to avoid the delay and uncertainty which would arise if it were necessary to secure approval, by a multiplicity of local procedures, of a plat of subdivision as well as approval of a change in the zoning regulations otherwise applicable to the property. An application for tentative approval shall be consistent with the following:

A. Informal Consultation:

The landowner and Board of Supervisors may consult informally at a public meeting or work session concerning the proposed planned residential development prior to the filing of an application for tentative approval, provided that no statement or representation by a member of the Board of Supervisors shall be binding upon the Board of Supervisors as a whole. The informal consultation is intended to allow the landowner and Township officials to exchange comments and discuss issues which may be of particular significance to the site.

B. Application and Fee:

An application for tentative approval shall be filed by or on behalf of the landowner with the Zoning Officer. An application fee of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars, plus seventy-five (\$75.00) dollars per housing unit, based upon total number of proposed housing units, shall be paid upon filing the required application.

C. Relationship to Planning, Zoning and Subdivision:

All planning, zoning and subdivision matters relating to the platting, use and development of the planned residential development and subsequent modifications of the regulations relating thereto, to the extent such modification is vested in the Township, shall be determined and established by the Township Board of Supervisors.

D. Required Documentation:

The application for tentative approval shall include documentation illustrating compliance with all of the standards for a planned residential development and, where necessary, the Township shall order such documentation to aid them in their review.

An original and fifteen (15) copies of the application shall be submitted along with twenty (20) copies of each of the following:

1. Any required study and/or report, prepared as an Impact Analysis, which may be required at the discretion of the Board of

Supervisors. A determination of the need for any such study and/or report may be made at the time of the informal consultation or during the public hearing for consideration of tentative approval of the development plan.

2. The development plan for the entire site, in addition to all other requirements shall include information and documentation noted herein:

- (a) The location, size and topography of the site and the legal nature of the landowner's interest in the land proposed to be developed.
- (b) The density of land use to be allocated to parts and/or phases of the site to be developed.
- (c) The location and size of common open space and the form of organization proposed to own and maintain the common open space.
- (d) The use and height, bulk and location of buildings and other structures.
- (e) The means and feasibility of proposals for the disposition of sanitary waste and storm water.
- (f) The substance of covenants, grants or easement or other restrictions proposed to be imposed upon the use of the land, buildings and structures including proposed easements or grants for public utilities.
- (g) Provisions for parking of vehicles and the location and width of proposed streets and any other form of public right-of-ways, excluding common open space.
- (h) The required modifications in the Township land use regulations as contained within the Township's Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, otherwise applicable to the subject property.
- (i) The feasibility of proposals for energy conservation and the effective utilization of renewable energy sources.
- (j) In the case of development plans, which call for development over a period of years, a schedule showing the proposed timetable within which applications for final approval of all phases of the

planned residential development are intended to be filed. This schedule must be updated annually, on the anniversary of its approval, until the development is completed and accepted.

- (k) A plan map at a scale of not greater than one (1") inch equals fifty (50') feet, with contours for each two (2') feet change in elevation. A location map shall also be provided at a scale of not greater than one (1) inch equals two thousand (2,000) feet, indicating the relation of the site to its geographic proximity within the Township. The drafting standards applicable for a major subdivision and/or land development, as provided for within the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, shall apply.

E. Statement of Landowner:

The application shall also include a written statement by the landowner setting forth the reasons why, in his opinion, the planned residential development would be in the public interest and consistent with the Comprehensive Plan of the Rice Township, including any subject amendments to said Plan.

F. Application and Approval Procedures in Lieu of Others:

The application for tentative and final approval of a development plan for a planned residential development prescribed herein shall be in lieu of all other procedures and approvals required by the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance of the Township, unless otherwise expressly stated.

G. Referrals and Review of Plan:

The application for tentative approval shall be filed with the Zoning Officer, who shall be authorized to accept such applications under the Zoning Ordinance. Copies of the application and tentative plan shall be referred to the agencies and officials as required by the Township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance for their review and comment. Said reports shall be available prior the public hearing.

SECTION 1711 PUBLIC HEARINGS

Within sixty (60) days after the filing of an application for tentative approval of a planned residential development pursuant to this Article, a public hearing pursuant to public notice on said application shall be held by the Township Board of Supervisors in the manner prescribed in the Ordinance for the enactment of an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance.

The chairman or in his absence, the acting chairman, of the Township Board of Supervisors, may administer oaths and compel the attendants of witnesses. All testimony by witnesses shall be given under oath and every party of record at a hearing shall have the right to cross-examine adverse witnesses.

A verbatim record of the hearing shall be provided by the Township Board of Supervisors whenever such records are requested by any party to the proceedings, with the cost of making and transcribing such a record shall be paid by those parties wishing to obtain such copies. All exhibits accepted as evidence shall be properly identified and the reason for any exclusion shall be clearly noted in the record.

The Township Board of Supervisors may continue the public hearing as required provided that in any event, the public hearing or hearings shall be concluded within sixty (60) days following the date of the first public hearing.

SECTION 1712 FINDINGS

The Township Board of Supervisors, within sixty (60) days following the conclusion of the public hearing, or within one hundred eighty (180) days after the date of filing the application, whichever occurs first, shall by official written communication to the landowner, either:

- A. Grant tentative approval to the development plan as submitted.
- B. Grant tentative approval subject to specified conditions not included in the development plan as submitted.
- C. Deny the tentative approval to the development plan.

Failure to act within the prescribed time period shall be deemed to be a grant of tentative approval of the development plan as submitted. In the event, that tentative approval is granted subject to conditions, the landowner may, within thirty (30) days after receiving a copy of the official written communication of the Township Board of Supervisors, notify said Board of his refusal to accept all said conditions, in which case the Township Board of Supervisors shall be deemed to have denied tentative approval of the development plan. In the event the landowner does not notify the Township Board of Supervisors of his refusal to accept all said conditions within thirty (30) days after receiving a copy of the official written communication of the Township Board of Supervisors, tentative approval of the development plan, with all said conditions, shall stand as granted.

The grant or denial of tentative approval by official written communication shall include not only conclusions, but also findings of fact related to the specific proposal and shall set forth the reasons for the denial, and said communication shall set forth particulars in what respect the development plan would or would not be in the public interest including but not limited to findings of facts and conclusions based upon the following:

- A. Those respects in which the development plan is or is not consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, including any amendments thereto, for the

development of the Township.

- B. The extent to which the development plan departs from zoning and subdivision regulations otherwise applicable to the subject property, including but not limited to density, bulk and use and the reasons why such departures are or are not deemed to be in the public interest.
- C. The purpose, locations and amount of common open space in the planned residential development, the reliability of the proposals for maintenance and conservation of the common open space and the adequacy or inadequacy of the amount and purpose of the common open space as related to the proposed density and type of residential development.
- D. The physical design of the development plan and the manner in which said design does or does not make adequate provisions for public services, (including but not limited to sewage, water and stormwater runoff) provide adequate control for vehicular traffic, and further the amenities of light and air, recreation and visual enjoyment.
- E. The relationship, beneficial or adverse, of the proposed planned residential development to the neighborhood or area of the Township in which it is proposed to be established.
- F. In the case of a development plan which proposes development over a period of years, the sufficiency of the terms and conditions intended to protect the interest of the public and of the residents of the planned residential development in the integrity of the development plan.

In the event a development plan is granted tentative approval, with or without conditions, the Township Board of Supervisors may set forth in the official written communication, the time within which an application for final approval of the development plan shall be filed or, in the case of a development plan which provides for development over a period of years, the periods of time within which applications for final approval of each part or phase thereof shall be filed. Except upon the consent of the landowner, the time so established between grant of tentative approval and an application for final approval shall not be less than ninety (90) days. In the case of development plans which extend over a period of years, the time between applications for final approval of each part of the plan shall not be less than one (1) year.

SECTION 1713 STATUS OF PLAN AFTER TENTATIVE APPROVAL

The official written communication provided for in this Article shall be certified by the Township Secretary and filed in his/her office; a certified copy shall be mailed to the landowner. Where tentative approval has been granted, it shall be deemed as an amendment to the Zoning Map, effective and so noted upon the Zoning Map upon final approval.

Tentative approval of a development plan shall not qualify a plan of the planned residential development for recording nor authorize development or the issuance of

any zoning permit. A development plan, which has been given tentative approval with conditions which have been accepted by the landowner (and provided that the landowner has not defaulted nor violated any of the conditions of the tentative approval), shall not be modified or revoked nor otherwise impaired by action of the Township pending the application or applications for final approval, without the consent of the landowner, provided an application for final approval is filed or, in the case of development over a period of years, provided applications are filed within the periods of time specified in the official written communication granting tentative approval.

In the event that a development plan is given tentative approval and thereafter, but prior to the final approval, the landowner shall elect to abandon said development plan and shall so notify the Township Board of Supervisors in writing, or in the event the landowner shall fail to file application or applications for final approval within the required period of time or times, as the case may be, the tentative approval shall be deemed to be revoked and all that portion of the area included in the development for which final approval has not been given shall be subject to those Township land use ordinances otherwise applicable thereto. The same shall be noted on the Zoning Map and in the records of the Township Secretary.

SECTION 1714 APPLICATION FOR FINAL APPROVAL

An application for final approval may be for all of the land included in a development plan or, to the extent set forth in the tentative approval, a section thereof. Said application shall be made through the Zoning Officer for review by the Township Board of Supervisors and subject to approval by the Township Board of Supervisors within the time or times specified by the official written communication granting tentative approval. If the application for final approval is in compliance with the tentatively approved development plan, a public hearing shall not be required.

The application shall include all drawings, specifications for required improvements, covenants, easements, a financial guarantee and all other such requirements as specified within the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, as well as any conditions set forth in the official written communication granting tentative approval.

In the event that the application for final approval has been filed, together with all drawings, specifications and other documents in support thereof, and as required by the Ordinance and the official written communication of tentative approval, the Township Board of Supervisors shall, within forty-five (45) days of such filing, grant such development plan final approval.

In the event the development plan as submitted contains variations from the development plan given tentative approval, the Township Board of Supervisors may refuse to grant final approval and shall, within forty-five (45) days from the filing of the application for final approval, so advise the landowner in writing of said refusal, setting forth in said notice the reasons why one (1) or more said variations are objectionable and not in the public interest.

In the event of such refusal the landowner may either:

- A. Refile his application for final approval without the variations to which the Township Board of Supervisors deemed objectionable and not in the public interest.
- B. File a written request with the Township Board of Supervisors that it hold a public hearing on his/her application for final approval.

If the landowner wishes to take either of such alternate action, he may do so at any time within which he shall be entitled to apply for final approval, or within thirty (30) additional days if the time for applying for final approval shall have already passed at the time when the landowner was advised that the development plan was not in substantial compliance. In the event the landowner shall fail to take either of these alternate actions within said time, he/she shall be deemed to have abandoned the development plan.

Any such public hearing shall be held pursuant to public notice within thirty (30) days after the request for the hearing is made in writing by the landowner. The hearing shall be conducted in the manner prescribed in this Ordinance for public hearings on applications for tentative approval. Within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of the public hearing, the Township Board of Supervisors shall, by official written communication, either grant final approval to the development plan or deny final approval.

The grant or denial of final approval of the development plan shall, in cases arising under this Section, be in the form and contain findings required for an application for tentative approval as set forth in this Article.

A development plan, or any part thereof, which has been given final approval, shall be so signed and certified without delay by the Township Board of Supervisors. Said development plan shall be filed of record forthwith in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Luzerne County before any development shall take place in accordance therewith. Upon filing of record of the development plan, the zoning and subdivision regulations otherwise applicable to the land included in such plan shall cease to apply thereto. Pending completion in accordance with the time provisions as provided for within the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, said planned residential development or part thereof, as the case may be, that has been finally approved, no modification of the provisions of said development plan, or part thereof, as finally approved, shall be made except with the consent of the landowner. Upon approval of a final plat the developer shall record the plat within ninety (90) days from the date of approval and post a financial security in accordance with the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.

In the event that a development plan, or section thereof, is given final approval and thereafter the landowner shall abandon such plan or section thereof that has been finally approved, and shall so notify the Township Board of Supervisors in writing; or in the event the landowner shall fail to commence and carry out the planned residential development in accordance with the time provisions as provided within the Rice Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, after final approval has been granted, no development or further development shall take place on the property

included in the development plan until after the said property is resubdivided and is reclassified by enactment of an amendment to the Township Zoning Ordinance in the manner prescribed for such amendments by this Ordinance.

SECTION 1715 JURISDICTION AND LEGAL REMEDIES

A. JURISDICTION

District Justices shall have initial jurisdiction over proceedings brought under B., LEGAL REMEDIES

B. LEGAL REMEDIES

- . Any person, partnership or corporation who or which has violated the planned residential development provisions of this Ordinance shall, upon being found liable therefor in a civil enforcement proceedings commenced by Rice Township or the Zoning Officer, shall pay a judgment of not more than five-hundred (\$500.00) dollars, plus all court costs, including reasonable attorney fees incurred Rice Township as a result of said proceedings. No judgment shall commence or be imposed, levied or payable until the date of the determination of a violation by the District Justice. If the defendant neither pays nor timely appeals the judgment, Rice Township may enforce the judgment pursuant to the applicable rules of civil procedure. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation, unless the District Justice determining that there has been a violation further determines that there has been a good faith basis for the person, partnership or corporation violating this Ordinance to have believed that there was no such violation. In such cases, there shall be deemed to have been only one such violation until the fifth day following the date of the determination of a violation by the District Justice and thereafter each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate violation. All judgments, costs and reasonable attorney fees collected for the violation of this Ordinance shall be paid over to Rice Township.
- . The Court of Common Pleas, upon petition, may grant an order of stay, upon cause shown, tolling the per diem fine pending a final adjudication of the violation and judgment.

Nothing contained in this Section shall be construed or interpreted to grant any person or entity other than Rice Township the right to commence any action for enforcement pursuant to this Section.

ARTICLE 18 APPEALS

SECTION 1801 APPEALS TO COURT

The procedures set forth in Article X-A of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Act 247, as amended, shall constitute the exclusive mode for securing judicial review of any decision rendered or deemed to have been made under this Ordinance.