

§ 30.5 Flood Plain District

A. Purpose..

The purpose of the Floodplain Overlay District is 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

B. District Boundaries: The Floodplain District is herein established as an overlay district. The District includes all special flood hazard areas within the Town of Truro designated as Zone AE, AO, or VE on the Barnstable County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program. The map panels of the Barnstable County FIRM that are wholly or partially within the Town of Truro are panel numbers 25001C0109J, 25001C0117J, 25001C0128J, 25001C0136J, 25001C0137J, 25001C0138J, 25001C0139J, 25001C0141J, 25001C0143J, 25001C0144J, 25001C0227J, 25001C0229J, 25001C0231J, 25001C0232J, 25001C0233J, 25001C0234J, 25001C0251J and 25001C0253J dated July 16, 2014. The exact boundaries of the District may be defined by the 100-year base flood elevations shown on the FIRM and further defined by the Barnstable County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report dated July 16, 2014, or as defined by any amended or superseding FIS report. The FIRM and FIS report are incorporated herein by reference and are on file with the Town Clerk, Planning Board, Building Official, and Conservation Commission. (4/14)

C. Administration

1. Precedence over Underlying Zoning

The floodplain management regulations found in this Floodplain Overlay District section shall take precedence over any less restrictive conflicting Bylaw, regulation, or policy.

2. Disclaimer of Liability

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

3. 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.

4. Designation of Floodplain Administrator

The Town of Truro hereby designates the position of Conservation Agent to be the official floodplain administrator for the Town.

5. Requirement to submit new technical data

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:

FEMA Region I Risk Analysis Branch Chief
99 High St., 6th floor, Boston, MA 02110

And copy of notification to:

Massachusetts NFIP State Coordinator
MA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation, 251 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114

6. Variances

a. Variances to Building Code Floodplain Standards

The Town will 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.

The Town shall also 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.

Such notification shall be maintained with the record of all variance actions for the referenced development in the floodplain overlay district.

b. Variances to Zoning Bylaws related to community compliance with 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.

7. Final Approval by Floodplain Administrator

a. No site work or construction may commence within the Floodplain Overlay District until all necessary permits and other approvals have been obtained, and a final approval is issued by the Floodplain Administrator.

b. A completed checklist of all necessary permits and approvals, available from the Building Department, shall be submitted by the proponent to the Floodplain Administrator, with copies of such permits and approvals. The checklist shall include permits and approvals from the following authorities, and may be amended from time to time by the Floodplain Administrator:

Conservation Commission and/or Department of Environmental Protection

Board of Health



Zoning Board of Appeals

Planning Board

Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (Division of Fisheries and Wildlife)

c. The Floodplain Administrator shall review the checklist and permits/approvals submitted and upon a finding that all necessary permits have been obtained, shall issue Final Approval.

C. Regulations. The following requirements apply in the Flood Plain District.

1. Within Zones AE substantial improvement means all new construction, 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. This includes structures which have incurred "substantial damage", regardless of the value or of the actual cost of repair work performed. It 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.”

In A Zones, in the absence of FEMA BFE data and floodway data, the building department 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 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.

3. In Zone AE, 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.

4. In a riverine situation, the Assistant Town Administrator or the Health/Conservation Agent shall notify the following of any alteration or relocation of a watercourse: • Adjacent Communities NFIP • State Coordinator Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation 251 Causeway Street, Suite 600-700 Boston, MA 02114-2104 Truro Zoning Bylaw – April 2019 Page 19 • NFIP Program Specialist Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region I 99 High Street, 6th Floor Boston, MA 02110

5. Within Zone AO on the FIRM, adequate drainage paths must be provided around structures on slopes, to guide floodwaters around and away from proposed structures.

6. Subdivisions

a. All subdivision proposals must be designed to assure that: 1. such proposals minimize flood damage; 1. all public utilities and facilities are located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage; and 3. adequate drainage is provided to reduce exposure to flood hazards.

b. 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.

7. Located within the Flood Plain District are areas designated as coastal high hazard areas (Zone VE). Since these areas are extremely hazardous due to high velocity water surges and hurricane wave wash, the following provisions shall apply:

a. All new construction shall be located landward of the reach of the mean high tide.

b. Man-made alteration of sand dunes, which in the opinion of the Building Commissioner may increase potential flood damage, is prohibited. The building of a structure on a dune may in itself constitute

alteration if the dune's growth and development is inhibited or changed so as to decrease the dune's present and future value as a natural deterrent to, and protection from, water surges and wave wash.

c. The Building Commissioner shall a) obtain the elevation above mean sea level of the lowest habitable floor (including basement) of all new or substantially improved structures and whether or not such structures contain a basement b) if the structure has been floodproofed, obtain the elevation (in relation to mean sea level) to which the structure was floodproofed, and c) maintain a record of all such information.

D. In the event it is the applicant's opinion that the land or structure in question is not, in fact, located within a special flood hazard area, or that any other data upon which the Building Commissioner is relying, is erroneous, the applicant shall furnish at his expense sufficient technical information to support his opinion.