

ARTICLE 14 – FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

14.1 Purpose and Establishment

Certain areas of the Town of Buxton, Maine are subject to periodic flooding, causing serious damages to properties within these areas. Relief is available in the form of flood insurance as authorized by the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968.

Therefore, the Town of Buxton, Maine has chosen to become a participating community in the National Flood Insurance Program and agrees to comply with the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-488, as amended) as delineated in this Floodplain Management Ordinance.

It is the intent of the Town of Buxton, Maine to require the recognition and evaluation of flood hazards in all official actions relating to land use in the floodplain areas having special flood hazards.

The Town of Buxton has the legal authority to adopt land use and control measures to reduce future flood losses pursuant to Title 30-A MRSA, Sections 3001-3007, 4352, 4401-4407, and Title 38 MRSA, Section 440.

The National Flood Insurance Program, established in the aforesaid Act, provides that areas of the Town of Buxton having a special flood hazard be identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and that floodplain management measures be applied in such flood hazard areas. This Ordinance establishes a Flood Hazard Development Permit system and review procedure for development activities in the designated flood hazard areas of the Town of Buxton, Maine.

The areas of special flood hazard, Zones A and AE, for the Town of Buxton, York County, Maine, identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in a report entitled “Flood Insurance Study – York County, Maine,” dated July 17, 2024, with accompanying “Flood Insurance Rate Map” dated July 17, 2024, as amended, are hereby adopted by reference and declared to be a part of this Ordinance.

14.2 Permit Required

The Code Enforcement Officer shall be designated as the local Floodplain Administrator. The Floodplain Administrator shall have the authority to implement the commitment made to administer and enforce the requirements for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Before any construction or other development (as defined in Article 2 of this ordinance), including the placement of manufactured homes, begins within any areas of special flood hazard established in Section 14.1, a Flood Hazard Development Permit shall be obtained from the Code Enforcement Officer. This permit shall be in addition to any other permits which may be required pursuant to the codes and ordinances of the Town of Buxton, Maine.

14.3 Application for Permit

The application for a Flood Hazard Development Permit shall be submitted to the Code Enforcement Officer and shall include:

- A. The name, address, and phone number of the applicant, owner, and contractor;
- B. An address and a map indicating the location of the construction site;
- C. A site plan showing locations of existing and/or proposed development, including but not limited to structures, sewage disposal facilities, water supply facilities, areas to be cut and filled, and lot dimensions;
- D. A statement of the intended use of the structure and/or development;
- E. A statement of the cost of the development including all materials and labor;
- F. A statement as to the type of sewage system proposed;
- G. Specification of dimensions of the proposed structure and/or development;

[Items H-K.2. apply only to new construction and substantial improvements.]

- H. The elevation in relation to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD), North American Vertical Datum (NAVD), or to a locally established datum in Zone A only, of the:
 - 1. base flood at the proposed site of all new or substantially improved structures, which is determined:
 - a. in Zone AE from data contained in the "Flood Insurance Study - York County, Maine," as described in Article I; or,
 - b. in Zone A:
 - (1) from any base flood elevation data from federal, state, or other technical sources (such as FEMA's Quick-2 model, FEMA 265), including information obtained pursuant to Section 14.6.M. and Section 14.8.D.; or,
 - (2) in the absence of all data described in Section 14.3.H.1.b.(1), information to demonstrate that the structure shall meet the elevation requirement in Section 14.6.H.2.b., Section 14.6.I.2.a. or b., or Section 14.6.J.2.b.
 - 2. highest and lowest grades at the site adjacent to the walls of the proposed building;
 - 3. lowest floor, including basement; and whether or not such structures contain a basement;
 - 4. lowest machinery and equipment servicing the building; and,
 - 5. level, in the case of non-residential structures only, to which the structure will be floodproofed.

- I. A description of an elevation reference point established on the site of all developments for which elevation standards apply as required in Section 14.6;
- J. A written certification by:
 - 1. a Professional Land Surveyor that the grade elevations shown on the application are accurate; and,
 - 2. a Professional Land Surveyor, registered professional engineer or architect that the base flood elevation shown on the application is accurate.
- K. The following certifications as required in Section 14.6 by a registered professional engineer or architect:
 - 1. a Floodproofing Certificate (FEMA Form FF-206-FY-22-153, as amended), to verify that the floodproofing methods for any non-residential structures will meet the floodproofing criteria of Section 14.6.I.; and other applicable standards in Section 14.6;
 - 2. a Hydraulic Openings Certificate to verify that engineered hydraulic openings in foundation walls will meet the standards of Section 14.6.N.2.a.;
 - 3. a certified statement that bridges will meet the standards of Section 14.6.O.;
 - 4. a certified statement that containment walls will meet the standards of Section 14.6.P.
- L. A description of the extent to which any water course will be altered or relocated as a result of the proposed development; and,
- M. A statement of construction plans describing in detail how each applicable development standard in Section 14.6 will be met.

14.4 Application Fee and Expert's Fee

A non-refundable application fee of \$25.00 shall be paid to the Town Clerk and a copy of a receipt for the same shall accompany the application.

An additional fee may be charged if the Code Enforcement Officer, Planning Board, and/or Board of Appeals needs the assistance of a professional engineer or other expert. The expert's fee shall be paid in full by the applicant within 10 days after the town submits a bill to the applicant. Failure to pay the bill shall constitute a violation of the ordinance and be grounds for the issuance of a stop work order. An expert shall not be hired by the municipality at the expense of an applicant until the applicant has either consented to such hiring in writing or been given an opportunity to be heard on the subject. An applicant who is dissatisfied with a decision to hire expert assistance may appeal that decision to the Board of Appeals.

14.5 Review Standards For Flood Hazard Development Permit Applications

The Code Enforcement Officer shall:

- A. Review all applications for the Flood Hazard Development Permit to assure that proposed developments are reasonably safe from flooding and to determine that all pertinent requirements of Section 14.6 (Development Standards) have been, or will be met;

- B. Utilize, in the review of all Flood Hazard Development Permit applications:
1. the base flood and floodway data contained in the "Flood Insurance Study - York County, Maine," as described in Section 14.1;
 2. in special flood hazard areas where base flood elevation and floodway data are not provided, the Code Enforcement Officer shall obtain, review, and reasonably utilize any base flood elevation and floodway data from federal, state, or other technical sources, including information obtained pursuant to Section 14.3.H.1.b.(1); Section 14.6.M.; and Section 14.8.D., in order to administer Section 14.6 of this Ordinance; and,
 3. when the community establishes a base flood elevation in a Zone A by methods outlined in Section 14.3.H.1.b.(1), the community shall submit that data to the Maine Floodplain Management Program.
- C. Make interpretations of the location of boundaries of special flood hazard areas shown on the maps described in Article I of this Ordinance;
- D. In the review of Flood Hazard Development Permit applications, determine that all necessary permits have been obtained from those federal, state, and local government agencies from which prior approval is required by federal or state law, including but not limited to Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, 33 U.S.C. 1344;
- E. Notify adjacent municipalities, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Maine Floodplain Management Program prior to any alteration or relocation of a water course and submit copies of such notifications to the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
- F. If the application satisfies the requirements of this Ordinance, approve the issuance of one of the following Flood Hazard Development Permits based on the type of development:
1. A two part Flood Hazard Development Permit for elevated structures. Part I shall authorize the applicant to build a structure to and including the first horizontal floor only above the base flood level. At that time the applicant shall provide the Code Enforcement Officer with an "under construction" Elevation Certificate completed by a Professional Land Surveyor based on the Part I permit construction for verifying compliance with the elevation requirements of Section 14.6, paragraphs H., I., or J. Following review of the Elevation Certificate data, which shall take place within 72 hours of receipt of the application, the Code Enforcement Officer shall issue Part II of the Flood Hazard Development Permit. Part II shall authorize the applicant to complete the construction project; or,
 2. A Flood Hazard Development Permit for Floodproofing of Non-Residential Structures that are new construction or substantially improved non-residential structures that are not being elevated but that meet the floodproofing standards of Section 14.6.I.1. The application for this permit shall include a Floodproofing Certificate signed by a registered professional engineer or architect; or,

3. A Flood Hazard Development Permit for Minor Development for all development that is not new construction or a substantial improvement, such as repairs, maintenance, renovations, or additions, whose value is less than 50% of the market value of the structure. Minor development also includes but is not limited to: accessory structures as provided for in Section 14.6.L., mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation, drilling operations, storage of equipment or materials, deposition or extraction of materials, public or private sewage disposal systems or water supply facilities that do not involve structures; and non-structural projects such as bridges, dams, towers, fencing, pipelines, wharves, and piers.
- G. Maintain, as a permanent record, copies of all Flood Hazard Development Permit Applications, corresponding Permits issued, and data relevant thereto, including reports of the Board of Appeals on variances granted under the provisions of Section 14.9 of this Ordinance, and copies of Elevation Certificates, Floodproofing Certificates, Certificates of Compliance, and certifications of design standards required under the provisions of Articles Section 14.3, 14.6, and 14.7 of this Ordinance.

14.6 Development Standards

All developments in areas of special flood hazard shall meet the following applicable standards:

- A. **All Development** - All development shall:
1. be designed or modified and adequately anchored to prevent flotation (excluding piers and docks), collapse, or lateral movement of the development resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy;
 2. use construction materials that are resistant to flood damage;
 3. use construction methods and practices that will minimize flood damage; and,
 4. use electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, and air conditioning equipment, and other service facilities, that are designed and/or located so as to prevent water from entering or accumulating within the components during flooding conditions.
- B. **Water Supply** - All new and replacement water supply systems shall be designed to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the systems.
- C. **Sanitary Sewage Systems** - All new and replacement sanitary sewage systems shall be designed and located to minimize or eliminate infiltration of flood waters into the system and discharges from the system into flood waters.
- D. **On Site Waste Disposal Systems** - On site waste disposal systems shall be located and constructed to avoid impairment to them or contamination from them during floods.
- E. **Watercourse Carrying Capacity** - All development associated with altered or relocated portions of a watercourse shall be constructed and maintained in such a manner that no reduction occurs in the flood carrying capacity of the watercourse.

- F. **Utilities** - New construction or substantial improvement of any structure (including manufactured homes) located within Zones A and AE shall have the bottom of all electrical, heating, plumbing, ventilation and air conditioning equipment, permanent fixtures and components, HVAC ductwork and duct systems, and any other utility service equipment, facilities, machinery, or connections servicing a structure, elevated to at least one foot above the base flood elevation.
- G. **Physical Changes to the Natural Landscape** - Certain development projects, including but not limited to, retaining walls, sea walls, levees, berms, and rip rap, can cause physical changes that affect flooding conditions.
1. All development projects in Zone AE that cause physical changes to the natural landscape shall be reviewed by a Professional Engineer to determine whether or not the project changes the base flood elevation, zone, and/or the flood hazard boundary line.
 2.
 - a. If the Professional Engineer determines, through the use of engineering judgement, that the project would not necessitate a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), a certified statement shall be provided.
 - b. If the Professional Engineer determines that the project may cause a change, a hydrologic and hydraulic analysis that meets current FEMA standards shall be performed.
 3. If the hydrologic and hydraulic analysis performed indicates a change to the base flood elevation, zone, and/or the flood hazard boundary line, the applicant may submit a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (C-LOMR) request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for assurance that the as-built project will result in a change to the Flood Insurance Rate Map. Once the development is completed, a request for a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) shall be initiated.
 4. If the hydrologic and hydraulic analysis performed show a change to the base flood elevation, zone, and/or the flood hazard boundary line, as soon as practicable, but no later than 6 months after the completion of the project, the applicant shall submit the technical data to FEMA in the form of a Letter of Map Revision request.
- H. **Residential** - New construction or substantial improvement of any residential structure located within:
1. Zone AE shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated to at least one foot above the base flood elevation.
 2. Zone A shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated:
 - a. to at least one foot above the base flood elevation utilizing information obtained pursuant to Section 14.3.H.1.b.(1); Section 14.5.B.; or Section 14.8.D.; or,

- b. in the absence of all data described in Section 14.6.H.2.a., to at least two feet above the highest adjacent grade to the structure.

I. **Non-Residential** - New construction or substantial improvement of any non-residential structure located within:

- 1. Zone AE shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated to at least one foot above the base flood elevation, or together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities shall:
 - a. be floodproofed to at least one foot above the base flood elevation so that below that elevation the structure is watertight with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water;
 - b. have structural components capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and the effects of buoyancy; and,
 - c. be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect that the floodproofing design and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting the provisions of this section. Such certification shall be provided with the application for a Flood Hazard Development Permit, as required by Section 14.3.K. and shall include a record of the elevation above mean sea level to which the structure is floodproofed.
- 2. Zone A shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated:
 - a. to at least one foot above the base flood elevation utilizing information obtained pursuant to Section 14.3.H.1.b.(1); Section 14.5.B.; Section 14.8.D.; or,
 - b. in the absence of all data described in Section 14.6.I.2.a., to at least two feet above the highest adjacent grade to the structure; or,
 - c. together with attendant utility and sanitary facilities meet the floodproofing standards of Section 14.6.I.1.a., b., and c.

J. **Manufactured Homes** - New or substantially improved manufactured homes located within:

- 1. Zone AE shall:
 - a. be elevated such that the lowest floor (including basement) of the manufactured home is at least one foot above the base flood elevation;
 - b. be on a permanent foundation, which may be poured masonry slab or foundation walls, with hydraulic openings, or may be reinforced piers or block supports, any of which support the manufactured home so that no weight is supported by its wheels and axles; and,

- c. be securely anchored to an adequately anchored foundation system to resist flotation, collapse, or lateral movement. Methods of anchoring may include, but are not limited to:
 - (1) over-the-top ties anchored to the ground at the four corners of the manufactured home, plus two additional ties per side at intermediate points (manufactured homes less than 50 feet long require one additional tie per side); or by,
 - (2) frame ties at each corner of the home, plus five additional ties along each side at intermediate points (manufactured homes less than 50 feet long require four additional ties per side).
 - (3) All components of the anchoring system described in Section 14.6.J.1.c.(1) & (2) shall be capable of carrying a force of 4800 pounds.

2. Zone A shall:

- a. be elevated on a permanent foundation, as described in Section 14.6.J.1.b., such that the lowest floor (including basement) of the manufactured home is at least one foot above the base flood elevation utilizing information obtained pursuant to Section 14.3.H.1.b.(1); Section 14.5.B.; Section 14.8.D.; or,
- b. in the absence of all data as described in Section 14.6.J.2.a., to at least two feet above the highest adjacent grade to the structure; and,
- c. meet the anchoring requirements of Section 14.6.J.1.c.

K. Recreational Vehicles - Recreational Vehicles located within:

1. Zones A and AE shall either:

- a. be on the site for fewer than 180 consecutive days; and,
- b. be fully licensed and ready for highway use. 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; or,
- c. be permitted in accordance with the elevation and anchoring requirements for "manufactured homes" in Section 14.6.J.1.

L. Accessory Structures - New construction or substantial improvement of Accessory Structures, as defined in Article 2, shall be exempt from the elevation criteria required in Section 14.6.H. & I. above, if all other requirements of Section 14.6 and all the following requirements are met.

1. Accessory Structures located in Zones A and AE shall:

- a. meet the requirements of Section 14.6.A.1. through 4., as applicable;

- b. be limited in size to a one-story two car garage;
- c. have unfinished interiors and not be used for human habitation;
- d. have only ground fault interrupt electrical outlets. The electric service disconnect shall be located above the base flood elevation and, when possible, outside the Special Flood Hazard Area.
- e. be located outside the floodway;
- f. when possible, be constructed and placed on the building site so as to offer the minimum resistance to the flow of floodwaters and be placed further from the source of flooding than is the primary structure; and,
- g. have hydraulic openings, as specified in Section 14.6.N.2., in at least two different walls of the accessory structure.

M. Floodways -

1. In Zone AE riverine areas, encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvement, and other development shall not be permitted within a regulatory floodway which is designated on the community's Flood Insurance Rate Map, unless a technical evaluation certified by a registered professional engineer is provided demonstrating that such encroachments will not result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.
2. In Zones A and AE, riverine areas for which no regulatory floodway is designated, encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvement, and other development shall not be permitted in the floodway as determined in Section 14.6.M.3. unless a technical evaluation certified by a registered professional engineer is provided demonstrating that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing development and anticipated development:
 - a. will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one foot at any point within the community; and,
 - c. is consistent with the technical criteria contained in FEMA's guidelines and standards for flood risk analysis and mapping.
3. In Zones A and AE riverine areas, for which no regulatory floodway is designated, the regulatory floodway is determined to be the channel of the river or other water course and the adjacent land areas to a distance of one-half the width of the floodplain as measured from the normal high water mark to the upland limit of the floodplain.

N. Hydraulic Openings/Flood Vents - New construction or substantial improvement of any structure in Zones A and AE that meets the development standards of Section 14.6, including the elevation requirements of Section 14.6, paragraphs H., I., or J. and is elevated on posts, columns, piers, piles, or crawlspaces may be enclosed below the base flood elevation requirements provided all the following criteria are met or exceeded:

1. Enclosed areas are not "basements" as defined in Article 2;
 2. Enclosed areas shall be designed to automatically equalize hydrostatic flood forces on exterior walls by allowing for the entry and exit of flood water. Designs for meeting this requirement must either:
 - a. be engineered and certified by a registered professional engineer or architect; or,
 - b. meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:
 - (1) a minimum of two openings having a total net area of not less than one square inch for every square foot of the enclosed area;
 - (2) the bottom of all openings shall be below the base flood elevation and no higher than one foot above the lowest grade; and,
 - (3) openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, valves, or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the entry and exit of flood waters automatically without any external influence or control such as human intervention, including the use of electrical and other non-automatic mechanical means;
 3. The enclosed area shall not be used for human habitation; and,
 4. The enclosed areas are usable solely for building access, parking of vehicles, or storage.
- O. **Bridges** - New construction or substantial improvement of any bridge in Zones A and AE shall be designed such that:
1. when possible, the lowest horizontal member (excluding the pilings or columns) is elevated to at least one foot above the base flood elevation; and,
 2. a registered professional engineer shall certify that:
 - a. the structural design and methods of construction shall meet the elevation requirements of this section and the floodway standards of Section 14.6.M.; and,
 - b. the foundation and superstructure attached thereto are designed to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement due to the effects of wind and water loads acting simultaneously on all structural components. Water loading values used shall be those associated with the base flood.
- P. **Containment Walls** - New construction or substantial improvement of any containment wall located within:
1. Zones A and AE shall:

- a. have the containment wall elevated to at least one foot above the base flood elevation;
- b. have structural components capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and the effects of buoyancy; and,
- c. be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect that the design and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting the provisions of this section. Such certification shall be provided with the application for a Flood Hazard Development Permit, as required by Section 14.3.K.

Q. Wharves, Piers, and Docks - New construction or substantial improvement of wharves, piers, and docks are permitted in Zones A and AE, in and over water, and shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

14.7 Certificate Of Compliance

No land in a special flood hazard area shall be occupied or used and no structure which is constructed or substantially improved shall be occupied until a Certificate of Compliance is issued by the Code Enforcement Officer subject to the following provisions:

- A. For New Construction or Substantial Improvement of any elevated structure the applicant shall submit to the Code Enforcement Officer an Elevation Certificate completed by a Professional Land Surveyor for compliance with Section 14.6, paragraphs H., I., or J.
- B. The applicant shall submit written notification to the Code Enforcement Officer that the development is complete and complies with the provisions of this ordinance.
- C. Within 10 working days, the Code Enforcement Officer shall:
 - 1. review the Elevation Certificate and the applicant's written notification; and,
 - 2. upon determination that the development conforms with the provisions of this ordinance, shall issue a Certificate of Compliance.

14.8 Review Of Subdivision And Development Proposals

The Planning Board shall, when reviewing subdivisions and other proposed developments that require review under other federal law, state law, or local ordinances or regulations, and all projects on 5 or more disturbed acres, or in the case of manufactured home parks divided into two or more lots, assure that:

- A. All such proposals are consistent with the need to minimize flood damage.
- B. All public utilities and facilities, such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems are located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damages.
- C. Adequate drainage is provided so as to reduce exposure to flood hazards.

- D. All proposals include base flood elevations, flood boundaries, and, in a riverine floodplain, floodway data. These determinations shall be based on engineering practices recognized by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- E. Any proposed development plan must include a condition of plan approval requiring that structures on any lot in the development having any portion of its land within a Special Flood Hazard Area are to be constructed in accordance with Section 14.6 of this ordinance. Such requirement will be included in any deed, lease, purchase and sale agreement, or document transferring or expressing an intent to transfer any interest in real estate or structure, including but not limited to a time-share interest. The condition shall clearly articulate that the municipality may enforce any violation of the construction requirement and that fact shall also be included in the deed or any other document previously described. The construction requirement shall also be clearly stated on any map, plat, or plan to be signed by the Planning Board or local reviewing authority as part of the approval process.

14.9 Appeals And Variances

The Board of Appeals of the Town of Buxton may, upon written application of an aggrieved party, hear and decide appeals where it is alleged that there is an error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by, or failure to act by, the Code Enforcement Officer or Planning Board in the administration or enforcement of the provisions of this Ordinance.

The Board of Appeals may grant a variance from the requirements of this Ordinance consistent with state law and the following criteria:

- A. Variances shall not be granted within any designated regulatory floodway if any increase in flood levels during the base flood discharge would result.
- B. Variances shall be granted only upon:
 - 1. a showing of good and sufficient cause; and,
 - 2. a determination that should a flood comparable to the base flood occur, the granting of a variance will not result in increased flood heights, additional threats to public safety, public expense, or create nuisances, cause fraud or victimization of the public, or conflict with existing local laws or ordinances; and,
 - 3. a showing that the issuance of the variance will not conflict with other state, federal, or local laws or ordinances; and,
 - 4. a determination that failure to grant the variance would result in "undue hardship," which in this sub-section means:
 - a. that the land in question cannot yield a reasonable return unless a variance is granted; and,
 - b. that the need for a variance is due to the unique circumstances of the property and not to the general conditions in the neighborhood; and,

- c. that the granting of a variance will not alter the essential character of the locality; and,
 - d. that the hardship is not the result of action taken by the applicant or a prior owner.
- C. Variances shall only be issued upon a determination that the variance is the minimum necessary, considering the flood hazard, to afford relief, and the Board of Appeals may impose such conditions to a variance as it deems necessary.
- D. Variances may be issued for new construction, substantial improvements, or other development for the conduct of a functionally dependent use provided that:
 - 1. the criteria of Section 14.9.A. through C. and Section 14.6.M. are met; and,
 - 2. the structure or other development is protected by methods that minimize flood damages during the base flood and create no additional threats to public safety.
- E. Variances may be issued for the repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or restoration of Historic Structures upon the determination that:
 - 1. the development meets the criteria of Section 14.9.A. through C.; and,
 - 2. the proposed repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or restoration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a Historic Structure and the variance is the minimum necessary to preserve the historic character and design of the structure.
- F. Variances may be issued for new construction and substantial improvement of Agricultural Structures being used for the conduct of agricultural uses provided that:
 - 1. the development meets the criteria of Section 14.9.A. through C.; and,
 - 2. the development meets the criteria of Section 14.6.M. and Section 14.6.N.
- G. Any applicant who meets the criteria of Section 14.9.A. through C. and Section 14.9.D., E., or F. shall be notified by the Board of Appeals in writing over the signature of the Chairman of the Board of Appeals that:
 - 1. the issuance of a variance to construct a structure below the base flood level will result in greatly increased premium rates for flood insurance up to amounts as high as \$25 per \$100 of insurance coverage; and,
 - 2. such construction below the base flood level increases risks to life and property; and,
 - 3. the applicant agrees in writing that the applicant is fully aware of all the risks inherent in the use of land subject to flooding, assumes those risks, and agrees to indemnify and defend the municipality against any claims filed against it that are related to the applicant's decision to use land located in a floodplain and that the applicant individually releases the municipality from any claims the applicant may have against the municipality that are related to the use of land located in a floodplain.

H. Appeal Procedure for Administrative and Variance Appeals

1. An administrative or variance appeal may be taken to the Board of Appeals by an aggrieved party within thirty days after receipt of a written decision of the Code Enforcement Officer or Planning Board.
2. Upon being notified of an appeal, the Code Enforcement Officer or Planning Board, as appropriate, shall transmit to the Board of Appeals all of the documents constituting the record of the decision appealed from.
3. The Board of Appeals shall hold a public hearing on the appeal within thirty-five days of its receipt of an appeal request.
4. The person filing the appeal shall have the burden of proof.
5. The Board of Appeals shall decide all appeals within thirty-five days after the close of the hearing and shall issue a written decision on all appeals.
6. The Board of Appeals shall submit to the Code Enforcement Officer a report of all variance actions, including justification for the granting of the variance and an authorization for the Code Enforcement Officer to issue a Flood Hazard Development Permit, which includes any conditions to be attached to said permit.
7. Any aggrieved party who participated as a party during the proceedings before the Board of Appeals may take an appeal to Superior Court in accordance with State laws within forty-five days from the date of any decision of the Board of Appeals.

14.10 Enforcement And Penalties

- A. It shall be the duty of the Code Enforcement Officer to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance pursuant to Title 30-A MRSA § 4452.
- B. The penalties contained in Title 30-A MRSA § 4452 shall apply to any violation of this Ordinance.
- C. In addition to any other actions, the Code Enforcement Officer, upon determination that a violation exists, may submit a declaration to the Administrator of the Federal Insurance Administration requesting a denial of flood insurance. The valid declaration shall consist of:
 1. the name of the property owner and address or legal description of the property sufficient to confirm its identity or location;
 2. a clear and unequivocal declaration that the property is in violation of a cited State or local law, regulation, or ordinance;
 3. a clear statement that the public body making the declaration has authority to do so and a citation to that authority;
 4. evidence that the property owner has been provided notice of the violation and the prospective denial of insurance; and,

5. a clear statement that the declaration is being submitted pursuant to Section 1316 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended.

SECTION 14.11 - VALIDITY AND SEVERABILITY

If any section or provision of this Ordinance is declared by the courts to be invalid, such decision shall not invalidate any other section or provision of this Ordinance.

SECTION 14.12 - CONFLICT WITH OTHER ORDINANCES

This Ordinance shall not in any way impair or remove the necessity of compliance with any other applicable rule, ordinance, regulation, bylaw, permit, or provision of law. Where this Ordinance imposes a greater restriction upon the use of land, buildings, or structures, the provisions of this Ordinance shall control.

SECTION 14.13 - ABROGATION

This ordinance repeals and replaces any municipal ordinance previously enacted to comply with the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (P.L. 90-488, as amended).

SECTION 14.14 - DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

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