
Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #22

Tuesday, November 17, 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, Tom Bassett, Bob Ladd, and Barbara Kravitz (by phone)

Absent: Jennifer Hale, Debra Bourbeau, Mark Olson, Bryan Provencal, June Black, Steve Belgiorno, James Waddell

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

Ms. Durfee began the meeting at 2:08 PM.

1. Remote meeting logistics
2. Introductions

The members introduced themselves and indicated whether they were affiliated with the Town, a group or were residents. Liz Durfee noted she is a planning consultant facilitating the meetings, Jay Diener indicated he is a representative of the Conservation Commission, 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 representing SHEA, Kirsten Howard indicated she is with NHDES Coastal Program, Nathalie Morrison DiGeronimo indicated she is with the NH DES Coastal Program and grant manager with the first phase of the Master Plan Chapter update, Tom Bassett indicated he is a Hampton resident, Bob Ladd is with Hampton Beach Village District and Barbara Kravitz is a representative of the Rockingham Planning Commission, the Master Plan Steering Committee and Hampton Beach Area Commission.

3. Coastal Management Master Plan Chapter Focus Group

- a. Milone & MacBroom and Nathalie Morison DiGeronimo, NHDES

Mr. Bachand reported the Vision & Coastal Chapter updates of the Master Plan are the first phase. The Master Plan was last updated in 1985. The Steering Committee was established, and funding was provided by a NOAA grant. The second phase will be the

rest of the plan (Land Use, Transportation, Economic and Cultural, etc). Proposals were reviewed by the Steering Committee to chose a consultant. The goal is to have the Master Plan fully updated by December 2022. The Master Plan serves as an instruction manual for the next 20 years. The Master Plan Steering Committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Noah Slovin of Milone & MacBroom presented an update. Mr. Slovin noted a Master Plan is a document of policy for the municipality and the framework of future decisions and actions over a 10-20-year timeframe. One Chapter is the Vision Chapter. Another Chapter is the Coastal Resilience Chapter which deals with flood hazard, sea-level rise and flooding and analysis of vulnerable assets. Hampton has had a long history of flooding and storm damage documented since 1723. In recent years Hampton has been affected by two notable storms in 2018, Riley and Grayson, one of which was declared a presidential disaster. Mr. Slovin provided an analysis of storm surges for 100 days of the year. Guidance suggests sea-level rise of 1.3-2.3' by 2050, 2.9-6.2' by 2100 and 4.6-11.7' by 2150 on the assumption that global greenhouse gas will follow predictions and the rate of ice loss in Antarctica.

Mr. Slovin described Coastal Resilience as long-term success with a changing climate and the ability to bounce back and leap forward. Mr. Slovin compared the programs developed by Portland and Norfolk, VA both emphasized the importance of input from the community.

Ms. Morrison DiGeronimo noted the focus groups looked at vulnerability, existing capabilities and strengths and actions to recommend.

Mr. Bassett agreed knowledge, awareness and communication with the community are important and asked what the best practices would be to facilitate community engagement. Ms. Durfee noted that is important and something CHAT hasn't been able to implement the way we had planned during COVID but will talk more at the end of the meeting about the roles of representatives bringing the information back to their groups.

Mr. Ladd noted many in the community don't believe in global warming and recommended finding a project that could be done to address a problem and reduce flooding in an area or neighborhood right away.

Mr. Diener noted many in the community fear that if we take actions there will be economic repercussions such as impacting property taxes or devaluing properties.

Mr. LaBranche noted sharing examples may inspire others. For example there is a new structure elevated on pilings on Anchor Road 12-15' off the ground. The water goes underneath. A home on Highland and Brown as lifted 4-5' a couple of years ago and another on Island Path. The basis of fear is not having knowledge. If privacy allows,

photos, cost and time with owner comments could be posted telling how they went about the process and funded it. If owners want to elevate their properties there should be no obstacles from Town.

Mr. Slovin emphasized what the Team has done so far. Mr. LaBranche noted last year a Warrant Article was approved which placed the seed money in a capital reserve account to work with FEMA.

Mr. Slovin asked about height restrictions and Ms. Dionne indicated a freeboard piece was added to the flood plain ordinance. Freeboard height is usually calculated with the base flood plus 1.' It provided flexibility to go up to 3' higher or to go to the ZBA for relief to go even higher.

Mr. Diener noted updating and amending ordinances is heading in the right direction as well as providing education and information.

Ms. Durfee thanked the members of CHAT and SHEA for the support and technical engagement throughout the process.

Ms. Howard noted a strength could be the ability of people to engage their neighborhoods.

Mr. LaBranche recommended publicity.

Ms. Kravitz noted the importance of Town-wide support, identifying and planning for the future. Neighborhood involvement and educating people that when they do something to mitigate their own flood situation it affects their abutters or someone else. Getting on the Community Rating System (CRS) is a very important first step that can show results in reduced premiums for flood insurance holders. Mr. Bachand noted there were 6-7 non-compliant properties identified that need to be addressed and are working with FEMA. Mr. Ladd agreed and estimated \$100,000 in premium discounts are being lost each year that Hampton is not in the rating system. Ms. Kravitz noted the Hampton Beach Area Commission will be holding a symposium in February on Coastal Resilience and would like to invite everyone.

Mr. LaBranche recommended bringing in State and Federal representatives who are a driver of revenue. Mr. Diener noted recently SHEA met with representatives and looked at flooded streets. It is always better to go to them than wait for them to come to us.

Mr. Bassett asked to consider the next step now that the Warrant Article for the flood study is engaged.

Mr. Diener noted a project was approved a couple of years ago and the developers were asked to look ahead at potential future flooding risk and SLR projections on the property via floodfactor.com and they responded that they didn't because they didn't have to. This would make their projects more resilient.

4. Wrap Up Recommendations Discussion

Ms. Durfee reviewed potential actions identified by the group:

- Town getting behind efforts
- Engaging/Support from State and elected officials
- Neighborhood and regional actions, avoiding impacts on neighbors
- Next steps following studies
- Retrofitting sewage/drain
- CRS and lost discounts for insurance holders
- HBAC Symposium – February
- Requiring developers to go through NH risk assessment
- What SLR looks like on the ground

Ms. Durfee noted it would be great to hear what other focus groups have to say.

Ms. Durfee noted she would email this to members who are engaging their groups:

- Member request time on Board/Committee agenda
- Share/Summarize Recommendations
- Solicit Feedback
- Report back to CHAT

Mr. Diener recommended having names and their affiliations, so people have an awareness who CHAT is.

Mr. LaBranche noted the Budget Committee met last week and will put him on the agenda in the future and he would like to present recommendations and letter. Ms. Durfee noted the Budget Committee has an important role with Warrant Articles and recommendations and it is good for them to understand their pertinence.

Mr. Bassett asked if he and Ms. Bourbeau should approach and distribute the recommendations to their neighbors and Ms. Durfee noted yes and they should understand that their feedback is being solicited and is important to the Team.

Ms. Kravitz recommended the letter make it clear that there is expected to be further vetting and scientific investigation and community input. Mr. Diener agreed. Ms. Kravitz added that the relevance to the tax rate will be what voters are interested in.

Ms. Dionne recommended hosting a public Zoom meeting to take to the public.

Mr. LaBranche questioned the prioritization of the recommendations. For example the CRS – does that need to be at the bottom? Ms. Durfee will remove the prioritizations.

Ms. Durfee will send out version 6.

5. Approve meeting notes from October 2020 - Tabled
6. Next Meeting: January 19, 2021, format TBD
7. Adjourn

The meeting ended at 4:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer
Recording Secretary