
Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #20

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

2 PM – 4 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

GoToMeeting (Remotely)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/248423645>

<https://www.gotomeet.me/KirstenHoward/chat-work-sessions>
[or by dial-in @ \(669\) 224-3412](https://www.gotomeet.me/KirstenHoward/chat-work-sessions)

NOTES

Participants: Jay Diener, Rayann Dionne, Jason Bachand, Stephen LaBranche, Debra Bourbeau, Tom Bassett, Jennifer Hale, Bob Ladd, Norma Collins (by phone), and Barbara Kravitz (by phone)

Absent: Mark Olson, , Bryan Provencal, June Black, Steve Belgiorno, James Waddell

Staff: Kirsten Howard, Nathalie Morrison, DES, and Liz Durfee

Ms. Durfee began the meeting at 2:00 PM.

1. Remote meeting logistics

Ms. Durfee reminded everyone to mute their mics when not speaking. She reminded everyone of the process to unmute (*6) if phoning in. Ms. Kravitz and Ms. Collins phoned in.

2. Introductions

The members introduced themselves and indicated whether they were affiliated with the Town, a group or were residents. Jay Diener indicated he is a representative of SHEA, Stephen LaBranche noted he is a representative of the Budget Committee, Jason Bachand indicated he is the Town Planner for the Town of Hampton, Rayann Dionne indicated she is the Conservation Coordinator for the Town of Hampton, Kirsten Howard indicated she is with NHDES Coastal Program, Nathalie Morrison indicated she is with the NH DES Coastal Program, Deb Bourbeau and Tom Bassett indicated they are Hampton residents, Jennifer Hale, PE, Deputy Director of Hampton Public Works, Robert Ladd is a Commissioner with the Hampton Beach Village District Commission, Barbara Kravitz is a representative of the Rockingham Planning Commission and Hampton Beach Area Commission. Norma Collins is a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

3. Approve meeting notes from August 18, 2020

Mr. Diener motioned to approve the August 18, 2020 as amended. Mr. Bassett seconded the motion. All in favor with one abstention by Bob Ladd..

4. Recommendations Discussion and Priorities

Ms. Durfee reviewed briefly the four primary objectives of the Rules of Procedure:

1. Improve coordination of flood hazard management and adaptation efforts in Hampton.
2. Investigate, analyze, and prioritize flood management and adaptation strategies and present recommendations to the Municipal Boards and Commissions for consideration.
3. Inform residents about the flood hazard management and adaptation options the Town is considering and enable residents to provide input on these options.
4. Provide educational and public outreach opportunities concerning flood hazard management and adaptation strategies.

Ms. Durfee posted slides with the draft recommendations for discussion and asked the team to identify missing recommendations, or miscategorized or misinterpreted recommendations as well as clarify and discuss and consolidate them.

The group discussed data collection, funding, outreach and communication. Jen Hale spoke to the choice of modeling for consistent data collection and used the Great Bay example where eel grass was studied over 4-5 years. Ms. Bourbeau indicated she would like to follow up with the Manchester Street residents concerning the outreach portion as to how the team can provide assistance to property owners related to flood relief. More recommendations could be added under outreach, especially after the DPW presentation tomorrow night at 5:30 PM. Mr. Bassett indicated outreach to Hampton residents should have more time devoted due to its importance.

Ms. Howard discussed the potential for a staff position or positions to help with outreach. Mr. Diener discussed SHEA's flood smart workshops and how they might help with outreach. Ms. Durfee indicated the DPW engineering study presentation is a parallel effort. Ms. Hale agreed there isn't anything the CHAT team has discussed that conflicts with Milone & MacBroom consultants. The DPW is tasked with what happens if you fix culverts, raise roads and widen culverts (not quite right, but I don't remember what Jen said). CHAT recommends looking at the effect of doing those things.

The Board discussed incentives such as waiving building permit fees for applications that include voluntary structure elevation to meet the current floodplain requirements. Ms. Dionne noted it isn't a lot of money but shows the Town is supportive and is making the process easier. Mr. Diener noted a tax abatement might do more, perhaps for a period of years. Ms. Durfee added that item to look into further. Joining the Communing Rating System (CRS) would provide relief for folks who pay flood insurance.

Mr. Ladd asked where Hampton was at with CRS? Ms. Dionne indicated Hampton has property that needs to comply with the floodplain regulations before moving forward with CRS. Ms. Durfee indicated Natalie did a nice job showing what things would earn points to lower premiums once the non-compliance is addressed in the comments she provided on the draft

recommendations. Mr. Bassett asked if the Town had previously participated? Ms. Dionne noted the Town is part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and adopted the floodplain ordinance. The Town has to show they are following through when FEMA does an audit. In 2015 FEMA did an audit of non-compliant property. Being in good standing with the NFIP is a component of belonging to CRS. FEMA hasn't taken further action regarding the non-compliance issues. Ms. Howard clarified being part of NFIP is what allows residents to buy flood insurance from FEMA so it is important.

The group discussed the physical and economic impacts of moderate SLR in 2050 and incorporating SLR in the Town's Coastal Hazard Chapter which is underway. Mr. Bachand indicated he was confident at this point that the coastal chapter will do justice to response to SLR. The next phase is housing and recreation. The 4' SLR model supports investing in safest areas of town and could help plan for future rebuilding and absorbing economic shocks. Ms. Howard noted the 4' model is the tipping point when looking at the data where neighborhoods and the beach would be used differently than before. Mr. LaBranche noted the 4' model showed almost all of Hampton Beach underwater. Ms. Morrison noted assessment would show what types of development may not be allowed in vulnerable areas and business areas where it would be safest to congregate.

Ms. Bourbeau indicated Manchester Street residents have already noted the current 10' tide warning should be lowered to 9.5 or 9.7 for parking placards.

Ms. Durfee asked about whether the recommendation to require the Town to comply with the NH Flood Risk Guidance for municipal structures should be a Town policy or written into the Zoning Ordinance. She noted that municipal structures for public purposes do not have to comply with the local Zoning Ordinance unless this is explicitly written in. Ms. Hale mentioned that the Town has to abide by RSAs.. Ms. Durfee indicated some legal expertise might be needed here. Mr. Diener noted he liked the idea of forcing the Town to think about these issues. The Town could adopt climate criteria as part of the CIP budget process.

The Board discussed hiring a consultant to work with managed buyout or retreat programs, similar to Woodbridge, NJ. Mr. Diener noted a Warrant Article for \$50,000 passed but the Town did not get the grant to be able to make use of it. Ms. Kravitz asked if it made sense to put it on the warrant again? Mr. Diener noted the State of NH never applied for funding from FEMA before and said that he looked more at the types of projects they will fund, this wasn't one of them, so there is no plan to put back on. Nathalie suggested that the new FEMA pre-disaster mitigation program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), might fill in the gap with a new funding opportunity. Meghan Wells is the new State Hazard Mitigation Officer. Ms. Kravitz indicated it would be helpful to have a one-pager detailing the Woodbridge experience, including what happened, and how they did it, to circulate to those who have interest and town officials.

Mr. Bassett discussed migration of wetlands and the conservation portion of this. Having undeveloped land for the wetlands to migrate to. Mr. Ladd discussed the importance of careful wording with social media concerning buyout language. Mr. Diener recommended adding the word voluntary between future and buyout. Mr. Ladd added that tax impacts could be something the residents are sensitive to. Ms. Durfee noted that having this data would be helpful.

Ms. Howard recommended rephrasing the draft recommendation “hire a consultant to develop a future buyout/retreat program” with “take action to assist residents who wish to access funding for voluntary buyouts from the federal government.” Mr. Ladd agreed, provided it is understood that the funding is coming from the government and this is just the vehicle to get there.

The Board discussed Implementation Projects

- Assisting property owners with flood damage.

Mr. Diener asked if the Town could provide that kind of technical or financial assistance on private property without becoming liable. Ms. Durfee indicated perhaps the Building Inspector could provide a FAQ sheet.

Mr. Bassett discussed the Greene Street, Meadow Pond, Gention Road project. The drain pipes are corroded. Jen Hale noted there is a bigger problem than corroded pipe. If Meadow Pond is higher than the pipe, it can push itself out and will back feed. It is a hydrology problem. If you dredge Meadow Pond, raise roads and house you don't have to fix. If you fix the drain and dredge, you will still have flooding.

Ms. Hale cautioned this group is not engineers and solutions should be recommended for implementation by technical persons based on studies. Ms. Durfee agreed these are areas identified from a lay person's perspective.

5. Share 1-2 take away from the recommendations

This item was postponed until the next meeting due to time. Ms. Durfee noted in November the team will finalize the list to share with the Town and asked that everyone be comfortable and willing to stand behind those recommendations.

6. One-on-One discussions

Ms. Durfee suggested that individuals who would like to discuss any of the draft recommendations, or any issues related to CHAT are welcome to schedule a call (603-969-4594) and/or email (efd.planning@gmail.com) questions between now and the October meeting.

7. Next Meeting: October 20, 2020, format TBD

At the October meeting, the group will review revised and consolidated draft recommendations and discuss take aways from the recommendations. Nathalie will lead a Master Plan focus group meeting during half of the November CHAT meeting.

7. Adjourn

The meeting ended at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer
Recording Secretary