

**DAMASCUS TOWNSHIP**  
WAYNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

**ORDINANCE NO. 2019-01**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF DAMASCUS TOWNSHIP, WAYNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA TO UPDATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT STANDARDS.**

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Board of Supervisors of Damascus Township, Wayne County, Pennsylvania, by authority of and pursuant to the provisions of Act of 1968, P.L. 805, No. 247 of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approved July 31, 1968, as reenacted and amended, known and cited as the "Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code," the Damascus Township Zoning Ordinance of August 4, 1997, as follows:

**This Ordinance Shall Repeal and Replace Article VII to read as follows:**

**ARTICLE VII  
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT**

**701 Statutory Authorization and Effective Date**

- A. Statutory Authorization - The Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has, by the passage of the Pennsylvania Flood Plain Management Act of 1978, delegated the responsibility to local governmental units to adopt floodplain management regulations to promote public health, safety, and the general welfare of its citizenry. Therefore, in addition to the authority provided by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, this Article VII is adopted as authorized by the Pennsylvania Flood Plain Management Act of 1978.
- B. Effective Date - This Article VII shall become effective on March 18, 2019 and shall supersede all other Damascus Township floodplain management regulations. Until that time, all current Damascus Township floodplain management regulations shall remain in full force and effect.

**702 General Provisions**

**702.1 Intent**

This Article VII is intended to:

- A. Promote the general health, welfare, and safety of the community.
- B. Encourage the utilization of appropriate construction practices in order to prevent or minimize flood damage in the future.
- C. Minimize danger to public health by protecting water supply and natural drainage.
- D. Reduce financial burdens imposed on the community, its governmental units, and its residents by preventing excessive development in areas subject to flooding.
- E. Comply with federal and state floodplain management requirements.

**702.2 Applicability**

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It shall be unlawful for any person, partnership, business or corporation to undertake, or cause to be undertaken, any construction or development anywhere within any identified floodplain area in Damascus Township unless a permit has been obtained from the Floodplain Administrator.

**702.3 Abrogation and Greater Restrictions**

This Article VII supersedes any other conflicting provisions which may be in effect in identified floodplain areas. However, any other ordinance provisions shall remain in full force and effect to the extent that those provisions are more restrictive. If there is any conflict between any of the provisions of this Article VII, the more restrictive shall apply.

**702.4 Severability**

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Article VII shall be declared invalid for any reason whatsoever, such a decision shall not affect the remaining portions of the Ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect, and for this purpose the revisions of this Article VII are hereby declared to be severable.

**702.5 Warning and Disclaimer of Liability**

- A. The degree of flood protection sought by the provisions of this Article VII is considered reasonable for regulatory purposes and is based on acceptable engineering methods of study.
- B. Larger floods may occur or flood heights may be increased by man-made or natural causes, such as ice jams and bridge openings restricted by debris. This Article VII does not imply that areas outside any identified floodplain areas, or that land uses permitted within such areas, will be free from flooding or flood damages.
- C. This Article VII shall not create liability on the part of Damascus Township or any officer or employee thereof for any flood damages that result from reliance on this Article VII or any administrative decision lawfully made thereunder.

**703 Administration**

**703.1 Designation of the Floodplain Administrator**

The Damascus Township Zoning Officer is hereby appointed to administer and enforce this Article VII and is referred to herein as the Floodplain Administrator. In the absence of a designated Floodplain Administrator, the Floodplain Administrator duties shall be fulfilled by the Alternate Floodplain Administrator appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The Floodplain Administrator may:

- A. Fulfill the duties and responsibilities set forth in these regulations,
- B. Delegate duties and responsibilities set forth in these regulations to qualified technical personnel, plan examiners, inspectors, and other employees, or
- C. Enter into a written agreement or written contract with another agency or private sector entity to administer specific provisions of these regulations. Administration of any part of these regulations by another entity shall not relieve the community of its responsibilities pursuant to the participation requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations at 44 C.F.R. §59.22.

**703.2 Zoning Approval**

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- A. Zoning Permit - A zoning permit in accord with Section 602 and Article VII shall be required before any construction or development is undertaken within any identified floodplain area in Damascus Township.
- B. Permit Issuance - The Floodplain Administrator shall issue a permit only after it has been determined that the proposed work to be undertaken will be in conformance with the requirements of this Ordinance and all other applicable codes and ordinances.

### 703.3 Duties and Responsibilities of the Floodplain Administrator

In addition to the duties and responsibilities of the Zoning Officer established by Article VI, the Floodplain Administrator shall:

- A. Issue a Permit only after it has been determined that the proposed work to be undertaken will be in conformance with the requirements of this and all other applicable codes and ordinances.
  - B. State and Federal Laws - Prior to the issuance of any permit, review the application for the permit to determine if all other necessary government permits required by state and federal laws have been obtained, such as those required by the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 1966-537, as amended); the Pennsylvania Dam Safety and Encroachments Act (Act 1978-325, as amended); the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Act (Act 1937-394, as amended); and the U.S. Clean Water Act, §404, 33, U.S.C. 1344. No permit shall be issued until this determination has been made.
  - C. In the case of existing structures, prior to the issuance of any Development/Permit, the Floodplain Administrator shall review the proposed cost of improvements or repairs and the pre-improvement market value of the structure, so that a substantial improvement/substantial damage determination can be made, in accordance with FEMA's Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Desk Reference.
  - D. Cumulative Substantial Damage Review - In the case of existing structures, prior to the issuance of any Development Permit, review the history of repairs to the subject building, so that any cumulative substantial damage concerns can be addressed before the permit is issued.
  - E. During the construction period, the Floodplain Administrator or other authorized official shall inspect the premises to determine that the work is progressing in compliance with the information provided on the permit application and with all applicable municipal laws and ordinances. He/she shall make as many inspections during and upon completion of the work as are necessary.
  - F. In the discharge of his/her duties, the Floodplain Administrator shall have the authority to enter any building, structure, premises or development in the identified floodplain area, upon presentation of proper credentials, at any reasonable hour to enforce the provisions of this ordinance.
  - G. In the event the Floodplain Administrator discovers that the work does not comply with the permit application or any applicable laws and ordinances, or that there has been a false statement or misrepresentation by any applicant, the Floodplain Administrator shall revoke the Permit and report such fact to the Board of Supervisors for whatever action it considers necessary.
  - H. FEMA Report - Submit a biennial report to the FEMA concerning community participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.
  - I. Construction Codes - Consider the requirements of the 34 PA Code and the 2015 IBC and the 2015 IRC or successor codes.
  - J. The Floodplain Administrator shall maintain in perpetuity, or for the lifetime of the structure, all records associated with the requirements of this ordinance including, but not limited to, finished construction elevation data, permitting, inspection and enforcement.
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703.4 Application Procedures and Requirements

An application for a permit shall be made in accord with Section 611 of this Ordinance, and the information required by Section 608.6 and the following shall be provided:

- A. Listing of other permits required.
  - B. Brief description of proposed work and estimated cost, including a breakout of flood-related cost and the market value of the building before the flood damage occurred, when applicable.
  - C. All the necessary information in sufficient detail and clarity to enable the Floodplain Administrator to determine that:
    - 1. All such proposals are consistent with the need to minimize flood damage and conform with the requirements of this and all other applicable codes and ordinances.
    - 2. All public and private utilities and facilities, such as sewer, gas, electrical, and water systems are located and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damage.
    - 3. Adequate drainage is provided so as to reduce exposure to flood hazards.
    - 4. Structures will be anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement.
    - 5. Building materials are flood resistant.
    - 6. Appropriate practices that minimize flood damage have been used.
    - 7. Electrical, heating, ventilation, plumbing, air conditioning equipments, and other service facilities have been designed and/or located to prevent water entry or accumulation.
  - D. A plan of the entire site, clearly and legibly drawn at a scale of one (1) inch being equal to one hundred (100) feet or less, showing the following:
    - 1. North arrow, scale, and date.
    - 2. Topographic contour lines, if available.
    - 3. The location of all existing and proposed buildings, structures, and other improvements, including the location of any existing or proposed subdivision and development.
    - 4. The location of all existing streets, drives, and other access ways.
    - 5. The location of any existing bodies of water or watercourses, identified floodplain areas, limits of earth disturbance, and, if available, information pertaining to the floodway and the flow of water including direction and velocities.
  - E. Plans of all proposed buildings, structures and other development, drawn at a suitable scale showing the following:
    - 1. The proposed lowest floor elevation of any proposed building based upon North American Vertical Datum of 1988.
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2. The elevation of the base flood.
  3. Supplemental information as may be necessary under 34 PA Code, the 2009 IBC or the 2009 IRC.
- F. The following data and documentation:
1. If available, information concerning flood depths, pressures, velocities, impact and uplift forces and other factors associated with a base flood.
  2. Detailed information concerning any proposed floodproofing measures and corresponding elevations.
  3. Documentation, certified by a registered professional engineer or architect, to show that the cumulative effect of any proposed development within a floodway (See Section 704.2.A) will not increase the base flood elevation at any point.
  4. documentation, certified by a registered professional engineer or architect, to show that the cumulative effect of any proposed development within an AE Area/District without floodway (See Section 704.2.B.2) when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, will not increase the base flood elevation more than one (1) foot at any point within the community.
  5. A document certified by a registered professional engineer or architect which states that the proposed construction or development has been adequately designed to withstand the pressures, velocities, impact and uplift forces associated with the base flood. Such statement shall include a description of the type and extent of flood proofing measures which have been incorporated into the design of the structure and/or the development.
  6. Detailed information needed to determine compliance with Section 705.3.F (Storage) and Section 708.2.B.1 (Development Which May Endanger Human Life) including:
    - a. The amount, location and purpose of any materials or substances referred to in Section 705.3.F and Section 708.2.B.1 which are intended to be used, produced, stored or otherwise maintained on site.
    - b. A description of the safeguards incorporated into the design of the proposed structure to prevent leaks or spills of the dangerous materials or substances listed in Section 708.2.B.1 during a base flood.
  7. The appropriate component of the Department of Environmental Protection's "Planning Module for Land Development."
  8. Where any excavation or grading is proposed, a plan meeting the requirements of the Department of Environmental Protection, to implement and maintain erosion and sedimentation control and stormwater management.
- G. Any other pertinent information as may be required by the Floodplain Administrator to determine compliance with this Article VII.

**703.5 Review of Application by Others**

A copy of all plans and applications for any proposed construction or development in any identified floodplain area to be considered for approval may be submitted by the Floodplain Administrator to any other appropriate agencies and/or individuals (e.g. planning commission, Township Engineer, etc.) for review and comment.

**703.6 Changes**

After the issuance of a permit by Damascus Township, no changes of any kind shall be made to the application, permit or any of the plans, specifications or other documents submitted with the application without the written

consent or approval of Damascus Township. Requests for any such change shall be in writing, and shall be submitted by the applicant to the Zoning Officer for consideration.

**703.7 Enforcement, Penalties and Appeals**

Whenever the Floodplain Administrator or other authorized Damascus Township representative determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that there has been a violation of any provisions of this Article VII, the Floodplain Administrator shall give notice of such alleged violation as provided in Section 606. The penalties and remedies in Section 607 and appeal procedures in Section 610 shall also apply.

**704 Identification of Floodplain Areas**

**704.1 Identification; FIRM and FIS**

A. Identification - The identified floodplain area shall be:

1. Any areas of Damascus Township classified as a special flood hazard area (SFHA) in the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and the accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) dated May 16, 2013, and issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or the most recent revision thereof, including all digital data developed as part of the Flood Insurance Study.
2. Any Community Identified Flood Hazard Area.

B. FIRM and FIS - The FIS and FIRMs referenced in Section 704.1.A, and any subsequent revisions and amendments, are hereby adopted by Damascus Township and are declared to be a part of this Article VII.

**704.2 Description and Special Requirements of Identified Floodplain Areas**

The identified floodplain area shall consist of the following specific areas:

- A. The Floodway Area shall be those areas identified in the FIS and the FIRM as floodway and which represent the channel of a watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without increasing the water surface elevation by more than one (1) foot at any point. This term shall also include floodway areas which have been identified in other available studies or sources of information for those Special Flood Hazard Areas where no floodway has been identified in the FIS and FIRM.
    1. Within any floodway area, no encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, or other development shall be permitted unless it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analysis performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.
    2. Within any floodway area, no new construction or development shall be allowed, unless the appropriate permit is obtained from the Department of Environmental Protection Regional Office.
  - B. The AE Area/District shall be those areas identified as an AE Zone on the FIRM included in the FIS prepared by FEMA for which base flood elevations have been provided.
    1. The AE Area adjacent to the floodway shall be those areas identified as an AE Zone on the FIRM included in the FIS prepared by FEMA for which base flood elevations have been provided and a floodway has been delineated.
    2. AE Area without floodway shall be those areas identified as an AE zone on the FIRM included in the FIS prepared by FEMA for which base flood elevations have been provided but no floodway
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has been determined.

- i. No encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, or other development shall be permitted in an AE Zone without floodway, unless it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analysis performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed development together with all other existing and anticipated development, would not result in an increase in flood levels of more than one foot within the entire community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.
  - ii. No new construction or development shall be located within the area measured fifty (50) feet landward from the top-of-bank of any watercourse, unless the appropriate permit is obtained from the Department of Environmental Protection Regional Office.
- C. The A Area/District shall be those areas identified as an A Zone on the FIRM included in the FIS prepared by FEMA and for which no base flood elevations have been provided. For these areas, elevation and floodway information from other Federal, State, or other acceptable sources shall be used when available. Where other acceptable information is not available, the base flood elevation shall be determined by using the elevation of a point on the boundary of the identified floodplain area which is nearest the construction site.

In lieu of the above, the municipality may require the applicant to determine the elevation with hydrologic and hydraulic engineering techniques. Hydrologic and hydraulic analyses shall be undertaken only by professional engineers or others of demonstrated qualifications, who shall certify that the technical methods used correctly reflect currently accepted technical concepts. Studies, analyses, computations, etc., shall be submitted in sufficient detail to allow a thorough technical review by the municipality. In the absence of any of the above data or documentation, the community may require elevation of the lowest floor to be at least three feet above the highest adjacent grade.

- D. The AO and AH Area/ District shall be those areas identified as Zones AO and AH on the FIRM and in the FIS. These areas are subject to inundation by 1-percent-annual-chance shallow flooding where average depths are between one and three feet. In Zones AO and AH, drainage paths shall be established to guide floodwaters around and away from structures on slopes.
- E. Community Identified Flood Hazard Areas shall be those areas where Damascus Township has identified local flood hazard or ponding areas, as delineated and adopted on a “Local Flood Hazard Map” using best available topographic data and locally derived information such as flood of record, historic high water marks, soils or approximate study methodologies.

704.3 Changes in Identification of Area

The identified floodplain area may be revised or modified by Damascus Township where studies or information provided by a qualified agency or person documents the need for such revision. However, prior to any such change to the Special Flood Hazard Area, approval must be obtained from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Additionally, as soon as practicable but not later than six (6) months after the date such information becomes available, a community shall notify the FEMA of changes to the Special Flood Hazard Area by submitting technical or scientific data.

704.4 Boundary Disputes

Should a dispute concerning any identified floodplain boundary arise, the determination shall be made by the Board of Supervisors and any party aggrieved by this decision or determination may appeal to the Zoning Hearing Board. The burden of proof shall be on the appellant.

704.5 Jurisdictional Boundary Changes

Prior to development occurring in areas where annexation or other corporate boundary changes are proposed or have occurred, the community shall review flood hazard data affecting the lands subject to boundary changes. The community shall adopt and enforce floodplain regulations in areas subject to annexation or corporate boundary changes which meet or exceed those in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44 (Emergency Management and Assistance), §60.3(Flood plain management criteria for flood-prone areas).

**705 Technical Provisions**

705.1 General

A. Alteration or Relocation of Watercourse

1. No encroachment, alteration, or improvement of any kind shall be made to any watercourse until all adjacent municipalities which may be affected by such action have been notified by Damascus Township, and until all required permits or approvals have first been obtained from the Department of Environmental Protection Regional Office.
2. No encroachment, alteration, or improvement of any kind shall be made to any watercourse unless it can be shown that the activity will not reduce or impede the flood carrying capacity of the watercourse in any way.
3. In addition, FEMA and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, shall be notified prior to any alteration or relocation of any watercourse.

B. When Damascus Township proposes to permit the following encroachments:

- any development that causes a rise in the base flood elevations within the floodway; or
- any development occurring in Zones A1-30 and Zone AE without a designated floodway, which will cause a rise of more than one foot in the base flood elevation; or
- alteration or relocation of a stream (including but not limited to installing culverts and bridges)

the applicant shall (as per 44 CFR Part 65.12):

1. apply to FEMA for conditional approval of such action prior to permitting the encroachments to occur.
2. Upon receipt of the FEMA Administrator’s conditional approval of map change and prior to approving the proposed encroachments, a community shall provide evidence to FEMA of the adoption of floodplain management ordinances incorporating the increased base flood elevations and / or revised floodway reflecting the post-project condition.
3. Upon completion of the proposed encroachments, the applicant shall provide as-built certifications. FEMA will initiate a final map revision upon receipt of such certifications in accordance with 44 CFR Part 67.

C. Compliance - Any new construction, development, uses or activities allowed within any identified floodplain area shall be undertaken in strict compliance with the provisions contained in this Ordinance and any other applicable codes, ordinances and regulations.

D. Watercourse Setback - Within any Identified Floodplain Area (See Section 704.2.), no new construction or development shall be located within the area measured fifty (50) feet landward from the top-of-bank of

any watercourse. In the case of the Delaware River, the minimum distance to the River shall be one hundred (100) feet measured landward from the normal high water mark. This includes, but is not limited to, roads, bridges, culverts, docks, piers, decks, and stairs.

#### 705.2 Development Prohibition; Elevation and Floodproofing Requirements

##### A. Elevation Required

1. In AE Areas any new construction or substantial improvement shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated up to, or above, the regulatory flood elevation.
2. In A Areas, where there are no Base Flood Elevations specified on the FIRM, any new construction or substantial improvement shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated up to, or above, the regulatory flood elevation determined in accordance with Section 704.2.B of this Ordinance.
3. In AO Zones, any new construction or substantial improvement shall have the lowest floor (including basement) at or above the highest adjacent grade at least as high as the depth number specified on the FIRM.
4. The design and construction standards and specifications contained in the 2015 International Building Code (IBC) and in the 2015 International Residential Code (IRC) or successor codes and ASCE 24 and 34 PA Code (Chapters 401-405 as amended) shall be utilized where they are more restrictive.

##### B. Space Below the Lowest Floor

1. Fully enclosed space below the lowest floor (excluding basements) which will be used solely for the parking of a vehicle, building access, or incidental storage in an area other than a basement, shall be designed and constructed to allow for the automatic entry and exit of flood waters for the purpose of equalizing hydrostatic forces on exterior walls. The term "fully enclosed space" also includes crawl spaces.
2. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect, or meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:
  - a. A minimum of two openings having a net total area of not less than one (1) square inch for every square foot of enclosed space installed on two (2) separate walls.
  - b. The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one (1) foot above grade.
  - c. Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of floodwaters.

C. Historic Structures - Historic structures undergoing repair or rehabilitation that would constitute a substantial improvement as defined in this ordinance, must comply with all ordinance requirements that do not preclude the structure's continued designation as a historic structure. Documentation that a specific ordinance requirement will cause removal of the structure from the National Register of Historic Places or the State Inventory of Historic places must be obtained from the Secretary of the Interior or the State Historic Preservation Officer. Any exemption from ordinance requirements will be the minimum necessary to preserve the historic character and design of the structure.

D. Accessory Structures - Structures accessory to a principal building need not be elevated or floodproofed to remain dry, but shall comply, at a minimum, with the following requirements:

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1. The structure shall not be designed or used for human habitation, but shall be limited to the parking of vehicles, or to the storage of tools, material, and equipment related to the principal use or activity.
2. Floor area shall not exceed 200 square feet.
3. The structure will have a low damage potential.
4. The structure will be located on the site so as to cause the least obstruction to the flow of flood waters.
5. Power lines, wiring, and outlets will be elevated to the regulatory flood elevation.
6. Permanently affixed utility equipment and appliances such as furnaces, heaters, washers, dryers, etc. are prohibited.
7. Sanitary facilities are prohibited.
8. The structure shall be adequately anchored to prevent flotation, collapse, and lateral movement and shall be designed to automatically provide for the entry and exit of floodwater for the purpose of equalizing hydrostatic forces on the walls. Designs for meeting this requirement must either be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect, or meet or exceed the following minimum criteria:
  - A. A minimum of two openings having a net total area of not less than one (1) square inch for every square foot of enclosed space.
  - B. The bottom of all openings shall be no higher than one (1) foot above grade.
  - C. Openings may be equipped with screens, louvers, etc. or other coverings or devices provided that they permit the automatic entry and exit of flood waters.
9. For accessory structures that are 200 square feet or larger in area (footprint) and that are below the base flood elevation, a variance is required as set forth in Article VIII. If a variance is granted, a signed Declaration of Land Restriction (Nonconversion Agreement) shall be recorded on the property deed prior to issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy. No variances shall be granted for a proposed accessory structure that exceeds 600 square feet in size. A signed Non-Conversion Agreement is required as a condition of receiving the variance.

#### 705.3 Design and Construction Standards

Within any Identified Floodplain Area the use of fill shall be prohibited. If a variance is obtained in accordance with the criteria in Article VI and this Article VII of the Zoning Ordinance, then the following provisions apply:

- A. Fill - If fill is used, it shall:
    1. Extend laterally at least fifteen (15) feet beyond the building line from all points;
    2. Consist of soil or small rock materials only - Sanitary Landfills shall not be permitted;
    3. Be compacted to provide the necessary permeability and resistance to erosion, scouring, or settling;
    4. Be no steeper than one (1) vertical to two (2) horizontal feet unless substantiated data justifying steeper slopes are submitted to, and approved by the Floodplain Administrator; and
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5. Be used to the extent to which it does not adversely affect adjacent properties.
- B. Drainage Facilities - Storm drainage facilities shall be designed to convey the flow of storm water runoff in a safe and efficient manner. The system shall ensure proper drainage along streets, and provide positive drainage away from buildings. The system shall also be designed to prevent the discharge of excess runoff onto adjacent properties.
- C. Water and Sanitary Sewer Facilities and Systems
1. All new or replacement water supply and sanitary sewer facilities and systems shall be located, designed and constructed to minimize or eliminate flood damages and the infiltration of flood waters.
  2. Sanitary sewer facilities and systems shall be designed to prevent the discharge of untreated sewage into flood waters.
  3. No part of any on-site sewage system shall be located within any identified floodplain area except in strict compliance with all State and local regulations for such systems. If any such system is permitted, it shall be located so as to avoid impairment to it, or contamination from it, during a flood.
  4. The design and construction provisions of the UCC and FEMA #348, "Protecting Building Utilities From Flood Damages" and "The International Private Sewage Disposal Code" shall be utilized.
- D. Other Utilities - All other utilities such as gas lines, electrical and telephone systems shall be located, elevated (where possible) and constructed to minimize the chance of impairment during a flood.
- E. Streets - The finished elevation of all new streets shall be no more than one (1) foot below the Regulatory Flood Elevation.
- F. Storage - All materials that are buoyant, flammable, explosive, or in times of flooding, could be injurious to human, animal, or plant life, and not listed in Section 708.2.F.1 (Development Which May Endanger Human Life) shall be stored at or above the Regulatory Flood Elevation or flood proofed to the maximum extent possible.
- G. Placement of Buildings and Structures - All buildings and structures shall be designed, located, and constructed so as to offer the minimum obstruction to the flow of water and shall be designed to have a minimum effect upon the flow and height of flood water.
- H. Anchoring
1. All buildings and structures shall be firmly anchored in accordance with accepted engineering practices to prevent flotation, collapse, or lateral movement.
  2. All air ducts, large pipes, storage tanks, and other similar objects or components located below the regulatory flood elevation shall be securely anchored or affixed to prevent flotation.
- I. Floors, Walls and Ceilings
1. Wood flooring used at or below the Regulatory Flood Elevation shall be installed to accommodate a lateral expansion of the flooring, perpendicular to the flooring grain without causing structural damage to the building.
  2. Plywood used at or below the regulatory flood elevation shall be of a "marine" or "water-resistant" variety.
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3. Walls and ceilings at or below the regulatory flood elevation shall be designed and constructed of materials that are "water-resistant" and will withstand inundation.
4. Windows, doors, and other components at or below the regulatory flood elevation shall be made of metal or other "water-resistant" material.

J. Paints and Adhesives

1. Paints and other finishes used at or below the regulatory flood elevation shall be of "marine" or "water-resistant" quality.
2. Adhesives used at or below the regulatory flood elevation shall be of a "marine" or "water-resistant" variety.
3. All wooden components (doors, trim, cabinets, etc.) used at or below the regulatory flood elevation shall be finished with a "marine" or "water-resistant" paint or other finishing material.

K. Electrical Components

1. Electrical distribution panels shall be at least three (3) feet above the base flood elevation.
2. Separate electrical circuits shall serve lower levels and shall be dropped from above.

L. Equipment

1. Water heaters, furnaces, air conditioning and ventilating units, and other electrical, mechanical or utility equipment or apparatus shall not be located below the Regulatory Flood Elevation.
2. Ductwork shall be elevated to or above the Regulatory Flood Elevation or floodproofed to remain water resistant.

M. Fuel Supply Systems - All gas and oil supply systems shall be designed to prevent the infiltration of flood waters into the system and discharges from the system into flood waters. Additional provisions shall be made for the drainage of these systems in the event that flood water infiltration occurs.

N. Uniform Construction Code Coordination - The Standards and Specifications contained in 34 PA Code (Chapters 401-405), as amended and not limited to the following provisions shall apply to the above and other sections and sub-sections of this Ordinance, to the extent that they are more restrictive and supplement the requirements of this Ordinance.

1. International Building Code (IBC) 2015 or the latest edition thereof:  
Sections. 801, 1202, 1403, 1603, 1605, 1612, 3402, and Appendix G.
2. International Residential Building Code (IRC) 2015 or the latest edition thereof:  
Sections. R104, R105, R109, R323, Appendix AE101, Appendix E and Appendix J.

705.4 Special Requirements for Subdivisions

All subdivision proposals and development proposals containing at least fifty (50) lots or at least five (5) acres, whichever is the lesser, in Identified Floodplain Areas where base flood elevation data are not available, shall be supported by hydrologic and hydraulic engineering analyses that determine base flood elevations and floodway information. The analyses shall be prepared by a licensed professional engineer in a format required by FEMA for a Conditional Letter of Map Revision or Letter of Map Revision. Submittal requirements and processing fees shall be the responsibility of the applicant.

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**705.5 Special Requirements for Manufactured Homes and Manufactured Home Parks and Subdivisions**

The requirements of this Section 705.5 shall apply to manufactured homes and manufactured home parks and subdivisions and no variance of these provisions shall be granted.

- A. Prohibition of Manufactured Home Park or Subdivision - Within any Identified Floodplain Area the commencement of, or any construction of, a new manufactured home park or manufactured home subdivision, or substantial improvement to an existing manufactured home park or manufactured home subdivision shall be prohibited.
- B. Watercourse Setback - Within any Identified Floodplain Area manufactured homes shall be prohibited within the area measured fifty (50) feet landward from the top-of-bank of any watercourse. (See Section 705.1D.) In the case of the Delaware River, the minimum distance to the River shall be one hundred (100) feet measured landward from the normal high-water mark.
- C. Foundation, Elevation and Anchoring - Where permitted within any Identified Floodplain Area, all manufactured homes, and any improvements thereto, shall be:
  1. Placed on a permanent foundation.
  2. Elevated so that the lowest floor of the manufactured home is at or above the regulatory flood elevation [at least one and one half (1 ½) feet above base flood elevation].
  3. Anchored to resist flotation, collapse, or lateral movement.
- D. Installation Instructions - Installation of manufactured homes shall be done in accordance with the manufacturers' installation instructions as provided by the manufacturer. Where the applicant cannot provide the above information, the requirements of Appendix E of the 2015 "International Residential Building Code" or the "U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Permanent Foundations for Manufactured Housing," 1984 Edition, draft or latest revision thereto and 34 PA Code Chapter 401-405 shall apply.
- E. Construction Codes - Consideration shall be given to the installation requirements of the 2015 IBC, and the 2015 IRC or the most recent revisions thereto and 34 PA Code, as amended where appropriate and/or applicable to units where the manufacturers' standards for anchoring cannot be provided or were not established for the proposed unit(s) installation.

**705.6 Special Requirements for Recreational Vehicles**

Recreational vehicles are prohibited in the floodway. Recreational vehicles in A Areas and AE Areas must:

- A. Be on the site for fewer than 180 consecutive days, and
- B. Be fully licensed and ready for highway use, and
- C. Any Recreational Vehicle must be removed to a higher elevation upon declaration of a Flood Warning

**706 Reserved****707 Existing Structures in Identified Floodplain Areas****707.1 Existing Structures**

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The provisions of this Ordinance do not require any changes or improvements to be made to lawfully existing structures. However, when an improvement is made to any existing structure, the provisions of Section 707.2 shall apply.

**707.2 Improvements**

The following provisions shall apply whenever a variance is granted for any improvement to an existing structure located within any Identified Floodplain Area:

- A. No expansion or enlargement of an existing structure shall be allowed within any Floodway Area/District that would cause any increase in BFE.
- B. No expansion or enlargement of an existing structure shall be allowed within AE Area/District without floodway that would, together with all other existing and anticipated development, increase the BFE more than one (1) foot at any point.
- C. Substantial Improvement - Any modification, alteration, reconstruction, or improvement of any kind to an existing structure to an extent or amount of fifty (50) percent or more of its market value, shall constitute a substantial improvement and shall be undertaken only in full compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance.
- D. Codes - The above activity shall also address the requirements of the 34 PA Code, as amended and the 2015 IBC and the 2015 IRC or successor Codes.
- E. Floodway Area - Within any Floodway Area (See Section 704.2.A), no new construction or development shall be allowed, unless a permit is obtained from the Department of Environmental Protection.
- F. Floodproofing Required - Any modification, alteration, reconstruction, or improvement of any kind to an existing structure, to an extent or amount of less than fifty (50) percent of its market value, shall be elevated and/or floodproofed to the greatest extent possible.
- G. Cumulative Substantial Damage - Any modification, alteration, reconstruction, or improvement of any kind that meets the definition of “cumulative substantial damage” shall be undertaken only in full compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance.

**708 Variances**

**708.1 General**

If compliance with any of the requirements of this Article VII would result in an exceptional hardship to a prospective builder, developer, or landowner, the Damascus Township Zoning Hearing Board may, upon request, grant relief from the strict application of the requirements.

**708.2 Variance Procedures**

Requests for variances shall be considered in accord with Section 611 and the following:

- A. Increase in Base Flood Elevation Prohibited - No variance shall be granted within any Identified Floodway Area that would cause any increase in base flood elevation.
  - B. No variance shall be granted for any construction, development, use, or activity within any AE Area without floodway that would, together with all other existing and anticipated development, increase the BFE by more than one (1) foot at any point.
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- C. No variances shall be granted for a proposed accessory structure that exceeds 600 square feet in size. A signed Declaration of Land Restriction (Non-Conversion Agreement) is required as a condition of receiving the variance.
  - D. No variance shall be granted for any Development Which May Endanger Human Life (Section 708.2.F) or Prohibited Activities (Section 708.2.F).
  - E. In reviewing any request for a variance, Damascus Township Zoning Hearing Board shall consider, at a minimum, the following:
    - a. That there is good and sufficient cause.
    - b. That failure to grant the variance would result in exceptional hardship to the applicant.
    - c. That the granting of the variance will
      - i. neither result in an unacceptable or prohibited increase in flood heights, additional threats to public safety, or extraordinary public expense,
      - ii. nor create nuisances, cause fraud on, or victimize the public, or conflict with any other applicable state or local ordinances and regulations.
  - F. Prohibited Variances - No variance shall be granted for the following:
    - 1. Development Which May Endanger Human Life
      - a. Any activity, development of any new or substantially improved structure which:
        - 1) will be used for the production or storage of any of the following dangerous materials or substances; or,
        - 2) will be used for any activity requiring the maintenance of a supply of more than five hundred and fifty (550) gallons, or other comparable volume, of any of the following dangerous materials or substances on the premises; or,
        - 3) will involve the production, storage, or use of any amount of radioactive substances.
      - b. The following materials and substances are considered dangerous to human life:
        - 1) Acetone
        - 2) Ammonia
        - 3) Benzene
        - 4) Calcium carbide
        - 5) Carbon disulfide
        - 6) Celluloid
        - 7) Chlorine
        - 8) Hydrochloric acid
        - 9) Hydrocyanic acid
        - 10) Magnesium
        - 11) Nitric acid and oxides of nitrogen
        - 12) Petroleum products (gasoline, fuel oil, etc.)
        - 13) Phosphorus
        - 14) Potassium
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- 15) Sodium
  - 16) Sulphur and sulphur products
  - 17) Pesticides (including insecticides, fungicides, and rodenticides)
  - 18) Radioactive substances, insofar as such substances are not otherwise regulated.
  - 19) Any other substance as determined by Damascus Township.
2. Manufactured Homes - Any of the prohibitions or requirements in Section 705.5 - Special Requirements for Manufactured Homes and Manufactured Home Parks and Subdivisions.
  3. Certain Institutions - The commencement of any of the following activities; or the construction, enlargement, or expansion of any structure used, or intended to be used, for any of the following activities:
    - a. Hospitals
    - b. Nursing homes or personal care facilities
    - c. Jails, prisons or other detention facilities
    - d. Day care / child care centers
- G. Least Modification - If granted, a variance shall involve only the least modification necessary to provide relief.
- H. Conditions - In granting any variance, the Zoning Hearing Board shall attach whatever reasonable conditions and safeguards it considers necessary in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, and to achieve the objectives of this Ordinance.
- I. Written Notice - Whenever a variance is granted, the Zoning Hearing Board shall notify the applicant in writing that:
1. The granting of the variance may result in increased premium rates for flood insurance.
  2. Such variances may increase the risks to life and property.
- I. Record - A complete record of all variance requests and related actions shall be maintained by the Zoning Hearing Board. In addition, a report of all variances granted during the year under this Section 708 shall be included in the annual report to the FEMA.
- J. Flood Resistance - Notwithstanding any of the other provisions of this Section 708, however, all structures shall be designed and constructed so as to have the capability of resisting the one-percent (1%) annual chance flood.

**709 Definitions**

**709.1 General**

Words and phrases used in this Article VII shall have the meanings set forth in this Section 709. Words and phrases not defined in this Article VII, but defined in Article II, shall be given the meanings set forth in Article II.

**709.2 Specific Definitions**

- A. Accessory Use or Structure - a use or structure on the same lot with, and of a nature customarily incidental and subordinate to, the principal use or structure.
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- B. Base Flood - a flood which has a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (also called the "100-year flood" or one-percent (1%) annual chance flood).
  - C. Base Flood Discharge - the volume of water resulting from a Base Flood as it passes a given location within a given time, usually expressed in cubic feet per second (cfs).
  - D. Base Flood Elevation (BFE) - the elevation shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for Zones AE, that indicates the water surface elevation resulting from a flood that has a 1-percent or greater chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.
  - E. Basement - any area of the building having its floor below ground level on all sides.
  - F. Building - a combination of materials to form a permanent structure having walls and a roof. Included shall be all manufactured homes and trailers to be used for human habitation.
  - G. Cumulative substantial damage – flood related damages sustained by a structure on two or more separate occasions during a 10-year period for which the cost of repairs at the time of each such flood event, on average, equals or exceeds 25 percent of the market value of the structure before the damages occurred.
  - H. Declaration of Land Restriction (Non-Conversion Agreement) - A form signed by the property owner to agree not to convert or modify in any manner that is inconsistent with the terms of the permit and these regulations, certain enclosures below the lowest floor of elevated buildings and certain accessory structures. The form requires the owner to record it on the property deed to inform future owners of the restrictions.
  - I. Development - any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate, including but not limited to the construction, reconstruction, renovation, repair, expansion, or alteration of buildings or other structures; the placement of manufactured homes; streets, and other paving; utilities; filling, grading and excavation; mining; dredging; drilling operations; storage of equipment or materials; and the subdivision of land.
  - J. Existing Manufactured Home Park or Subdivision – 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 before the effective date of the floodplain management regulations adopted by a community.
  - K. Expansion to an Existing Manufactured Home Park or Subdivision – the preparation of additional sites by the construction of facilities for servicing the lots on which the manufactured homes are to be affixed (including the installation of utilities, the construction of streets, and either final site grading or the pouring of concrete pads).
  - L. Flood - a temporary inundation of normally dry land areas.
  - M. Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) - the official map on which the Federal Emergency Management Agency has delineated both the areas of special flood hazards and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.
  - N. Flood Insurance Study (FIS) - the official report provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that includes flood profiles, the Flood Insurance Rate Map, the Flood Boundary and Floodway Map, and the water surface elevation of the base flood.
  - O. Floodplain Area - a relatively flat or low land area which is subject to partial or complete inundation from
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an adjoining or nearby stream, river or watercourse; and/or any area subject to the unusual and rapid accumulation of surface waters from any source.

- P. Floodproofing - any combination of structural and nonstructural 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.
- Q. Floodway - 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 one foot.
- R. Highest Adjacent Grade - The highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure.
- S. Historic Structures – any structure that is:
1. 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;
  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 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 that have been certified either:
    - a. By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or
    - b. Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.
- T. Identified Floodplain Area- this term is an umbrella term that includes all of the areas within which the community has selected to enforce floodplain regulations. It will always include the area identified as the Special Flood Hazard Area on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Insurance Study, but may include additional areas identified by the community. See Sections 7.04.1 and 7.04.2 for the specifics on what areas the community has included in the Identified Floodplain Area.
- U. Lowest Floor - the lowest floor of the lowest fully enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished, flood resistant partially enclosed area, used solely for parking of vehicles, building access, and incidental storage, in an area other than a basement area is not considered the lowest floor of a building, provided that such space is not designed and built so that the structure is in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirements of this Ordinance.
- V. Manufactured Home - 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 includes park trailers, travel trailers, recreational and other similar vehicles which are placed on a site for more than 180 consecutive days.
- W. Manufactured Home Park or Subdivision – a parcel (or contiguous parcels) of land divided into two or more manufactured home lots for rent or sale.
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- X. New Construction - structures for which the start of construction commenced on or after the effective date of this Article VII and includes any subsequent improvements to such structures. Any construction started after September 30, 1988, the effective date of the first floodplain management ordinance adopted by Damascus Township and before the effective date of this Article VII, is subject to the ordinance in effect at the time the permit was issued, provided the start of construction was within 180 days of permit issuance.
- Y. New Manufactured Home Park or Subdivision – 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 floodplain management regulations adopted by a community.
- Z. Person - an individual, partnership, public or private association or corporation, firm, trust, estate, municipality, governmental unit, public utility or any other legal entity whatsoever, which is recognized by law as the subject of rights and duties.
- AA. Post-FIRM Structure - is a structure for which construction or substantial improvement occurred after December 31, 1974 or on or after Damascus Township’s initial Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) dated September 30, 1988, whichever is later, and, as such, would be required to be compliant with the regulations of the National Flood Insurance Program.
- BB. Pre-FIRM Structure - is a structure for which construction or substantial improvement occurred on or before December 31, 1974 or before Damascus Township’s initial Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) dated September 30, 1988, whichever is later, and, as such, would not be required to be compliant with the regulations of the National Flood Insurance Program.
- CC. Recreational Vehicle - a vehicle which is:
  - 1. built on a single chassis;
  - 2. not more than four hundred (400) square feet, measured at the largest horizontal projections;
  - 3. designed to be self-propelled or permanently towable by a light-duty truck,
  - 4. not designed for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use.

This definition includes, but is not limited to, campers, travel trailers, buses, camping trailers, pick-up trucks with slide-in campers, recreational vehicle homes and motor homes.
- DD. Regulatory Flood Elevation - the base flood elevation or estimated flood height as determined using simplified methods plus a freeboard safety factor of one and one-half (1 ½) feet. The freeboard safety factor also applies to utilities and ductwork.
- EE. Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) - means an area in the floodplain subject to a one (1) percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year. It is shown on the FIRM as Zone A, AO, AH or AE.
- FF. Start of Construction - includes substantial improvement and other proposed new development and means the date the Permit was issued, provided the actual start of construction, repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, placement, or other improvement was within one hundred eighty (180) days after the date of the permit and shall be completed within twelve (12) months after the date of issuance of the permit unless a time extension is granted, in writing, by the Floodplain Administrator. The actual start

means either the first placement of permanent construction of a structure on a site, such as the pouring of slab or footings, the installation of piles, the construction of columns, or any work beyond the stage of excavation; or the placement of a manufacture 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 walkways; nor does it include excavation for a basement, footings, 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.

- GG. Structure – a walled and roofed building, including a gas or liquid storage tank that is principally above ground, as well as a manufactured home.
- HH. Subdivision - the division or redivision of a lot, tract, or parcel of land by any means into two or more lots, tracts, parcels or other divisions of land including changes in existing lot lines for the purpose, whether immediate or future, of lease, partition by the court for distribution to heirs, or devisees, transfer of ownership or building or lot development: Provided, however, that the subdivision by lease of land for agricultural purposes into parcels of more than ten acres, not involving any new street or easement of access or any residential dwelling, shall be exempted.
- II. Substantial Damage - damage from any cause sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed fifty (50) percent or more of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.
- JJ. Substantial Improvement - any reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or other improvement of a structure, of which the cost equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure before the "start of construction" of the improvement. This term includes structures which have incurred "cumulative substantial damage" regardless of the actual repair work performed during the previous ten (10) years. The term does not, however, include 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. (See Section 707.3 for requirements for the substantial improvement of any historic structures.)
- KK. Uniform Construction Code (UCC) – The statewide building code adopted by The Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1999 applicable to new construction in all municipalities whether administered by Damascus Township, a third party or the Department of Labor and Industry. Applicable to residential and commercial buildings, The Code adopted The International Residential Code (IRC) and the International Building Code (IBC), by reference, as the construction standard applicable with the State floodplain construction. For coordination purposes, references to the above are made specifically to various sections of the IRC and the IBC.
- LL. Variance- A grant of relief by a community from the terms of a floodplain management regulation.
- MM. Violation - means the failure of a structure or other development to be fully compliant with the community's floodplain management regulations. A structure or other development without the elevation certificate, other certifications, or other evidence of compliance required in Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44 (Emergency Management and Assistance), §60.3(Flood plain management criteria for flood-prone areas) (b)(5), (c)(4), (c)(10), (d)(3), (e)(2), (e)(4), or (e)(5) is presumed to be in violation until such time as that documentation is provided.

**SEVERABILITY**

If any sentence, clause, section or part of this Ordinance is for any reason found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality, or invalidity shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections or parts of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared as the intent of Damascus Township that this Ordinance would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid sentence, clause, section or part thereof not been included herein.

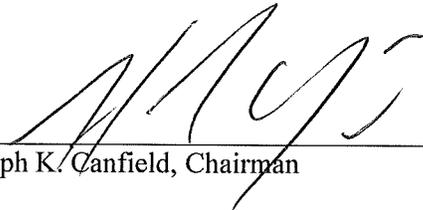
**REPEALER**

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

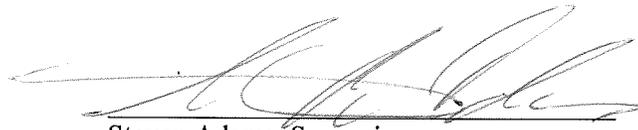
**EFFECTIVE DATE**

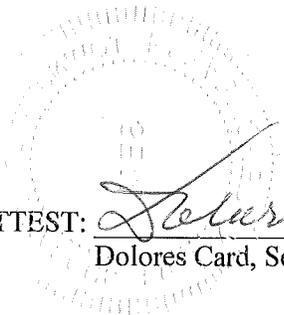
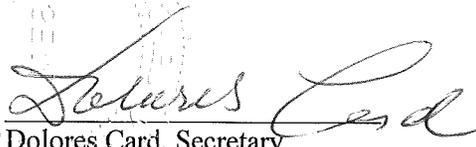
This Ordinance shall become effective on March 18, 2019 and shall remain in force until modified, amended or rescinded by the Board of Supervisors of Damascus Township, Wayne County.

**ENACTED AND ORDAINED** into law by the Board of Supervisors of Damascus Township, Wayne County, Pennsylvania, this 18th day of March of 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph K. Canfield, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Rutledge, Vice-Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Adams, Supervisor

  
ATTEST:   
Dolores Card, Secretary