

SEABROOK-HAMPTONS ESTUARY ALLIANCE

ESTABLISHED FOR THE PROTECTION OF COASTAL
AND AQUATIC RESOURCES, AND THE PRESERVATION
OF THE SEABROOK-HAMPTONS ESTUARINE
SYSTEM THROUGH EDUCATION, COMMUNITY
OUTREACH AND RESEARCH.

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2020

Annual Report

Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance



The Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance, a New Hampshire non-profit corporation, was formed in 2015. SHEA's mission is to protect the coastal and aquatic resources and preserve the Hampton-Seabrook estuarine system through education, community outreach and research.

Our goal is to preserve, restore, and advocate for the estuary to provide habitat for wildlife, improve water quality, protect against flooding, and provide for responsible recreational and commercial use.

www.shea4nh.org

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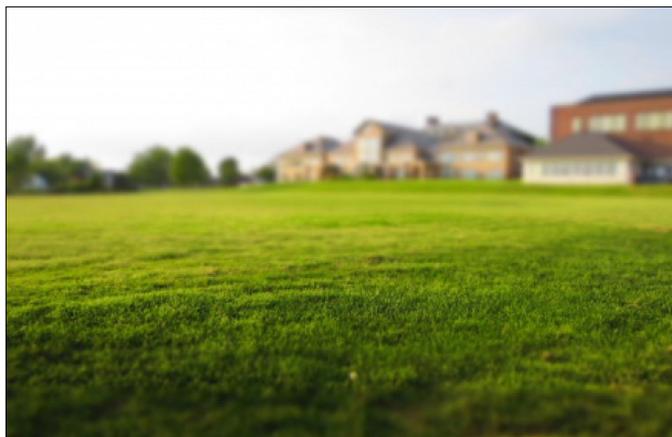
Deborah Wrobel

Annual Report

2020 was both an exciting and a challenging year for SHEA, as it was for so many organizations. Starting in March, all meetings and workshops were held via an online video service, or postponed. Some of our projects had to be tabled or modified because the original format called for people to be working or meeting together in ways that were not practical in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, as you'll read in the following sections, we were able to make good progress on a number of projects, to continue to be faithful to the goals of SHEA, and to address the needs of the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary.

"GREEN GRASS, CLEAR WATER" WEBINAR

June 15, 2020 6:30PM



Many of us enjoy the time we spend working on our lawns and are willing to try new practices as long as our lawns continue to look nice. Watch to learn how you can grow and maintain a beautiful lawn that also helps protect our valuable water resources. Hear about grass seed choices, and fertilizer, watering and mowing tips to keep your yard beautiful, healthy, and safer for our environment.

Julia Peterson, Coastal Water Resources Specialist at the University of NH will present this informative and helpful information, and will be available to answer your questions.

Please click [HERE](#) to register for this important and informative online presentation. Registration is free, but is required.

This project is funded, in part, by NOAA's Office of Coastal Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act in conjunction with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program



Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team

Hampton

The Hampton Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT), formed in January, 2019, continued meeting monthly throughout 2020. The group of municipal and residential representatives was charged with developing adaptation strategies to recommend to the Town to help with coping with and adapting to increasing tidal and storm-surge flooding. In late Spring, after many months of investigations and research, CHAT began the process of compiling, revising, and refining its recommendations. Those draft recommendations were finalized and approved by CHAT members in late Fall. In

December, CHAT began presenting the draft recommendations, comprised of planning, zoning ordinance, funding, and staffing items, to Town boards and departments, as well as to residents. That process will continue into 2021. Refinements of the recommendations, based on municipal and property owner input, should be completed in the first half of 2021. CHAT is developing a strategy to assist with the implementation and progression for the top four recommendations and will reiterate this process as it moves through the entire list of recommendations.





Flood Smart Roundtable

In March, SHEA hosted a Flood Smart Roundtable focused on Flooding Safety and Emergency Preparedness. Emergency Management personnel from Hampton, Seabrook, and Hampton Falls spoke and answered questions about how to prepare for, live with (or escape from), and recover from significant flooding.

In May, SHEA hosted an outreach presentation focused on Green Grass & Clear Water, and on how to create a pollinator garden. Proper lawn maintenance can also protect our water resources, and pollinator gardens are good for the environment and help sustain local wildlife.

In August, SHEA hosted an online photo workshop featuring local photographer Lauren Sadowski, who specializes in photographing nature. This interactive workshop was in advance of SHEA's 5th annual National Estuaries Week Photo Contest.

Held over National Estuaries Week every September, the photo contest accepts and judges photos taken in the estuary in 5 different categories. First and second place winners in each category receive cash awards, and the best photos are featured on the SHEA website.

At the end of September, SHEA hosted a Flood Smart Roundtable discussion about the NHDES Coastal Program and NH SeaGrant Coastal Landowner Technical Assistance Program which works to help coastal landowners understand potential shoreside flood risk, and identify information, tools, and contacts to: reduce individual and community flood risk, utilize nature-based approaches to mitigate erosion and flood damage, and restore natural habitats to enhance the resilience of native ecosystems.

Grants

NHDES Coastal Program Technical Assistance Grant

SHEA was awarded a \$12,500 Technical Assistance Grant for the period of July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. This grant is provided by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act, in conjunction with the NH Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program. Projects covered under this grant include participating in and supporting the programs and projects of the NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup; continuing the work of the Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) in Hampton; exploring the potential to introduce and launch the CHAT program in

other communities; creating additional "Flood Smart Roundtable" citizen discussion events; exploring ways to involve Winnacunnet High School students in educational/research projects related to the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary; and creating and hosting additional outreach and educational projects and events including, but not limited to SHEA's annual National Estuaries Week Photo Contest. This grant also funded the initial information-gathering work for the Visioning Chapter of the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary Management Plan.

NH State Conservation Committee “Moose Plate” Grant

SHEA was awarded this \$21,900 grant in December, 2020 to continue its work toward developing an Estuary Management Plan for the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary. The grant period is from May, 2021 until April 30, 2023. The Moose Plate Grant is intended to cover the cost of producing the Vision, Management Objectives, and Management Strategies chapters, as well as to prepare maps and other support documents.



Hampton-Seabrook Estuary Management Plan

This estuary management plan is intended to serve as an addendum to the master plans of the three towns surrounding the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary, and will include a vision chapter, scientific findings and recommendations regarding the health of the estuary, and management objectives and strategies. If all three towns work collaboratively to help maintain or improve the health and viability of the estuary, then everyone will benefit.

In 2020, with a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, and the help of Independent Planner, Liz Durfee (EF | Design & Planning, LLC) SHEA completed the first step in the development of a management plan for the estuary. This step was an audit of the relevant master plan chapters and zoning ordinances in each of the three communities. The detailed audit compared differences and similarities in how the communities dealt with the estuary, and focused on appropriate best management practices employed by any or all of the communities. The audit was presented to the Planning Boards and Conservation Commissions in each community for their review and comments before being finalized. The audit is available on the SHEA website under Programs/Estuary Management Plan.

Late in 2020, a group of federal, state, and local entities came together to form what became known as the science collaborative, focusing on the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary. The informal partnership includes National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), US Fish & Wildlife, the NH Department of Environmental Services, the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP), the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (GBNERR), Army Corp of Engineers, and



SHEA. With funding provided by the EPA, PREP, and NextEra, a consultant was brought in to help focus and coordinate the efforts of the collaborative. Their work will be the basis for determining the health of the key indicators in the estuary, as well as remedial and/or monitoring activities needed to restore and maintain the health of the estuary overall.

National Estuaries Photo Contest

The SHEA National Estuaries Week Photo Contest is held over National Estuaries Week every September. We accept and judge photos of the estuary in 5 different categories. First and second place winners in each category receive cash awards, and the best photos are features on the SHEA website.

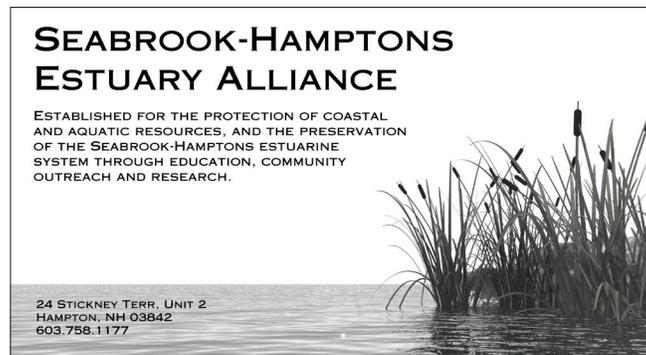




2020

After a year of unanticipated challenges, SHEA is pleased with the progress made, and is looking forward to continuing to build upon existing projects and initiating new efforts to protect and preserve the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary. We encourage you to keep up to date on projects and upcoming webinars by visiting our website and subscribing to the SHEA newsletter.

www.shea4nh.org



New Hampshire
Coastal Program
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



CAW
New Hampshire
Coastal Adaptation
Workgroup

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PREPTM

Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership

Sea Grant
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Extension