

TOWN OF GOSHEN BYLAW FOR FLOODPLAIN DISTRICT

ARTICLE I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purposes of the Floodplain District are to:

- 1) Ensure public safety through reducing the threats to life and personal injury;
- 2) Eliminate new hazards to emergency response officials;
- 3) Prevent the occurrence of public emergencies resulting from water quality, contamination, and pollution due to flooding;
- 4) Avoid the loss of utility services which if damaged by flooding would disrupt or shut down the utility network and impact regions of the community beyond the site of flooding;
- 5) Eliminate costs associated with the response and cleanup of flooding conditions;
- 6) Reduce damage to public and private property resulting from flooding waters;
- 7) Preserve the natural flood control and flood storage characteristics of the floodplain;
- 8) Prevent any alteration to the natural flow of rivers and streams and control erosion and siltation;
- 9) Preserve existing scenic or environmentally sensitive areas along shoreline.

ARTICLE II. FLOODPLAIN DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND BASE FLOOD ELEVATION AND FLOODWAY DATA

SECTION A. FLOODPLAIN DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND BASE FLOOD ELEVATION DATA

The Floodplain District is herein established as an overlay district. The District includes all special flood hazard areas designated on the Town's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program, dated March 7, 1980. These maps indicate the 1%-chance regulatory floodplain. There is currently no Flood Insurance Study (FIS) for the Town. The effective FIRM is incorporated herein by reference and is on file with the Town Clerk.

1. The Select Board shall appoint a floodplain administrator for the Town.
2. The Town requires a permit for all proposed construction or other development in the floodplain overlay district, including new construction or changes to existing buildings,

placement of manufactured homes, placement of agricultural facilities, fences, sheds, storage facilities or drilling, mining, paving and any other development that might increase flooding or adversely impact flood risks to other properties

3. The town's permit review process includes the requirement that the proponent obtain all local, state and federal permits that will be necessary in order to carry out the proposed development in the floodplain overlay district. The proponent must acquire all necessary permits, and must demonstrate that all necessary permits have been acquired.

SECTION B. BASE FLOOD ELEVATION AND FLOODWAY DATA

Floodway Data. In Zone A along watercourses that have not had a regulatory floodway designated, the best available Federal, State, local, or other floodway data shall be used to prohibit encroachments in floodways which would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.

ARTICLE III. NOTIFICATION OF WATERCOURSE ALTERATION

In a riverine situation, the Flood Plain Administrator shall notify the following of any alteration or relocation of a watercourse:

- Goshen Conservation Commission
- Adjacent Communities
- NFIP State Coordinator
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600-700
Boston, MA 02114-2104
- NFIP Program Specialist
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I

If the Town acquires data that changes the base flood elevation in the FEMA mapped Special Flood Hazard Areas, the Town will, within 6 months, notify FEMA of these changes by submitting the technical or scientific data that supports the change(s.) Notification shall be submitted to:

- NFIP State Coordinator
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, 8th floor, Boston, MA 02114
- NFIP Program Specialist
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I

ARTICLE IV. USE REGULATIONS

SECTION A. REFERENCE TO EXISTING REGULATIONS

The Floodplain District is established as an overlay district to all other districts. All development in the district, including structural and non-structural activities, whether permitted by right or by special permit must be in compliance with Chapter 131, Section 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws and with the following:

The flood-resistant construction standards as found in the Massachusetts State Building Code and its referenced standards;

- Wetlands Protection Regulations, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) (currently 310 CMR 10.00);
- Inland Wetlands Restriction, DEP (currently 310 CMR 13.00);
- Minimum Requirements for the Subsurface Disposal of Sanitary Sewage, DEP (currently 310 CMR 15, Title 5);

Any variances from the provisions and requirements of the above referenced state regulations may only be granted in accordance with the required variance procedures of these state regulations.

Variances to building code floodplain standards

If the State issues a variance to the flood-resistant standards as found in the state building code, the Town will:

- (a) Request from the State Building Code Appeals Board a written and/or audible copy of the portion of the hearing related to the variance, and will maintain this record in the community's files;
- (b) Issue a letter to the property owner regarding potential impacts to the annual premiums for the flood insurance policy covering that property, in writing over the signature of a community official that (i) the issuance of a variance to construct a structure below the base flood level will result in increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as \$25 for \$100 of insurance coverage and (ii) such construction below the base flood level increases risks to life and property.
- (c) Such notification shall be maintained with the record of all variance actions for the referenced development in the floodplain overlay district.

Variances to local Zoning Bylaws related to community compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

A variance from these floodplain bylaws must meet the requirements set out by State law, and may only be granted if: 1) Good and sufficient cause and exceptional non-financial hardship exist; 2) the variance will not result in additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, or fraud or victimization of the public; and 3) the variance is the minimum action necessary to afford relief.

SECTION B. PERMITTED USES

The following uses of low flood damage potential and causing no obstructions to flood flows are encouraged provided they are permitted in the underlying district and they do not require structures, fill, or storage of materials or equipment:

- 1) Agricultural uses such as farming, grazing, truck farming, horticulture, etc.
- 2) Forestry and nursery uses.
- 3) Outdoor recreational uses, including fishing, boating, play areas, etc.
- 4) Conservation of water, plants, wildlife.
- 5) Wildlife management areas, foot, bicycle, and/or horse paths.
- 6) Temporary non-residential structures used in connection with fishing, growing, harvesting, storage, or sale of crops raised on the premises.

SECTION C. USES ALLOWED BY SPECIAL PERMIT IN THE FLOODPLAIN DISTRICT

The following uses may be permitted by Special Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals, unless otherwise restricted by this By-law:

- 1) Single-family residences, excluding mobile homes
- 2) Residential accessory uses including garages, home occupations, driveways, private roads, utility rights-of-way, and on-site wastewater disposal systems.
- 3) Commercial or non-profit recreational development, provided that no permanent structures are constructed.
- 4) Public utility, substation, water supply use.

The Zoning Board of Appeals (or the existing permit granting authority) in considering the granting of a Special Permit shall apply the following additional requirements in the Floodplain District:

- 1) In A Zones, in the absence of FEMA BFE data and floodway data, the building inspector will obtain, review and reasonably utilize base flood elevation and floodway data available from a Federal, State, or other source as criteria for

requiring new construction, substantial improvements, or other development in Zone A and as the basis for elevating residential structures to or above base flood level, for floodproofing or elevating nonresidential structures to or above base flood level, and for prohibiting encroachments in floodways.

- 2) These data will be reviewed by the Building Inspector for their reasonable utilization toward meeting the elevation or floodproofing requirements, as appropriate, of the State Building Code. In addition, the applicant must provide an Elevation Certificate.
- 3) No encroachments (including fill, new construction, substantial improvements to existing structures, or other development) shall be allowed unless it is demonstrated by the applicant that the proposed development, as a result of compensating actions, will not result in any increase in flood levels during the occurrence of a 100-year flood in accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's regulations for the National Flood Insurance Program.
- 4) The Board may specify such additional requirements and conditions as it finds necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and the occupants of the proposed use.

Recreational Vehicles

In A Zones, all recreational vehicles to be placed on a site must be elevated and anchored in accordance with the zone's regulations for foundation and elevation requirements or be on the site for less than 180 consecutive days or be fully licensed and highway ready.

SECTION D. SUBDIVISION USE REGULATIONS

- 1) All subdivision proposals must be designed to assure that:
 - a) Such proposals minimize flood damage;
 - b) All public utilities and facilities are located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage; and
 - c) Adequate drainage is provided to reduce exposure to flood hazards.
 - d) When proposing subdivisions or other developments greater than 50 lots or 5 acres (whichever is less), the proponent must provide technical data to determine base flood elevations for each developable parcel shown on the design plans.
- 2) Existing contour intervals of site and elevations of existing structures must be included on plan proposal.
- 3) There shall be established a "routing procedure" which will circulate or transmit one copy of the development plan to the Conservation Commission, Planning Board,

Board of Health, Building Inspector and Highway Department for comments which will be considered by the appropriate permitting board prior to issuing applicable permits.

SECTION E. ABROGATION AND GREATER RESTRICTION

The floodplain management regulations found in this Floodplain Overlay District section shall take precedence over any less restrictive conflicting local laws, ordinances or codes.

SECTION F. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

The degree of flood protection required by this bylaw is considered reasonable but does not imply total flood protection.

SECTION G. SEVERABILITY

If any section, provision or portion of this bylaw [ordinance] is deemed to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court, the remainder of the ordinance shall be effective.

ARTICLE V. DEFINITIONS

AREA OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD is the land in the floodplain within a community subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. The area may be designated as Zone A, AO, AH, A1-30, AE, A99, V1-30, VE, or V.

BASE FLOOD means the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

BASE FLOOD ELEVATION (BFE) The elevation of surface water resulting from a flood that has a 1% chance of equaling or exceeding that level in any given year. The BFE is shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for zones AE, AH, A1–A30, AR, AR/A, AR/AE, AR/A1–A30, AR/AH, AR/AO, V1–V30, and VE.

DEVELOPMENT means any manmade change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to building or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations.

DISTRICT means floodplain district.

ELEVATION CERTIFICATE is a document prepared by a qualified licensed land surveyor or professional engineer which provides information on: elevation of a building relative to mean high tide, building type, flood map location, and additional information used to determine the proper flood insurance premium rates for a property.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) administers the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA provides a nationwide flood hazard area mapping study program for communities as well as regulatory standards for development in the flood hazard areas.

FLOOD BOUNDARY AND FLOODWAY MAP means an official map of a community issued by FEMA that depicts, based on detailed analyses, the boundaries of the 100-year and 500 year floods and the 100-year floodway. (For maps done in 1987 and later, the floodway designation is included on the FIRM.)

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) means an official map of a community on which FEMA has delineated both the areas of special flood hazard and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY means an examination, evaluation, and determination of flood hazards, and, if appropriate, corresponding water surface elevations, or an examination, evaluation and determination of flood-related erosion hazards.

FLOOD PLAIN ADMINISTRATOR is that person appointed by the Selectboard to fulfill the duties required in this Bylaw.

FLOODWAY. The channel of the river, creek or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.

FUNCTIONALLY DEPENDENT USE means a use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities, port facilities that are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, and ship building and ship repair facilities, but does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59] Also [Referenced Standard ASCE 24-14]

HIGHEST ADJACENT GRADE means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure.
[US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

HISTORIC STRUCTURE means any structure that is:

- (a) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
- (b) 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;

- (c) 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; or
 - (d) Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:
 - 1) By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or
 - 2) Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.
- [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

LOWEST ADJACENT GRADE: The lowest point of the ground immediately next to the building.

LOWEST FLOOR means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement or cellar). An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage in an area other than a basement area is not considered a building's lowest floor, PROVIDED that such enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirements of NFIP Regulations 60.3.

MANUFACTURED HOME means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities. For floodplain management purposes the term "manufactured home" also includes park trailers, travel trailers, and other similar vehicles placed on a site for greater than 180 consecutive days. For insurance purposes, the term "manufactured home" does not include park trailers, travel trailers, and other similar vehicles.

MANUFACTURED HOME PARK OR SUBDIVISION means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.

NEW CONSTRUCTION. Structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of the first floodplain management code, regulation, ordinance, or standard adopted by the authority having jurisdiction, including any subsequent improvements to such structures. New construction includes work determined to be substantial improvement.
[Referenced Standard ASCE 24-14]

ONE-HUNDRED-YEAR FLOOD - see BASE FLOOD.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE means a vehicle which is:

- (a) Built on a single chassis;
 - (b) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection;
 - (c) Designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and
 - (d) Designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.
- [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

REGULATORY FLOODWAY - see FLOODWAY

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA. The land area subject to flood hazards and shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard map as Zone A.

START OF CONSTRUCTION. The date of issuance for new construction and substantial improvements to existing structures, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement or other improvement is within 180 days after the date of issuance. The actual start of construction means the first placement of permanent construction of a building (including a manufactured home) on a site, such as the pouring of a slab or footings, installation of pilings or construction of columns.

Permanent construction does not include land preparation (such as clearing, excavation, grading or filling), the installation of streets or walkways, excavation for a basement, footings, piers or foundations, the erection of temporary forms or the installation of accessory buildings such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main building. For a substantial improvement, the actual "start of construction" means the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor or other structural part of a building, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the building.

STRUCTURE means, for floodplain management purposes, a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home.

SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE means damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT means any repair, reconstruction, or improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure either (a) before the improvement or repair is started, or (b) if the structure has been damaged and is being restored, before the damage occurred. For the purposes of this definition, "substantial improvement" is considered to occur when the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor, or other structural part of the building commences, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the structure.

SUBSTANTIAL REPAIR OF A FOUNDATION. When work to repair or replace a foundation results in the repair or replacement of a portion of the foundation with a perimeter along the base of the foundation that equals or exceeds 50% of the perimeter of the base of the foundation measured in linear feet, or repair or replacement of 50% of the piles, columns or piers of a pile, column or pier supported foundation, the building official shall determine it to be substantial repair of a foundation. Applications determined by the building official to constitute substantial repair of a foundation shall require all existing portions of the entire building or structure to meet the requirements of 780 CMR. [As amended by MA in 9th Edition BC]

VARIANCE means a grant of relief by a community from the terms of a flood plain management regulation. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

VIOLATION means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's flood plain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in §60.3 is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided. [US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 59]

ZONE A means the 100-year floodplain area where the base flood elevation (BFE) has not been determined. To determine the BFE, use the best available federal, state, local, or other data.

ZONES B, C, AND X are areas identified in the community Flood Insurance Study as areas of moderate or minimal flood hazard. Zone X replaces Zones B and C on new and revised maps.