

**LOCAL LAW NO. 6 OF 2025, REPEALING ALL PROVISIONS OF  
CHAPTER 14B, ENTITLED FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION, OF THE  
CODE OF THE TOWN OF ORANGETOWN, AND REPLACING SAME  
WITH NEW PROVISIONS AS AUTHORIZED BY THE NEW YORK  
STATE CONSTITUTION, ARTICLE IX, SECTION 2, AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW, ARTICLE 36**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF ORANGETOWN AS  
FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 0.0 (PREAMBLE)**

**0.1 REPEAL AND REPLACE**

All provisions of Chapter 14B, entitled Flood Damage Prevention, of the Code of the Town of Orangetown, are hereby repealed and replaced by the new provisions set forth below.

**SECTION 1.0  
STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION AND PURPOSE**

**1.1 FINDINGS**

The Town Board of the Town of Orangetown ("Town" or "Orangetown") finds that the potential and/or actual damages from flooding and erosion may be a problem to the residents of Orangetown, and that such damages may include: destruction or loss of private and public housing, damage to public facilities, both publicly and privately owned, and injury to and loss of human life. In order to minimize the threat of such damages and to achieve the purposes and objectives hereinafter set forth, this local law is adopted.

**1.2 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

It is the purpose of this local law to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare, and to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions in specific areas by provisions designed to:

- (1) regulate uses which are dangerous to health, safety and property due to water or erosion hazards, or which result in damaging increases in erosion or in flood heights or velocities;
- (2) require that uses vulnerable to floods, including facilities which serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction;

- (3) control the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers which are involved in the accommodation of flood waters;
- (4) control filling, grading, dredging and other development which may increase erosion or flood damages;
- (5) regulate the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert flood waters or which may increase flood hazards to other lands, and;
- (6) qualify and maintain for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

### **1.3 OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this local law are:

- (1) to protect human life and health;
- (2) to minimize expenditure of public money for costly flood control projects;
- (3) to minimize the need for rescue and relief efforts associated with flooding and generally undertaken at the expense of the general public;
- (4) to minimize prolonged business interruptions;
- (5) to minimize damage to public facilities and utilities such as water and gas mains, electric, telephone, sewer lines, streets and bridges located in areas of special flood hazard;
- (6) to help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the sound use and development of areas of special flood hazard so as to minimize future flood blight areas;
- (7) to provide that developers are notified that property is in an area of special flood hazard; and,
- (8) to ensure that those who occupy the areas of special flood hazard assume responsibility for their actions.

## **SECTION 2.0 DEFINITIONS**

Unless specifically defined below, words or phrases used in this local law shall be interpreted so as to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give this local law its most reasonable application.

**"Accessory Structure"** is a structure used solely for parking (two-car detached garages or smaller) or limited storage, represent a minimal investment of not more than 10-percent of the value of the primary structure, and may not be used for human habitation.

**"Appeal"** means a request for a review of the Local Administrator's interpretation of any provision of this Local Law or a request for a variance.

**"Area of shallow flooding"** means a designated AO, AH or VO Zone on a community's FIRM with a one percent or greater annual chance of flooding to an average annual depth of one to three feet where a clearly defined channel does not exist, where the path of flooding is unpredictable and where velocity flow may be evident. Such flooding is characterized by ponding or sheet flow.

**"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. This area may be designated as Zone A, AE, AH, AO, A1-A30, A99, V, VO, VE, or V1-V30. It is also commonly referred to as the base floodplain or 100-year floodplain. For purposes of this Local Law, the term "special flood hazard area (SFHA)" is synonymous in meaning with the phrase "area of special flood hazard."

**"Base flood"** means the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

**"Basement"** means that portion of a building having its floor subgrade (below ground level) on all sides.

**"Breakaway wall"** means a wall that is not part of the structural support of the building and is intended through its design and construction to collapse under specific lateral loading forces without causing damage to the elevated portion of the building or the supporting foundation system.

**"Building"** see "Structure"

**"Cellar"** has the same meaning as "Basement".

**"Coastal A Zone"** Area within a SFHA, landward of a V1-V30, VE, or V zone or landward of an open coast without mapped coastal high hazard areas. In a coastal A zone, the principal source of flood must be astronomical tides, storm surges, seiches or tsunamis, not riverine flooding. During the base flood conditions, the potential for breaking wave height shall be greater than or



equal to 1 ½ feet (457 mm). The inland limit of coastal A zone is (a) the Limit of Moderate Wave Action if delineated on a FIRM, or (b) designated by the authority having jurisdiction.

**"Coastal high hazard area"** means an area of special flood hazard extending from offshore to the inland limit of a primary frontal dune along an open coast and any other area subject to high velocity wave action from storms or seismic sources. The area is designated on a FIRM as Zone VI-V30, VE, VO or V.

**"Crawl Space"** means an enclosed area beneath the lowest elevated floor, eighteen inches or more in height, which is used to service the underside of the lowest elevated floor. The elevation of the floor of this enclosed area, which may be of soil, gravel, concrete or other material, must be equal to or above the lowest adjacent exterior grade. The enclosed crawl space area shall be properly vented to allow for the equalization of hydrostatic forces which would be experienced during periods of flooding.

**"Development"** means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, paving, excavation or drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials.

**"Elevated building"** means a non-basement building (i) built, in the case of a building in Zones A1-A30, AE, A, A99, AO, AH, B, C, X, or D, to have the top of the elevated floor, or in the case of a building in Zones V1-30, VE, or V, to have the bottom of the lowest horizontal structure member of the elevated floor, elevated above the ground level by means of pilings, columns (posts and piers), or shear walls parallel to the flow of the water and (ii) adequately anchored so as not to impair the structural integrity of the building during a flood of up to the magnitude of the base flood. In the case of Zones A1-A30, AE, A, A99, AO, AH, B, C, X, or D, "elevated building" also includes a building elevated by means of fill or solid foundation perimeter walls with openings sufficient to facilitate the unimpeded movement of flood waters. In the case of Zones V1-V30, VE, V, or Coastal A, "elevated building" also includes a building otherwise meeting the definition of "elevated building", even though the lower area is enclosed by means of breakaway walls that meet the federal standards.

**"Federal Emergency Management Agency"** means the Federal agency that administers the National Flood Insurance Program.

**"Flood" or "Flooding"** means a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from:

- (1) the overflow of inland or tidal waters;
- (2) the unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.

"Flood" or "flooding" also means the collapse or subsidence of land along the shore of a lake or other body of water as a result of erosion or undermining caused by waves or currents of water exceeding anticipated cyclical levels or suddenly caused by an unusually high water level in a natural body of water, accompanied by a severe storm, or by an unanticipated force of nature,



such as a flash flood or an abnormal tidal surge, or by some similarly unusual and unforeseeable event which results in flooding as defined in (1) above.

**"Flood Boundary and Floodway Map (FBFM)"** means an official map of the community published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as part of a riverine community's Flood Insurance Study. The FBFM delineates a Regulatory Floodway along water courses studied in detail in the Flood Insurance Study.

**"Flood Elevation Study"** means an examination, evaluation and determination of the flood hazards and, if appropriate, corresponding water surface elevations, or an examination, evaluation and determination of flood-related erosion hazards.

**"Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM)"** means an official map of a community, issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, where the boundaries of the areas of special flood hazard have been designated as Zone A but no flood elevations are provided.

**"Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)"** means an official map of a community, on which the Federal Emergency Management Agency has delineated both the areas of special flood hazard and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

**"Flood Insurance Study"** see "flood elevation study".

**"Floodplain"** or **"Flood-prone area"** means any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any source (see definition of "Flooding").

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

**"Floodway"** - has the same meaning as "Regulatory Floodway".

**"Functionally dependent use"** means a use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water, such as a docking or port facility necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, shipbuilding, and ship repair facilities. The term does not include long-term storage, manufacturing, sales, or service facilities.

**"Highest adjacent grade"** means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface, prior to construction, next to the proposed walls of a structure.

**"Historic structure"** means any structure that is:

- (1) listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of the Interior) 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; or
- (4) individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:
  - (i) by an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or
  - (ii) directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

**"Limit of Moderate Wave Action (LiMWA)"** line shown on FIRMs to indicate the inland limit of the 1 ½ foot (457 mm) breaking wave height during the base flood.

**"Local Administrator"** is the person appointed by the community to administer and implement this local law by granting or denying development permits in accordance with its provisions. This person is often the Building Inspector, Code Enforcement Officer, or employee of an engineering department.

**"Lowest floor"** means 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 this Local Law.

**"Manufactured home"** means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities. The term does not include a "Recreational vehicle"

**"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.

**"Mean sea level"** means, for purposes of the National Flood Insurance Program, the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929, the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88), or other datum to which base flood elevations shown on a community's FIRM are referenced.

**"Mobile home"** - has the same meaning as "Manufactured home".

**"New construction"** means structures for which the "start of construction" commenced on or after the effective date of a floodplain management regulation adopted by the community and includes any subsequent improvements to such structure.



**"One hundred year flood" or "100-year flood"** has the same meaning as "Base Flood".

**"Primary frontal dune"** means a continuous or nearly continuous mound or ridge of sand with relatively steep seaward and landward slopes immediately landward and adjacent to the beach and subject to erosion and overtopping from high tides and waves during major coastal storms. The inland limit of the primary frontal dune occurs at the point where there is a distinct change from a relatively steep slope to a relatively mild slope.

**"Principally above ground"** means that at least 51 percent of the actual cash value of the structure, excluding land value, is above ground.

**"Recreational vehicle"** means a vehicle which is:

- (1) built on a single chassis;
- (2) 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projections;
- (3) designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and
- (4) not designed primarily for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

**"Regulatory Floodway"** means the channel of a river 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 as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in a Flood Insurance Study or by other agencies as provided in Section 4.4-2 of this Law.

**"Sand dunes"** means naturally occurring accumulations of sand in ridges or mounds landward of the beach.

**"Start of construction"** means the date of permit issuance for new construction and substantial improvements to existing structures, provided that 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), or the installation of streets or walkways, or excavation for a basement, footings, piers or foundations, or 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 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 reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the "start of construction" of the improvement. The term includes structures which have incurred "substantial damage", regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either:

- (1) any project for improvement of a structure to correct existing violations of state or local health, sanitary, or safety code specifications which have been identified by the local code enforcement official and which are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions; or
- (2) any alteration of a "Historic structure", provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a "Historic structure".

**"Variance"** means a grant of relief from the requirements of this local law which permits construction or use in a manner that would otherwise be prohibited by this local law.

**"Violation"** means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's flood plain management regulations.



## **SECTION 3.0 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **3.1 LANDS TO WHICH THIS LOCAL LAW APPLIES**

This local law shall apply to all areas of special flood hazard within the jurisdiction of the Town of Orangetown, Rockland County.

### **3.2 BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING THE AREAS OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD**

The areas of special flood hazard for the Town of Orangetown, Community Number 360686, are identified and defined on the following documents prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

- (1) Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel Numbers:

36087C0158G, 36087C0159G, 36087C0166G, 36087C0167G, 36087C0178G, 36087C0179G, 36087C0181G, 36087C0182G, 36087C0183G, 36087C0184G, 36087C0186G, 36087C0187G, 36087C0189G, 36087C0191G, 36087C0192G, 36087C0193G, 36087C0194G, 36087C0207G,

whose effective date is March 3, 2014, and any subsequent revisions to these map panels that do not affect areas under our community's jurisdiction.

- (2) A scientific and engineering report entitled "Flood Insurance Study, Rockland County, New York, All Jurisdictions" dated March 3, 2014.
- (3) Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) Case No. 24-02-0638P, effective August 20, 2025, revising FIRM panel 36087C0166G, Flood Profile 85P, and Floodway Data Table 10.

The above documents are hereby adopted and declared to be a part of this Local Law. The Flood Insurance Study and/or maps are on file at the Orangetown Office of Building, Zoning, Planning Administration and Enforcement, located at 26 Orangeburg Road, Orangeburg, NY 10962.

### **3.3 INTERPRETATION AND CONFLICT WITH OTHER LAWS**

This Local Law includes all revisions to the National Flood Insurance Program through October 27, 1997 and shall supersede all previous laws adopted for the purpose of flood damage prevention. In their interpretation and application, the provisions of this local law shall be held to be minimum requirements, adopted for the promotion of the public health, safety, and welfare. Whenever the requirements of this local law are at variance with the requirements of any other lawfully adopted rules, regulations, or ordinances, the most restrictive, or that imposing the higher standards, shall govern.

### **3.4 SEVERABILITY**

The invalidity of any section or provision of this local law shall not invalidate any other section or provision thereof.

### **3.5 PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE**

No structure in an area of special flood hazard shall hereafter be constructed, located, extended, converted, or altered and no land shall be excavated or filled without full compliance with the terms of this local law and any other applicable regulations. Any infraction of the provisions of this local law by failure to comply with any of its requirements, including infractions of conditions and safeguards established in connection with conditions of the permit, shall constitute a violation. Any person who violates this local law or fails to comply with any of its requirements shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined no more than \$250 or imprisoned for not more than 15 days or both. Each day of noncompliance shall be considered a separate offense. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the Town from taking such other lawful action as necessary to prevent or remedy an infraction. Any structure found not compliant with the requirements of this local law for which the developer and/or owner has not applied for and received an approved variance under Section 6.0 will be declared non-compliant and notification sent to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

### **3.6 WARNING AND DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

The degree of flood protection required by this local law is considered reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on scientific and engineering considerations. Larger floods can and will occur on rare occasions. Flood heights may be increased by man-made or natural causes. This local law does not imply that land outside the area of special flood hazards or uses permitted within such areas will be free from flooding or flood damages. This local law shall not create liability on the part of the Town, any officer or employee thereof, or the Federal Emergency Management Agency, for any flood damages that result from reliance on this local law or any administrative decision lawfully made thereunder.



## **SECTION 4.0 ADMINISTRATION**

### **4.1 DESIGNATION OF THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATOR**

The Director of the Orangetown Office of Building, Zoning, Planning Administration and Enforcement is hereby appointed Local Administrator to administer and implement this local law by granting or denying floodplain development permits in accordance with its provisions.

### **4.2 THE FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**

#### **4.2-1 PURPOSE**

A floodplain development permit is hereby established for all construction and other development to be undertaken in areas of special flood hazard in this community for the purpose of protecting its citizens from increased flood hazards and insuring that new development is constructed in a manner that minimizes its exposure to flooding. It shall be unlawful to undertake any development in an area of special flood hazard, as shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map enumerated in Section 3.2, without a valid floodplain development permit. Application for a permit shall be made on forms furnished by the Local Administrator and may include, but not be limited to: plans, in duplicate, drawn to scale and showing: the nature, location, dimensions, and elevations of the area in question; existing or proposed structures, fill, storage of materials, drainage facilities, and the location of the foregoing.

#### **4.2-2 FEES**

All applications for a floodplain development permit shall be accompanied by an application fee of \$50.00. In addition, the applicant shall be responsible for reimbursing the Town for any additional costs necessary for review, inspection and approval of this project. The Local Administrator may require a deposit of no more than \$500.00 to cover these additional costs.

### **4.3 APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT**

The applicant shall provide the following information as appropriate. Additional information may be required on the permit application form.

- (1) The proposed elevation, in relation to mean sea level, of the top of the lowest floor (including basement or cellar) of any new or substantially improved structure to be located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Upon completion of the lowest floor, the permittee shall submit to the Local Administrator the as-built elevation, certified by a licensed professional engineer or surveyor.

- (2) The proposed elevation, in relation to mean sea level, of the bottom of the lowest structural member of the lowest floor (excluding pilings and columns) of any new or substantially improved structure to be located in Zones V1-V30, VE, Coastal A, or Zone V if base flood elevation data are available. Upon completion of the lowest floor, the permittee shall submit to the Local Administrator the as-built elevation, certified by a licensed professional engineer or surveyor.
- (3) The proposed elevation, in relation to mean sea level, to which any new or substantially improved non-residential structure will be floodproofed. Upon completion of the floodproofed portion of the structure, the permittee shall submit to the Local Administrator the as-built floodproofed elevation, certified by a professional engineer or surveyor.
- (4) A certificate from a licensed professional engineer or architect that any utility floodproofing will meet the criteria in Section 5.2-3, UTILITIES.
- (5) A certificate from a licensed professional engineer or architect that any non-residential floodproofed structure will meet the floodproofing criteria in Section 5.5, NON-RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES.
- (6) A description of the extent to which any watercourse will be altered or relocated as a result of proposed development. Computations by a licensed professional engineer must be submitted that demonstrate that the altered or relocated segment will provide equal or greater conveyance than the original stream segment. The applicant must submit any maps, computations or other material required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to revise the documents enumerated in Section 3.2, when notified by the Local Administrator, and must pay any fees or other costs assessed by FEMA for this purpose. The applicant must also provide assurances that the conveyance capacity of the altered or relocated stream segment will be maintained.
- (7) A technical analysis, by a licensed professional engineer, if required by the Local Administrator, which shows whether proposed development to be located in an area of special flood hazard may result in physical damage to any other property.
- (8) In Zone A, when no base flood elevation data are available from other sources, base flood elevation data shall be provided by the permit applicant for subdivision proposals and other proposed developments (including proposals for manufactured home and recreational vehicle parks and subdivisions) that are greater than either 50 lots or 5 acres.
- (9) In Zones V1-V30, VE, V, and Coastal A if base flood elevations are available, designs and specifications, certified by a licensed professional engineer or architect, for any breakaway walls in a proposed structure with design strengths in excess of 20 pounds per square foot.



- (10) In Zones V1-V30, VE, V, and Coastal A if base flood elevations are available, for all new and substantial improvements to structures, floodplain development permit applications shall be accompanied by design plans and specifications, prepared in sufficient detail to enable independent review of the foundation support and connection components. Said plans and specifications shall be developed or reviewed by a licensed professional engineer or architect, and shall be accompanied by a statement, bearing the signature of the architect or engineer, certifying that the design and methods of construction to be used are in accordance with accepted standards of practice and with all applicable provisions of this local law.

#### **4.4 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATOR**

Duties of the Local Administrator shall include, but not be limited to the following.

##### **4.4-1 PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW**

The Local Administrator shall conduct the following permit application review before issuing a floodplain development permit:

- (1) Review all applications for completeness, particularly with the requirements of subsection 4.3, APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT, and for compliance with the provisions and standards of this law.
- (2) Review subdivision and other proposed new development, including manufactured home parks to determine whether proposed building sites will be reasonably safe from flooding. If a proposed building site is located in an area of special flood hazard, all new construction and substantial improvements shall meet the applicable standards of Section 5.0, CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS and, in particular, sub-section 5.1-2 SUBDIVISION PROPOSALS.
- (3) Determine whether any proposed development in an area of special flood hazard may result in physical damage to any other property (e.g., stream bank erosion and increased flood velocities). The Local Administrator may require the applicant to submit additional technical analyses and data necessary to complete the determination.

If the proposed development may result in physical damage to any other property or fails to meet the requirements of Section 5.0, CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS, no permit shall be issued. The applicant may revise the application to include measures that mitigate or eliminate the adverse effects and re-submit the application.

- (4) Determine that all necessary permits have been received from those governmental agencies from which approval is required by State or Federal law.

#### **4.4-2 USE OF OTHER FLOOD DATA**

- (1) When the Federal Emergency Management Agency has designated areas of special flood hazard on the community's Flood Insurance Rate map (FIRM) but has neither produced water surface elevation data (these areas are designated Zone A or V on the FIRM) nor identified a floodway, the Local Administrator shall obtain, review and reasonably utilize any base flood elevation and floodway data available from a Federal, State or other source, including data developed pursuant to paragraph 4.3(8), as criteria for requiring that new construction, substantial improvements or other proposed development meet the requirements of this law.
- (2) When base flood elevation data are not available, the Local Administrator may use flood information from any other authoritative source, such as historical data, to establish flood elevations within the areas of special flood hazard, for the purposes of this law.

#### **4.4-3 ALTERATION OF WATERCOURSES**

- (1) Notification to adjacent municipalities that may be affected and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation prior to permitting any alteration or relocation of a watercourse and submit evidence of such notification to the Regional Administrator, Region II, Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- (2) Determine that the permit holder has provided for maintenance within the altered or relocated portion of said watercourse so that the flood carrying capacity is not diminished.

#### **4.4-4 CONSTRUCTION STAGE**

- (1) In Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, and Zone A if base flood elevation data are available, upon placement of the lowest floor or completion of floodproofing of a new or substantially improved structure, obtain from the permit holder a certification of the as-built elevation of the lowest floor or floodproofed elevation, in relation to mean sea level. The certificate shall be prepared by or under the direct supervision of a licensed land surveyor or professional engineer and certified by same. For manufactured homes, the permit holder shall submit the certificate of elevation upon placement of the structure on the site. A certificate of elevation must also be submitted for a recreational vehicle if it remains on a site for 180 consecutive days or longer (unless it is fully licensed and ready for highway use).
- (2) In Zones V1-V30, VE, V, and Coastal A if base flood elevation data are available, upon placement of the lowest floor of a new or substantially improved structure, the permit holder shall submit to the Local Administrator a



certificate of elevation, in relation to mean sea level, of the bottom of the lowest structural member of the lowest floor (excluding pilings and columns). The certificate shall be prepared by or under the direct supervision of a licensed land surveyor or professional engineer and certified by same. For manufactured homes, the permit holder shall submit the certificate of elevation upon placement of the structure on the site. An elevation certificate must also be submitted for a recreational vehicle if it remains on a site 180 consecutive days or longer (unless it is fully licensed and ready for highway use).

- (3) Any further work undertaken prior to submission and approval of the certification shall be at the permit holder's risk. The Local Administrator shall review all data submitted. Deficiencies detected shall be cause to issue a stop work order for the project unless immediately corrected.

#### **4.4-5 INSPECTIONS**

The Local Administrator and/or the developer's engineer or architect shall make periodic inspections at appropriate times throughout the period of construction in order to monitor compliance with permit conditions and enable said inspector to certify, if requested, that the development is in compliance with the requirements of the floodplain development permit and/or any variance provisions.

#### **4.4-6 STOP WORK ORDERS**

- (1) The Local Administrator shall issue, or cause to be issued, a stop work order for any floodplain development found ongoing without a development permit. Disregard of a stop work order shall subject the violator to the penalties described in Section 3.5 of this local law.
- (2) The Local Administrator shall issue, or cause to be issued, a stop work order for any floodplain development found non-compliant with the provisions of this law and/or the conditions of the development permit. Disregard of a stop work order shall subject the violator to the penalties described in Section 3.5 of this local law.

#### **4.4-7 CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

- (1) In areas of special flood hazard, as determined by documents enumerated in Section 3.2, it shall be unlawful to occupy or to permit the use or occupancy of any building or premises, or both, or part thereof hereafter created, erected, changed, converted or wholly or partly altered or enlarged in its use or structure until a certificate of compliance has been issued by the Local Administrator stating that the building or land conforms to the requirements of this local law.

- (2) A certificate of compliance shall be issued by the Local Administrator upon satisfactory completion of all development in areas of special flood hazard.
- (3) Issuance of the certificate shall be based upon the inspections conducted as prescribed in Section 4.4-5, INSPECTIONS, and/or any certified elevations, hydraulic data, floodproofing, anchoring requirements or encroachment analyses which may have been required as a condition of the approved permit.

#### **4.4-8 INFORMATION TO BE RETAINED**

The Local Administrator shall retain and make available for inspection, copies of the following:

- (1) Floodplain development permits and certificates of compliance;
- (2) Certifications of as-built lowest floor elevations of structures required pursuant to sub-sections 4.4-4(1) and 4.4-4(2), and whether the structures contain a basement;
- (3) Floodproofing certificates required pursuant to sub-section 4.4-4(1), and whether the structures contain a basement;
- (4) Variances issued pursuant to Section 6.0, VARIANCE PROCEDURES; and,
- (5) Notices required under sub-section 4.4-3, ALTERATION OF WATERCOURSES.
- (6) Base flood elevations developed pursuant to sub-section 4.3(7) and supporting technical analysis.



## **SECTION 5.0 CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS**

### **5.1 GENERAL STANDARDS**

The following standards apply to new development, including new and substantially improved structures, in the areas of special flood hazard shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map designated in Section 3.2.

#### **5.1-1 COASTAL HIGH HAZARD AREAS AND COASTAL A ZONES**

The following requirements apply within V1-V30, VE, V and Coastal A Zones:

- (1) All new construction, including manufactured homes and recreational vehicles on site 180 days or longer and not fully licensed for highway use, shall be located landward of the reach of high tide.
- (2) The use of fill for structural support of buildings, manufactured homes or recreational vehicles on site 180 days or longer is prohibited.
- (3) Man-made alteration of sand dunes which would increase potential flood damage is prohibited.

#### **5.1-2 SUBDIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

The following standards apply to all new subdivision proposals and other proposed development in areas of special flood hazard (including proposals for manufactured home and recreational vehicle parks and subdivisions):

- (1) Proposals shall be consistent with the need to minimize flood damage;
- (2) Public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical and water systems shall be located and constructed to minimize flood damage; and,
- (3) Adequate drainage shall be provided to reduce exposure to flood damage.
- (4) Proposed development shall not result in physical damage to any other property (e.g., stream bank erosion or increased flood velocities). If requested by the Local Administrator, the applicant shall provide a technical analysis, by a licensed professional engineer, demonstrating that this condition has been met.
- (5) Proposed development shall be designed, located, and constructed so as to offer the minimum resistance to the flow of water and shall be designed to have a minimum effect upon the height of flood water.

- (6) Any equipment or materials located in a special flood hazard area shall be elevated, anchored, and floodproofed as necessary to prevent flotation, flood damage, and the release of hazardous substances.
- (7) No alteration or relocation of a watercourse shall be permitted unless:
  - i. a technical evaluation by a licensed professional engineer demonstrates that the altered or relocated segment will provide conveyance equal to or greater than that of the original stream segment and will not result in physical damage to any other property;
  - ii. if warranted, a conditional revision of the Flood Insurance Rate Map is obtained from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, with the applicant providing the necessary data, analyses, and mapping and reimbursing the Town for all fees and other costs in relation to the application; and
  - iii. the applicant provides assurance that maintenance will be provided so that the flood carrying capacity of the altered or relocated portion of the watercourse will not be diminished.

### **5.1-3 ENCROACHMENTS**

- (1) Within Zones A1-A30 and AE, on streams without a regulatory floodway, no new construction, substantial improvements or other development (including fill) shall be permitted unless:
  - (i) the applicant demonstrates that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one foot at any location, or,
  - (ii) the Town agrees to apply to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a conditional FIRM revision, FEMA approval is received and the applicant provides all necessary data, analyses and mapping and reimburses the Town for all fees and other costs in relation to the application. The applicant must also provide all data, analyses and mapping and reimburse the Town for all costs related to the final map revision.
- (2) On streams with a regulatory floodway, as shown on the Flood Boundary and Floodway Map or the Flood Insurance Rate Map adopted in Section 3.2, no new construction, substantial improvements or other development in the floodway (including fill) shall be permitted unless:
  - (i) a technical evaluation by a licensed professional engineer demonstrates through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that such an



encroachment shall not result in any increase in flood levels during occurrence of the base flood, or,

(ii) the Town agrees to apply to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a conditional FIRM and floodway revision, FEMA approval is received and the applicant provides all necessary data, analyses and mapping and reimburses the Town for all fees and other costs in relation to the application. The applicant must also provide all data, analyses and mapping and reimburse the Town for all costs related to the final map revisions.

- (3) In a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), if any development is found to increase or decrease base flood elevations, the Town shall, as soon as practicable, but not later than six months after the date such information becomes available, notify FEMA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation of the changes by submitting technical or scientific data in accordance with standard engineering practice.

## **5.2 STANDARDS FOR ALL STRUCTURES**

The following standards apply to new development, including new and substantially improved structures, in the areas of special flood hazard shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map designated in Section 3.2.

### **5.2-1 ANCHORING**

New structures and substantial improvement to structures in areas of special flood hazard shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement during the base flood. This requirement is in addition to applicable State and local anchoring requirements for resisting wind forces.

### **5.2-2 CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND METHODS**

- (1) New construction and substantial improvements to structures shall be constructed with materials and utility equipment resistant to flood damage.
- (2) New construction and substantial improvements to structures shall be constructed using methods and practices that minimize flood damage.
- (3) For enclosed areas below the lowest floor of a structure within Zones A1-A30, AE, AO or A, new and substantially improved structures shall have fully enclosed areas below the lowest floor that are useable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage in an area other than a basement and which are subject to flooding, designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of flood waters. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a licensed professional engineer or architect or meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:

- (i) a minimum of two openings of each enclosed area having a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of enclosed area subject to flooding; and
- (ii) the bottom of all such openings no higher than one foot above grade.
- (iii) openings not less than three inches in any direction.

Openings may be equipped with louvers, valves, screens or other coverings or devices provided they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters. Enclosed areas sub-grade on all sides are considered basements and are not permitted.

- (4) Within Zones V1-V30, VE, V, and Coastal A if base flood elevation are available, new construction and substantial improvements shall have the space below the lowest floor either free from obstruction or constructed with non-supporting breakaway walls, open wood lattice-work or insect screening intended to collapse under wind and water loads without causing collapse, displacement, or other structural damage to the elevated portion of the building or supporting foundation system. The enclosed space below the lowest floor shall be used only for parking vehicles, building access or storage. Use of this space for human habitation is expressly prohibited. The construction of stairs, stairwells and elevator shafts are subject to the design requirements for breakaway walls.

### **5.2-3 UTILITIES**

- (1) New and replacement electrical equipment, heating, ventilating, air conditioning, plumbing connections, and other service equipment shall be located at least two feet above the base flood elevation, or be designed to prevent water from entering and accumulating within the components during a flood and to resist hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and stresses. Electrical wiring and outlets, switches, junction boxes and panels shall be elevated or designed to prevent water from entering and accumulating within the components unless they conform to the appropriate provisions of the electrical part of the Building Code of New York State or the Residential Code of New York State for location of such items in wet locations;
- (2) New and replacement water supply systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the system;
- (3) New and replacement sanitary sewage systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters. Sanitary sewer and storm drainage systems for buildings that have openings below the base flood elevation shall be provided with automatic backflow valves or other automatic backflow



devices that are installed in each discharge line passing through a building's exterior wall; and,

- (4) On-site waste disposal systems shall be located to avoid impairment to them or contamination from them during flooding.

#### **5.2-4 STORAGE TANKS**

- (1) Underground tanks shall be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse and lateral movement during conditions of the base flood.
- (2) Above-ground tanks shall be:
  - a. anchored to prevent flotation, collapse or lateral movement during conditions of the base flood or;
  - b. installed at or above the base flood elevation as shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map enumerated in Section 3.2 plus two feet.

### **5.3 RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES (EXCEPT COASTAL HIGH HAZARD AREAS AND COASTAL A ZONES)**

#### **5.3-1 ELEVATION**

The following standards apply to new and substantially improved residential structures located in areas of special flood hazard, in addition to the requirements in sub-sections 5.1-2, SUBDIVISION PROPOSALS, and 5.1-3, ENCROACHMENTS, and Section 5.2, STANDARDS FOR ALL STRUCTURES.

- (1) Within Zones A1-A30, AE, AH if base flood elevation data are available, new construction and substantial improvements shall have the top of the lowest floor (including basement) elevated to or above two feet above the base flood elevation. Within Zones AH adequate drainage paths are required to guide flood waters around and away from proposed structures on slopes.
- (2) Within Zone A, when no base flood elevation data are available, a base flood elevation shall be determined by either:
  - a. Obtain and reasonably use data available from a federal, state, or other source plus two feet of freeboard, or,
  - b. Determine the base flood elevation in accordance with accepted hydrologic and hydraulic engineering practice, plus two feet of freeboard. Determinations shall be undertaken by a registered design professional who shall document that the technical methods used reflect currently accepted engineering practice. Studies, analyses, and computations shall be submitted in sufficient detail to allow thorough review and approval.

- (3) Within Zone AO, new construction and substantial improvements shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number specified in feet on the community's Flood Insurance Rate Map enumerated in Section 3.2 plus one foot of freeboard. In areas designated as Zone AO where a depth number is not specified on the map, the depth number shall be taken as being equal to 2 feet. Within AO, adequate drainage paths are required to guide flood waters around and away from proposed structures on slopes.

#### **5.4 RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES (COASTAL HIGH HAZARD AREAS AND COASTAL A ZONES)**

The following standards, in addition to the standards in sub-sections 5.1-1, COASTAL HIGH HAZARD AREAS AND COASTAL A ZONES, and 5.1-2, SUBDIVISION PROPOSALS, and Section 5.2, STANDARDS FOR ALL STRUCTURES, apply to new and substantially improved residential structures located in areas of special flood hazard shown as Zones V1-V30, VE, V, or Coastal A on the community's Flood Insurance Rate Map designated in Section 3.2.

##### **5.4-1 ELEVATION**

New construction and substantial improvements shall be elevated on pilings, columns or shear walls such that the bottom of the lowest horizontal structural member supporting the lowest elevated floor (excluding columns, piles, diagonal bracing attached to the piles or columns, grade beams, pile caps and other members designed to either withstand storm action or break away without imparting damaging loads to the structure) is elevated to or above two feet above base flood elevation so as not to impede the flow of water.

##### **5.4-2 DETERMINATION OF LOADING FORCES**

Structural design shall consider the effects of wind and water loads acting simultaneously during the base flood on all building components.

- (1) The structural design shall be adequate to resist water forces that would occur during the base flood. Horizontal water loads considered shall include inertial and drag forces of waves, current drag forces, and impact forces from waterborne storm debris. Dynamic uplift loads shall also be considered if bulkheads, walls, or other natural or man-made flow obstructions could cause wave runup beyond the elevation of the base flood.
- (2) Buildings shall be designed and constructed to resist the forces due to wind pressure. Wind forces on the superstructure include windward and leeward forces on vertical walls, uplift on the roof, internal forces when openings allow wind to enter the house, and upward force on the underside of the house when it is exposed. In the design, the wind should be assumed to blow potentially from any lateral direction relative to the house.



- (3) Wind loading values used shall be those required by the building code.

#### **5.4-3 FOUNDATION STANDARDS**

- (1) The pilings or column foundation and structure attached thereto shall be adequately anchored to resist flotation, collapse or lateral movement due to the effects of wind and water pressures acting simultaneously on all building components. Foundations must be designed to transfer safely to the underlying soil all loads due to wind, water, dead load, live load and other loads (including uplift due to wind and water).
- (2) Spread footings and fill material shall not be used for structural support of a new building or substantial improvement of an existing structure.

#### **5.4-4 PILE FOUNDATION DESIGN**

- (1) The design ratio of pile spacing to pile diameter shall not be less than 8:1 for individual piles (this shall not apply to pile clusters located below the design grade). The maximum center-to-center spacing of wood piles shall not be more than 12 feet on center under load bearing sills, beams, or girders.
- (2) Pilings shall have adequate soil penetration (bearing capacity) to resist the combined wave and wind loads (lateral and uplift) associated with the base flood acting simultaneously with typical structure (live and dead) loads, and shall include consideration of decreased resistance capacity caused by erosion of soil strata surrounding the piles. The minimum penetration for foundation piles is to an elevation of 5 feet below mean sea level (msl) datum if the BFE is +10 msl or less, or to be at least 10 feet below msl if the BFE is greater than +10 msl.
- (3) Pile foundation analysis shall also include consideration of piles in column action from the bottom of the structure to the stable soil elevation of the site. Pilings may be horizontally or diagonally braced to withstand wind and water forces.
- (4) The minimum acceptable sizes for timber piles are a tip diameter of 8 inches for round timber piles and 8 by 8 inches for square timber piles. All wood piles must be treated in accordance with requirements of EPEE-C3 to minimize decay and damage from fungus.
- (5) Reinforced concrete piles shall be cast of concrete having a 28-day ultimate compressive strength of not less than 5,000 pounds per square inch, and shall be reinforced with a minimum of four longitudinal steel bars having a combined area of not less than 1% nor more than 4% of the gross concrete area. Reinforcing for precast piles shall have a concrete cover of not less than 1 1/4 inches for No. 5 bars and smaller and not less than 1 1/2 inches for No. 6 through No. 11 bars. Reinforcement for piles cast in the field shall have a concrete cover of not less than 2 inches.

- (6) Piles shall be driven by means of a pile driver or drop hammer, jetted, or augered into place.
- (7) Additional support for piles in the form of bracing may include lateral or diagonal bracing between piles.
- (8) When necessary, piles shall be braced at the ground line in both directions by a wood timber grade beam or a reinforced concrete grade beam. These at-grade supports should be securely attached to the piles to provide support even if scoured from beneath.
- (9) Diagonal bracing between piles, consisting of 2-inch by 8-inch (minimum) members bolted to the piles, shall be limited in location to below the lowest supporting structural member and above the stable soil elevation, and aligned in the vertical plane along pile rows perpendicular to the shoreline. Galvanized steel rods (minimum diameter 1/2 inch) or cable type bracing is permitted in any plane.
- (10) Knee braces, which stiffen both the upper portion of a pile and the beam-to-pile connection, may be used along pile rows perpendicular and parallel to the shoreline. Knee braces shall be 2-by-8 lumber bolted to the sides of the pile/beam, or 4-by-4 or larger braces framed into the pile/beam. Bolting shall consist of two 5/8-inch galvanized steel bolts (each end) for 2-by-8 members, or one 5/8-inch lag bolt (each end) for square members. Knee braces shall not extend more than 3 feet below the elevation of the base flood.

#### **5.4-5 COLUMN FOUNDATION DESIGN**

- (1) Masonry piers or poured-in-place concrete piers shall be internally reinforced to resist vertical and lateral loads, and be connected with a movement-resisting connection to a pile cap or pile shaft.

#### **5.4-6 CONNECTORS AND FASTENERS**

- (1) Galvanized metal connectors, wood connectors, or bolts of size and number adequate for the calculated loads must be used to connect adjoining components of a structure. Toe nailing as a principal method of connection is not permitted. All metal connectors and fasteners used in exposed locations shall be steel, hot-dipped galvanized after fabrication. Connectors in protected interior locations shall be fabricated from galvanized sheet.

#### **5.4-7 BEAM TO PILE CONNECTIONS**

- (1) The primary floor beams or girders shall span the supports in the direction parallel to the flow of potential floodwater and wave action and shall be fastened to the columns or pilings by bolting, with or without cover plates. Concrete members



shall be connected by reinforcement, if cast in place, or (of precast) shall be securely connected by bolting and welding. If sills, beams, or girders are attached to wood piling at a notch, a minimum of two (5/8)-inch galvanized steel bolts or two hot-dipped galvanized straps 3/16 inch by 4 inches by 18 inches each bolted with two 1/2 inch lag bolts per beam member shall be used. Notching of pile tops shall be the minimum sufficient to provide ledge support for beam members without unduly weakening pile connections. Piling shall not be notched so that the cross section is reduced below 50%.

#### **5.4-8 FLOOR AND DECK CONNECTIONS**

- (1) Wood 2- by 4-inch (minimum) connectors or metal joist anchors shall be used to tie floor joists to floor beams/girders. These should be installed on alternate floor joists, at a minimum. Cross bridging of all floor joists shall be provided. Such cross bridging may be 1- by 3-inch members, placed 8 feet on-center maximum, or solid bridging of same depth as joist at same spacing.
- (2) Plywood should be used for subflooring and attic flooring to provide good torsional resistance in the horizontal plane of the structure. The plywood should not be less than (3/4)-inch total thickness, and should be exterior grade and fastened to beams or joists with 8d annular or spiral thread galvanized nails. Such fastening shall be supplemented by the application of waterproof industrial adhesive applied to all bearing surfaces.

#### **5.4-9 EXTERIOR WALL CONNECTIONS**

- (1) All bottom plates shall have any required breaks under a wall stud or an anchor bolt. Approved anchors will be used to secure rafters or joists and top and bottom plates to studs in exterior and bearing walls to form a continuous tie. Continuous 15/32-inch or thicker plywood sheathing--overlapping the top wall plate and continuing down to the sill, beam, or girder--may be used to provide the continuous tie. If the sheets of plywood are not vertically continuous, then 2-by-4 nailer blocking shall be provided at all horizontal joints. In lieu of the plywood, galvanized steel rods of 1/2-inch diameter or galvanized steel straps not less than 1 inch wide by 1/16 inch thick may be used to connect from the top wall plate to the sill, beam, or girder. Washers with a minimum diameter of 3 inches shall be used at each end of the 1/2-inch round rods. These anchors shall be installed no more than 2 feet from each corner rod, no more than 4 feet on center.

#### **5.4-10 CEILING JOIST/RAFTER CONNECTIONS**

- (1) All ceiling joists or rafters shall be installed in such a manner that the joists provide a continuous tie across the rafters. Ceiling joists and rafters shall be securely fastened at their intersections. A metal or wood connector shall be used at alternate ceiling joist/rafter connections to the wall top plate.

Gable roofs shall be additionally stabilized by installing 2-by-4 blocking on 2-foot centers between the rafters at each gable end. Blocking shall be installed a minimum of 8 feet toward the house interior from each gable end.

#### **5.4-11 PROJECTING MEMBERS**

- (1) All cantilevers and other projecting members must be adequately supported and braced to withstand wind and water uplift forces. Roof eave overhangs shall be limited to a maximum of 2 feet and joist overhangs to a maximum of 1 foot. Larger overhangs and porches will be permitted if designed or reviewed and certified by a registered professional engineer or architect.

#### **5.4-12 ROOF SHEATHING**

- (1) Plywood, or other wood material, when used as roof sheathing, shall not be less than 15/32 inch in thickness, and shall be of exterior sheathing grade or equivalent. All attaching devices for sheathing and roof coverings shall be galvanized or be of other suitable corrosion resistant material.
- (2) All corners, gable ends, and roof overhangs exceeding six inches shall be reinforced by the application of waterproof industrial adhesive applied to all bearing surfaces of any plywood sheet used in the sheathing of such corner, gable end, or roof overhang.
- (3) In addition, roofs should be sloped as steeply as practicable to reduce uplift pressures, and special care should be used in securing ridges, hips, valleys, eaves, vents, chimneys, and other points of discontinuity in the roofing surface.

#### **5.4-13 PROTECTION OF OPENINGS**

- (1) All exterior glass panels, windows, and doors shall be designed, detailed, and constructed to withstand loads due to the design wind speed of 75 mph. Connections for these elements must be designed to transfer safely the design loads to the supporting structure. Panel widths of multiple panel sliding glass doors shall not exceed three feet.

#### **5.4-14 BREAKAWAY WALL DESIGN STANDARDS**

- (1) The breakaway wall shall have a design safe loading resistance of not less than 10 and not more than 20 pounds per square foot, with the criterion that the safety of the overall structure at the point of wall failure be confirmed using established procedures. Grade beams shall be installed in both directions for all piles considered to carry the breakaway wall load. Knee braces are required for front row piles that support breakaway walls.
- (2) Use of breakaway wall strengths in excess of 20 pounds per square foot shall not



be permitted unless a registered professional engineer or architect has developed or reviewed the structural design and specifications for the building foundation and breakaway wall components, and certifies that (1) the breakaway walls will fail under water loads less than those that would occur during the base flood; and (2) the elevated portion of the building and supporting foundation system will not be subject to collapse, displacement, or other structural damage due to the effects of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all building components (structural and non-structural). Water loading values used shall be those associated with the base flood. Wind loading values shall be those required by the building code.

## **5.5 NON-RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES (EXCEPT COASTAL HIGH HAZARD AREAS AND COASTAL A ZONES)**

The following standards apply to new and substantially improved commercial, industrial and other non-residential structures located in areas of special flood hazard, in addition to the requirements in sub-sections 5.1-2, SUBDIVISION PROPOSALS, and 5.1-3, ENCROACHMENTS, and Section 5.2, STANDARDS FOR ALL STRUCTURES.

- (1) Within Zones A1-A30, AE and AH, and also Zone A if base flood elevation data are available, new construction and substantial improvements of any non-residential structure, together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, shall either:
  - (i) have the lowest floor, including basement or cellar, elevated to or above two feet above the base flood elevation; or
  - (ii) be floodproofed so that the structure is watertight below two feet above the base flood elevation, including attendant utility and sanitary facilities, with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water. All structural components located below the base flood elevation must be capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and the effects of buoyancy.
- (2) Within Zone AO, new construction and substantial improvements of non-residential structures shall:
  - (i) have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number specified in feet on the community's FIRM plus two feet (at least three feet if no depth number is specified), or
  - (ii) together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, be completely floodproofed to that level to meet the floodproofing standard specified in sub-Section 5.5(1)(ii).
- (3) If the structure is to be floodproofed, a licensed professional engineer or architect shall develop and/or review structural design, specifications, and plans for con-

struction. A Floodproofing Certificate or other certification shall be provided to the Local Administrator that certifies the design and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting the provisions of sub-Section 5.5(1)(ii), including the specific elevation (in relation to mean sea level) to which the structure is to be floodproofed.

- (4) Within Zones AH and AO, adequate drainage paths are required to guide flood waters around and away from proposed structures on slopes.
- (5) Within Zone A, when no base flood elevation data are available, the lowest floor (including basement) shall be elevated at least three feet above the highest adjacent grade.

#### **5.6 NON-RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES (COASTAL HIGH HAZARD AREAS AND COASTAL A ZONES)**

- (1) In Zones V1-V30, VE, V, and Coastal A if base flood elevations are available, new construction and substantial improvements of any non-residential structure, together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities, shall have the bottom of lowest member of the lowest floor elevated to or above two feet above the base flood elevation. Floodproofing of structures is not an allowable alternative to elevating the lowest floor to two feet above the base flood elevation in Zones V1-V30, VE, V, and Coastal A.

#### **5.7 MANUFACTURED HOMES AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES**

The following standards in addition to the standards in Section 5.1, GENERAL STANDARDS, and Section 5.2, STANDARDS FOR ALL STRUCTURES apply, as indicated, in areas of special flood hazard to manufactured homes and to recreational vehicles which are located in areas of special flood hazard.

- (1) Recreational vehicles placed on sites within Zones A, A1-A30, AE, AH, AO, V1-V30, V, and VE shall either:
  - (i) be on site fewer than 180 consecutive days,
  - (ii) be fully licensed and ready for highway use, or
  - (iii) meet the requirements for manufactured homes in paragraphs 5.7 (2), (3) and (4).

A recreational vehicle is ready for highway use if it is on its wheels or jacking system, is attached to the site only by quick disconnect type utilities and security devices and has no permanently attached additions.



- (2) Within Zones A1-A30, AE, AH, the bottom of the frame of the manufactured home shall be elevated to meet the requirements of Section 5.3-1(1). Elevation on piers consisting of dry stacked blocks is prohibited.
- (3) Within Zone A, the bottom of the frame of the manufactured home shall be elevated to meet the requirements of Section 5.3-1(2). Elevation on piers consisting of dry stacked blocks is prohibited.
- (4) Within Zone AO, the bottom of the frame of the manufactured home shall be elevated to meet the requirements of Section 5.3-1(3). Elevation on piers consisting of dry stacked blocks is prohibited.
- (5) Within V or VE, manufactured homes must meet the requirements of Section 5.4.
- (6) The foundation and anchorage of manufactured homes to be located in identified floodways shall be designed and constructed in accordance with ASCE 24.

## **5.8 ACCESSORY STRUCTURES INCLUDING DETACHED GARAGES**

The following standards apply to new and substantially improved accessory structures, including detached garages, in the areas of special flood hazard shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map designated in Section 3.2.

- (1) The accessory structure must meet the definition of structure, for floodplain management purposes, provided in 44 CFR § 59.1, where walled and roofed shall be interpreted as having two outside rigid walls and a fully secured roof.
- (2) The accessory structure should be small, as defined by the community and approved by FEMA, and represent a minimal investment. Accessory structures of any size may be considered for a variance; however, FEMA considers accessory structures that meet the following criteria to be small and therefore not necessarily in need of a variance, if the community chooses to allow it:
  - a. Located in an A Zone (A, AE, A1-A30, AR, A99) and less than or equal to the size of a one-story, two-car garage.
  - b. Located in a V Zone (V, VE, V1-V30) and less than or equal to 100 square feet.
- (3) Accessory structures must meet the standards of Section 5.2-1, ANCHORING,
- (4) The portions of the accessory structure located below BFE plus two feet of freeboard must be constructed with flood-resistant materials.
- (5) Mechanical and utility equipment for the accessory structure must be elevated or dry floodproofed to or above BFE plus two feet of freeboard.
- (6) Within Zones AO and Zone A, if base flood elevation data are not available, areas below three feet above the highest adjacent grade shall be constructed using methods and practices that minimize flood damage.

- (7) The accessory structure must comply with the floodway encroachment provisions of the NFIP.
- (8) The accessory structure must be wet floodproofed to protect the structure from hydrostatic pressure. The design must meet the NFIP design and performance standards for openings per 44 CFR § 60.3(c)(5) and must allow for the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters without manual operation or the presence of a person (or persons).
- (9) Within Zones V1-V30, VE, V, and Coastal A, unelevated accessory buildings must be unfinished inside, constructed with flood-resistant materials, and used only for storage. When an accessory building is placed in these zones, the design professional must determine the effect that debris from the accessory building will have on nearby buildings. If the accessory building is large enough that its failure could create damaging debris or divert flood flows, it must be elevated above the base flood elevation plus two feet.

## **SECTION 6.0 VARIANCE PROCEDURE**

### **6.1 APPEALS BOARD**

- (1) The Orangetown Zoning Board of Appeals ("ZBA") shall hear and decide appeals and requests for variances from the requirements of this local law.
- (2) The ZBA shall hear and decide appeals when it is alleged there is an error in any requirement, decision, or determination made by the Local Administrator in the enforcement or administration of this local law.
- (3) Those aggrieved by the decision of the ZBA may appeal such decision to the Supreme Court of the State of New York ("NYS") pursuant to Article 78 of the NYS Civil Practice Law and Rules.
- (4) In passing upon such applications, the ZBA, shall consider all technical evaluations, all relevant factors, standards specified in other sections of this local law and:
  - (i) the danger that materials may be swept onto other lands to the injury of others;
  - (ii) the danger to life and property due to flooding or erosion damage;
  - (iii) the susceptibility of the proposed facility and its contents to flood damage and the effect of such damage on the individual owner;



- (iv) the importance of the services provided by the proposed facility to the community;
  - (v) the necessity to the facility of a waterfront location, where applicable;
  - (vi) the availability of alternative locations for the proposed use which are not subject to flooding or erosion damage;
  - (vii) the compatibility of the proposed use with existing and anticipated development;
  - (viii) the relationship of the proposed use to the comprehensive plan and floodplain management program of that area;
  - (ix) the safety of access to the property in times of flood for ordinary and emergency vehicles;
  - (x) the costs to local governments and the dangers associated with conducting search and rescue operations during periods of flooding;
  - (xi) the expected heights, velocity, duration, rate of rise and sediment transport of the flood waters and the effects of wave action, if applicable, expected at the site; and
  - (xii) the costs of providing governmental services during and after flood conditions, including search and rescue operations, maintenance and repair of public utilities and facilities such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems and streets and bridges.
- (5) Upon consideration of the factors of Section 6.1(4), and the purposes of this local law, the ZBA may attach such conditions to the granting of variances as it deems necessary to further the purposes of this local law.
  - (6) The Local Administrator shall maintain the records of all appeal actions including technical information and report any variances to the Federal Emergency Management Agency upon request.

## **6.2 CONDITIONS FOR VARIANCES**

- (1) Generally, variances may be issued for new construction and substantial improvements to be erected on a lot of one-half acre or less in size contiguous to and surrounded by lots with existing structures constructed below the base flood elevation, providing items (i-xii) in Section 6.1(4) have been fully considered. As the lot size increases beyond the one-half acre, the technical justification required for issuing the variance increases.

- (2) Variances may be issued for the repair or rehabilitation of historic structures upon determination that:
  - (i) the proposed repair or rehabilitation will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a "Historic structure"; and
  - (ii) the variance is the minimum necessary to preserve the historic character and design of the structure.
- (3) Variances may be issued by a community for new construction and substantial improvements and for other development necessary for the conduct of a functionally dependent use provided that:
  - (i) the criteria of subparagraphs 1, 4, 5, and 6 of this Section are met; and
  - (ii) the structure or other development is protected by methods that minimize flood damages during the base flood and create no additional threat to public safety.
- (4) Variances shall not be issued within any designated floodway if any increase in flood levels during the base flood discharge would result.
- (5) Variances shall only be issued upon a determination that the variance is the minimum necessary, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief.
- (6) Variances shall only be issued upon receiving written justification of:
  - (i) a showing of good and sufficient cause;
  - (ii) a determination that failure to grant the variance would result in exceptional hardship to the applicant; and
  - (iii) a determination that the granting of a variance will not result in increased flood heights, additional threats to public safety, extraordinary public expense, create nuisances, cause fraud on or victimization of the public or conflict with existing local laws or ordinances.
- (7) Any applicant to whom a variance is granted for a building with the lowest floor below the base flood elevation shall be given written notice 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.

Such notification shall be maintained with the record of all variance actions as required in Section 4.4-8 of this Local Law.

Be it enacted this 22nd day of April, 2025, by the Town Board of the Town of Orangetown, Rockland County, New York, to be effective immediately upon the filing of this adopted Local Law in the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of New York.

SEAL OF THE TOWN OF ORANGETOWN:

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rosanna Sfraga, Town Clerk

Date:

4/24/2025