

**BOROUGH OF NORTH HALEDON**

**ORDINANCE #16-2007**

**AN ORDINANCE TO FURTHER AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT  
THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF NORTH HALEDON  
TO REPLACE CHAPTER 82,  
FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Haledon, County of Passaic, State of New Jersey, that:

Chapter 82, FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION, of the Code of the Borough of North Haledon, shall be and hereby is revised so that the same shall read as follows:

**THE FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE**

**CHAPTER 82**

**STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION, FINDINGS OF FACT, PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

**82-1 STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION**

The Legislature of the State of New Jersey has in N.J.S.A. 40:48-1, et seq., delegated the responsibility to local governmental units to adopt regulations designed to promote public health, safety, and general welfare of its citizenry. Therefore, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Haledon, New Jersey does ordain as follows:

**82-2 FINDINGS OF FACT**

[1] The flood hazard areas of the Borough of North Haledon are subject to periodic inundation which results in loss of life and property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, and impairment of the tax base, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety, and general welfare.

[2] These flood losses are caused by the cumulative effect of obstructions in areas of special flood hazard which increase flood heights and velocities, and when inadequately anchored, damage uses in other areas. Uses that are inadequately floodproofed, elevated or otherwise protected from flood damage also contribute to the flood loss.

**82-3 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

It is the purpose of this ordinance 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:

[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 and sewer lines, streets, bridges located in areas of special flood hazard;
- [6] To help maintain a stable tax base by providing for the second use and development of areas of special flood hazard so as to minimize future flood blight areas;
- [7] To insure that potential buyers 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.

#### **82-4 METHODS OF REDUCING FLOOD LOSSES**

In order to accomplish its purposes, this ordinance includes methods and provisions for:

- [1] Restricting or prohibiting 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] Requiring that uses vulnerable to floods including facilities which serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction;
- [3] Controlling the alteration of natural flood plains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers, which help accommodate or channel flood waters;
- [4] Controlling filling, grading, dredging, and other development which may increase flood damage; and,
- [5] Preventing or regulating the construction of flood barriers which will unnaturally divert flood waters or which may increase flood hazards in other areas.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

##### **82-5 DEFINITIONS**

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

"Appeal" means a request for a review of the Construction Official's interpretation of any provision of this ordinance or a request for a variance.

"Area of shallow flooding" means a designated AO, AH, or VO zone on a community's Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) with a one percent annual or greater chance of flooding to an average 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" means the land in the flood plain within a community subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

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

**"Basement"** means any area of the building having its floor sub grade (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 supporting foundation system.

**"Development"** means any man made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation or drilling operations, or storage of equipment or materials located within the area of special flood hazard.

**"Elevated building"** means a non-basement building (i) built in the case of a building in a Area of Special Flood Hazard to have the top of the elevated floor elevated above the ground level by means of piling, 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 up to the magnitude of the base flood. In an Area of Special Flood Hazard "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 floodwaters.

**"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 and/or

[2] The unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source.

**"Flood Insurance Rate Map" (FIRM)** means the official map on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated both the areas of special flood hazards and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

**"Flood Insurance Study" (FIS)** means the official report in which the Federal Insurance Administration has provided flood profiles, as well as the Flood Insurance Rate Map(s) and the water surface elevation of the base flood.

**"Flood plain management regulations"** means zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, building codes, health regulations, special purpose ordinances (such as a flood plain ordinance, grading ordinance and erosion control ordinance) and other applications of police power. The term describes such State or local regulations, in any combination thereof, which provide standards for the purpose of flood damage prevention and reduction.

**"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 0.2 foot.

**"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:

[a] Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of Interior) or preliminarily determined by the

Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;

[b] Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary to qualify as a registered historic district;

[c] Individually listed on a State inventory of historic places in States with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or

[d] Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:

(1) By an approved State program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior; or

(2) Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in States without approved programs.

"Lowest Floor" means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area [including basement]. An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, useable solely for the parking of vehicles, building access or storage in an area other than a basement is not considered a buildings lowest floor provided that such enclosure is not built so to render the structure in violation of other applicable non-elevation design requirements.

"Manufactured home" means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which is built on a permanent chassis and is designed for use with or without a permanent foundation when attached to the required utilities. The term "manufactured home" does not include a "recreational vehicle".

"Manufactured home park or manufactured home subdivision" means a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two (2) or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.

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

"New manufactured home park or subdivision" means a manufactured home park or subdivision for which the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including at a minimum, the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads) is completed on or after the effective date of the flood plain management regulations adopted by the municipality.

"Recreational vehicle" means a vehicle which is [i] built on a single chassis; [ii] 400 square feet or less when measured at the longest horizontal projections; [iii] designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and [iv] designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

"Start of Construction" for other than new construction or substantial improvements under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (P.L. No. 97-348) includes substantial improvements and means the date the building permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement, or other improvement was within 180 days of the permit date. The actual start means either the first placement of permanent construction of a structure on a site such as the pouring of a slab or footings, the installation of piles,

the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation, or the placement of a manufactured home on a foundation.

Permanent construction does not include land preparation, such as clearing, grading and filling nor does it include the installation of streets and/or walkways, nor does it include excavation for a basement, footings or piers, or foundations or the erection of temporary forms, nor does it include the installation on the property of accessory buildings, such as garages or sheds not occupied as dwelling units or not part of the main structure. 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, a manufactured home, or a gas or liquid storage tank, that is principally above ground.

"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 exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the "start of construction" of the improvement. This term includes structures which have incurred "substantial damage", regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either:

[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 officer 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 ordinance that permits construction in a manner that would otherwise be prohibited by this ordinance.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 82-6 LANDS TO WHICH THIS ORDINANCE APPLIES

This ordinance shall apply to all areas of special flood hazards within the jurisdiction of the Borough of North Haledon, Passaic County, New Jersey.

### 82-7 BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING THE AREAS OF SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD

The areas of special flood hazard for the Borough of North Haledon, Community No.340402, are identified and defined on the following documents prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

a) A scientific and engineering report "Flood Insurance Study, Passaic County New Jersey (All Jurisdictions)" dated September 28, 2007

b) Flood Insurance Rate Map for Passaic County, New Jersey (All Jurisdictions) as shown on Index and panel numbers 0202, 0204, 0206, 0208; whose effective date is September 28, 2007

The above documents are hereby adopted and declared to be a part of this ordinance. The Flood Insurance Study and maps are on file at 103 Overlook Avenue, North Haledon, New Jersey 07508

#### **82-8 PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE**

No structure or land shall hereafter be constructed, located, extended, converted, or altered without full compliance with the terms of this ordinance and other applicable regulations. Violation of the provisions of this ordinance by failure to comply with any of its requirements (including violations of conditions and safeguards established in connection with conditions) shall constitute a misdemeanor. Any person who violates this ordinance or fails to comply with any of its requirements shall upon conviction thereof be fined not more than two thousand five hundred dollars [\$2500.00] or imprisoned for not more than ninety days [90] days, or both, for each violation, and in addition shall pay all costs and expenses involved in the case. Nothing herein contained shall prevent the Borough of North Haledon from taking such other lawful action as is necessary to prevent or remedy any violation.

#### **82-9 ABROGATION AND GREATER RESTRICTIONS**

This ordinance is not intended to repeal, abrogate, or impair any existing easements, covenants, or deed restrictions. However, where this ordinance and other ordinance, easement, covenant, or deed restriction conflict or overlap, whichever imposes the more stringent restrictions shall prevail.

#### **82-10 INTERPRETATION**

In the interpretation and application of this ordinance, all provisions shall be:

- [1] Considered as minimum requirements;
- [2] Liberally construed in favor of the governing body; and,
- [3] Deemed neither to limit nor repeal any other powers granted under State statutes.

#### **82-11 WARNING AND DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

The degree of flood protection required by this ordinance 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 ordinance 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 ordinance shall not create liability on the part of the Borough of North Haledon, any officer or employee thereof or the Federal Insurance Administration, for any flood damages that result from reliance on this ordinance or any administrative decision lawfully made thereunder.