
Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #24

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

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, Tom Bassett, Debra Bourbeau, James Waddell, Bob Ladd, Barbara Kravitz and Norma Collins (by phone)

Absent: Jen Hale, Mark Olson, Bryan Provencal, June Black, Steve Belgiorno

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

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

1. Remote meeting logistics

Ms. Durfee asked everyone how the remote virtual meeting format was working out.

2. Introductions

The members introduced themselves and indicated whether they were affiliated with the Town, a group or were residents.

Rayann Dionne indicated she was a representative of SHEA (Seacoast Hampton Estuary Alliance).

Liz Durfee indicated she is the planning consultant.

Kirsten Howard indicated she is with the NH DES Coastal Program.

Jay Diener indicated he is with the Hampton Conservation Commission.

Tom Bassett indicated he is a Hampton resident.

Jason Bachand indicated he is the Hampton Town Planner.

Norma Collins indicated she is representing the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Bob Ladd indicated he is a representative of the Village District.

Stephen LaBranche indicated he is a representative of the Hampton Budget Committee.

Deb Bourbeau indicated she is a resident representative.

Nathalie DiGeronimo indicated she is with the NH DES Coastal Program.

3. Approve meeting notes from January 26, 2021

Ms. Durfee posted proposed edits to the minutes.

Mr. Diener motioned to approve the January 26, 2021 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Bassett seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Relevant Flood Updates

Mr. Bachand reported the first draft of Phase I of the Master Plan's Vision and Coastal Chapter update with Milone & MacBroom is being discussed tomorrow evening with the Subcommittee and Planning Board and will wrap up in March. The Planning Board will begin selections for the Resilience Plan & Design in Phase 2.

Mr. Bassett reported back to back Nor'easters and flooding with the tide below 10, at 9.3 in both cases. Mr. Bassett will distribute pdf images taken of the neighborhood during those storms.

Mr. LaBranche noted it is relevant that those storms were just Nor'easters. He witnessed the North and South bound lanes of Ocean Boulevard across Rocky Bend south of Boar's Head. The Northbound lane was closed for quite awhile. The Southbound lane by the Sea Sprial Motel had about 6" of water with people driving through it. The cause appeared to be splash over. Mr. LaBranche noted when the marsh filled it didn't empty completely when the tide went out and as a result the next high tide was ever higher.

Mr. Diener offered kudos to Barbara Kravitz and Nancy Stiles for a great symposium with a lot of speakers. The slides were posted online. The recording will be available soon and on Channel 22 at some point. Ms. Durfee noted Mr. Diener has highlighted some of the work CHAT has been doing.

Ms. Howard reported on the Aquatic Research Grant application round with funding available to coastal towns concerning development and wetland impacts and Conservation Commission projects. Also at Wagon Hill in Durham there will be a living shoreline presentation and she will pass along the announcement.

Ms. Durfee reported the Nature Conservancy compiled Phase 2 of data for areas that provide flood storage and that information could be used to create a basic map of where those areas are.

Ms. DiGeronimo reported NH DES is holding a series of water infrastructure funding workshops on May 4, 6, 11, and 13 from 1-3 PM. Topics include funding program updates with DES, clean water, energy efficiency, and asset management. She will provide the link for registration.

Ms. Kravitz thanked Mr. Diener for his kind words. 100 people registered to attend the symposium and 75 attended. HBAC is sending out a survey to attendees and hopes to identify collaboration possibilities in the future. People are awaiting the report and next steps. HBAC (Hampton Beach Area Commission) is participating in the environmental resiliency portion of the Master Plan over the next few months. Mr. LaBranche added that there were 13 speakers and a dozen members of CHAT and recommended condensing the symposium down to something someone can watch. Ms. Durfee noted she has a short synopsis provided by the presenters and will send a link out today and deliver to Hampton tomorrow. Ms. DiGeronimo noted another symposium is worth thinking about and could become a regular event to keep apprised of what's happening.

Mr. Bassett reported the SHEA webinar on Saltmarsh ditching was a nice overview.

Mr. Ladd recommended that work on Hampton Beach should be done at a Town level. Ms. Kravitz noted that in Phase 2 with the Steering Committee hat on that will come together and means wider public outreach as well.

5. 2-3 Recommendations CHAT can start providing support on and CHAT's role

Ms. Durfee noted recommendations should be user friendly and the list simplified and steps taken such as research, case studies, Warrant Articles, and assistance with funding support processes. Three recommendations were selected with the top votes which were not necessarily priorities but that which the team would like to first dive deeper into, which are:

- Staff position
- Integrating SLR into Master Plan updates
- Public Outreach – hazards, vulnerability, increasing resiliency
- Subcommittee to work on new Coastal Hazard Overlay District for areas most at risk to flooding and SLR

Mr. LaBranche began the discussion about whether the staff position should be regional at the Rockingham Planning Commission level. Ms. Kravitz reported that RPC staff is interested in creation of a regionwide position, which is one way to bring coordination, and RPC is interested in taking the lead on that. Ms. DiGeronimo noted concerns with a regional position not giving Hampton what it needs to address its own resiliency and while it is a good first step the team should articulate what its expectations are first and what it would hope to get out of the dues it

pays with RPC. Hampton's flooding resiliency concerns would be diluted if spread out with recycling and energy initiatives. Ms. Dionne agreed that the Flood Plain Administration be specific to Hampton to provide NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) participation and would not get that attention if the position was solely regional.

Mr. Waddell noted that public outreach is really important. Citizens made decisions through the Warrant Articles, legislation and budgets. Some have big bonds. It is important to educate and involve not just the beach residents but the Town.

Mr. Diener noted he likes all four recommendations and believes #4 is workable to focus on bringing forward and has good breadth and depth.

Ms. Durfee noted the team needs to develop targeted messages to specific audiences for each recommendation. Communication between Town residents, boards and committees needs to be improved. Ms. Durfee recommended members share ideas relevant to the group they represent and what benefit they would most appreciate.

(Mr. Waddell departed the meeting at 3 PM)

Mr. Diener recommended as with warrant articles, providing a paragraph that explains what this really means and how it impacts them and will start a rough draft.

6. Information sharing with boards and committees

a. Feedback on CHAT member needs

Mr. LaBranche hopes Mr. Diener could come before the Budget Committee to do a presentation because of his experience with CHAT & SHEA. Brian Warburton is the chairperson and indicated interest for their March meeting. Mr. Diener did a presentation to the Select Board not long ago and is a good point to answer actual questions.

Ms. Kravitz noted Mr. Diener and Ms. Durfee have agreed to some presentation discussions in March with HBAC. Scientific input is recommended before making decisions.

Mr. Bachand noted the Planning Board's second meeting in March is joint and added that Mr. Diener and Ms. DiGeronimo could be key presenters as well.

Mr. Bassett noted that the Hampton Master Plan's Virtual Resident Focus Group held on Feb 11 broke into groups by neighborhood which brought interaction and participation.

b. What information do boards, committees, commissions – need?

Ms. Durfee noted that we can ask whether people want the science behind SLR, who's doing what, actual support by residents. Another survey would share what types of information people receive and how they would like to receive it.

Ms. Bourbeau recommended starting with basics and building on them.

Ms. DiGeronimo noted you need to have a hook in the room to get people to attend.

Mr. LaBranche recommended *Youtube* in short segments because that is where people turn for education on topics these days.

Ms. Kravitz noted repetition is important.

Mr. Bassett recommended action – *what are we going to do about it?* Involving residents in a project, opportunities to participate in implementation.

c. How do boards, committees, commissions want to receive this information?

Ms. Durfee noted the PREPA (Piscataqua Regional Environmental Planning Assessment) annual funding grant round is coming up. The purpose is to encourage municipalities to implement regulatory and planning processes.

- Due 3/31
- Projected, if funded, up to \$10,000
- Project start May 2021 - finish June 2022
- 2:1 Match (non federal)
- SHEA or Town could be an applicant

Mr. Bachand indicated the Planning Board will be applying with focus on zoning regulations and amendments to ordinances for the 2022-23 Town Meeting. The RFP details have been forwarded for discussion at the Planning Board's meeting tomorrow evening.

Ms. DiGeronimo noted the grant is small with the outreach component. How to incorporate that into guidance for flood use regulations. Coastal Chapter is releasing an RFP in May and may be a good fit for SHEA to advance. Ms. Durfee agreed there may not be enough to hone in on ordinance and amendments for the outreach component.

Ms. Dionne questioned having the applications be in competition with one another. Ms. Howard noted the funding threshold could be higher for the Coastal Resilience grant and have a higher match which may be a limitation. PREPA may pick only one of the two Hampton projects but developing a grant application would be good practice. Mr. Diener recommended that Mr. Bachand's application be a stand alone and questioned whether there would be room for both applications to be considered. Ms. Durfee noted PREPA would be available quicker and Coastal likely in January of 2022. Outreach could be developed with existing resources.

Ms. Durfee questioned if the team was in favor of SHEA applying for the PREPA grant to focus on outreach strategy and they are generally in support.

Mr. Bassett noted SHEA did not have to apply for \$10,000, it can be "up to." PREPA appears to be regulatory focused. Mr. Diener noted SHEA has non federal grant funds it can use for the match.

Ms. Howard will send the RFP and recommended focusing on the three recommendations that aren't zoning related.

7. Developing and funding an outreach strategy

Ms. Durfee noted information could be received through newsletters, events or outreach to advance 1-2 of the recommendations. Ways to identify and incorporate them into the 2021 Coastal Flood Risk Guidance in decision making.

Ms. Howard noted the Town has a good education outreach specialist. Focus groups by neighborhood outreach gets people together to do something. Noah at Milone & MacBroom bills himself as an education outreach specialist. Ms. DiGeronimo noted he is limited to his contract with the Town's coastal program. Mr. Diener recommended looking at some of the approaches he has used so far. Ms. Kravitz added that Phase 2 will be bringing on a consultant too.

Ms. Howard recommended design consultants such as Place Works.

8. Next meeting: March 16, 2021

9. Adjourn. The meeting ended at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hoijer, Recording Secretary