

Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #7

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

3-5 PM

Hampton Town Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room

NOTES

Participants: Jay, Bryan, Bob, Deb, Rayann, Jason, Jim, Nancy, Jennifer, Stephen

Absent: Tom, Mark

Staff: Kirsten (DES), Nathalie (DES), Liz (EF | Design & Planning, LLC)

1. Approve meeting notes from June 18, 2019

June 18, 2019 minutes were approved as written. Jay motioned to approve, seconded by Deb. Jennifer and Nancy abstained.

2. Brief Relevant Flood Updates

Jennifer – recapped the Hampton Beach Village Precinct meeting at which she provided engineering studies preliminary results, general information, looked at grants, future, warrants, construction and a five-year plan.

Two additional tidal sensors were installed bringing the total number of sensors to 8 sensors between Meadow Pond and Salt Marsh complex. The map of the sensor locations will not be published to discourage theft or vandalism. Data is being tracked and stored at UNH and that data will begin to be available on August 1st.

Stephen – discussed some of the difficulty with public participation at the Beach Village Precinct meeting.

Nancy - noted Hampton Area Commission is on summer break until the end of September.

Jason – discussed the Master Plan session in June with Planning Board which will be an ongoing effort for 6-8 months, next meeting tomorrow night. The Rockingham Planning Commission is attending that meeting.

Deb – provided an update on the HB Village District meeting. Some residents discussed having the streets raised or blocking with snow which stops the water from coming down the street during winter months. She also shared that she's been getting questions about whether the harbor dredging will alleviate any flooding. Kirsten provided an update that the Harbor dredging will begin in the Fall with 150 cubic yards

removed to Seabrook Beach on the State Park side. Studies indicate dredging can exacerbate winds which create larger waves and more flooding. Based on communications with the Army Corp of Engineers, the dredging will have no or minimal impact on flooding.

Jay – mentioned a report concerning the cost of sea walls to protect towns. Hampton would need seven miles of sea walls. The cost would translate to \$30,000 per person and did not identify the area or extent of protection. SHEA will have a flood smart roundtable at the Masonic Lodge, Hampton from 6-8 PM on August 12th. The State Hazard Mitigation Officer will have a presentation on FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant programs, including the application process and where the funds come from. Deb sent this to her group.

Rayann – discussed local data collection and noted the Conservation Commission is working on 2020 warrant articles for wetlands ordinance. Bryan asked if the NHDES Urban Exemption was one the Commission was considering. Rayann said it was not as it is a process that happens through DES as opposed to a zoning regulation change.

Jim – Thanked Jen for coming. Discussion of temporary adaptation strategies for the short-term to offer while working on permanent strategies and transparency; sharing why certain proposals won’t w

ork.

Kirsten – discussed the Coastal Landowner Assessment Program which provides visits to concerned homeowners. The program is free and provides two site visits. Anyone interested can email Kirsten. Received positive feedback at meeting.

Liz – asked whether the group felt an update about CHAT needed Recommended identifying problem and solution, adding language they are looking at temporary as well as permanent strategies. Jim agreed and added mentioning they are working every month and perhaps a press release in the Hampton Union. Jay added publicity every two months to reflect progress and discussions. Liz will draft an update and a formal press release and send to group. Temporary strategies such as sandbags and where to find them at Public Works and how to get emergency parking permits could be included. Deb added the procedure to get those placards, such as a “Did You Know” section. Liz will add discussion on temporary strategies to the CHAT agenda.

3. Follow up Items from June Meeting

a. Projections

Kirsten provided a handout entitled 2014 Science and Technical Advisory Panel Report Summary which projected sea level rise using a 1992 baseline which does not include

changes due to precipitation and storms. Kirsten recommended picking scenarios to plan for new changes.

Nancy asked if there would be updates to the Coastal Risks and Hazard Commission's report as she understood they are recommended every five years. Nathalie explained there would be an update in August. Greenhouse gases were less than expected, however there were changes to freshwater flooding and groundwater rise.

Nancy asked if there were any new legislative bills? Nathalie noted there were no new regulations with action taken.

b. Liz provided a short follow up on some of the case study questions from the previous meeting.

Funding for the LA Coastal Master Plan comes from a variety of sources including the Deepwater Horizon spill settlement, grants, business, industry, disasters or a mix. Liz could not find a definition in Climate Ready Boston for "Constructed Ground" but believes it refers to infill projects, such as creation of a berm or similar landscape projects where there may be a mix of green and grey infrastructure.

Does Norfolk Vision 2020 include retreat? The plan focuses more on re-imagining and intensifying higher ground rather than retreating from lower ground. They mapped economic and cultural assets and identifying access roads to homes and other assets.

4. Flood Adaptations Strategies for Shoreline and Landscape Management

Keep Water Out, Live with Water, Get Out of the Water's Way

Kirsten Howard, NHDES

Kirsten presented a Power Point presentation and handout entitled Draft: Framework for Coastal Flood & Erosion Management Action for Hampton CHAT work session 7-16-2019. Kirsten showed pictures of 'living shoreline' breakwaters designed to reduce the water's energy and barriers made with stones and plantings and how they fared after storm damage.

Bob asked if rip rap was banned and about private sea walls. NHDES does not support the construction of private seawalls where they do not already exist.

Kirsten continued the presentation. The first part of the presentation identified four key steps prior to considering possible actions: identifying assets and timeframes; understanding the risk to the asset; determining flood risk tolerance; and defining clear goals and objectives. The chart categorizes strategies according to three goals (keep

water out, live with water and get out of the water's way); flood risk; impacts to natural resources; costs over time;, permits; and dependence on other assets/services.

The second part of the presentation identified a matrix of actions to manage flooding and erosion including structural, planning and zoning, and financing.

The third part of the presentation identified a list of questions to ask about any action under consideration, some of which included suitability, scale, target, benefits, negative impacts or attributes, maintenance, lifespan, modifications, key players, funding sources, data and information, Q&A and additional information.

The final part of the presentation involved participation in completing a worksheet matrix for Structural, Planning and Zoning and Financing strategies.

Liz asked CHAT members to identify an adaptation strategy that they are interested in investigating further. The group brainstormed strategies and began to complete the worksheet. A summary of results from the brainstorming session is included below and added to the attached worksheet. The group decided to walk through the list of questions to consider when evaluating adaptation strategies at the next meeting.

In Structural

Keeping the Water Out/Off:

Jay added seagrass planting; Bryan recommended a tide gate at the Hampton Harbor bridge and natural berms; increasing sea wall size. Rayann added relocating critical infrastructure. Nancy added such as the construction of 1A.

Living with Water:

Wetland restoration. Deb added floodgates and retention ponds. Rayann added raised structures and raising the sea wall.

Getting out of water's way:

Bob added relocating homes, however noting there may be no place to move the homes to.

Planning and Zoning

Keep Water Out/Off:

Jay added Hampton “flood zones.” Creating zones using flooding and sea level rise information.

Live with Water:

Jen added redevelopment regulations. Jay added “zones.” Bryan added seasonal occupancies/raised buildings. Not renting in the Winter, not year-round in identified areas. Deb noted those properties would have no fire access when flooded. Rayann added tax incentives for elevating structure and removing impervious coverage.

Get out of water’s way:

Jim added returning to natural over time. Jen added redevelopment regs. Liz added special districts such as Norfolk used.

Financing:

Keep Water out/off:

Jen added fund infrastructure improvements, drainage where none.

Live with water:

Rayann added tax incentives

Get out of water’s way:

Jay added buyouts that would transfer the parcels to the Town whenever the owners decide to move (as oppose to more common buyout and immediate relocation).

5. Miscellaneous

Jen wrote a letter of support to Fish & Wildlife for CHAT which Jay will sign for SHEA. Jen will send a draft to Rayann who can change to last paragraph to reflect Conservation values. Rayann will send a copy to Conservation Commission.

6. Next Meeting: August 20, 2019 at 3 PM. Discussion of Adaptation Strategies and Examples

7. Adjourn

The meeting ended at 5 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer
Recording Secretary