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## Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #31

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Tuesday, October 19, 2021

**2:00-4:00 PM**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

#### I. Present

Liz Durfee – Planner/Meeting Facilitator  
Tom Bassett – Resident Representative  
Brianna O'Brien – Hampton Conservation Coordinator  
Jay Diener – Hampton Conservation Commission Vice-Chair  
Jason Bachand – Hampton Town Planner  
Joe Lynch – Hampton DPW Deputy Director  
Bob Ladd – Hampton Village District Precinct  
Rayann Dionne – Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance (joined at 2:06)  
Nathalie DiGeronimo – NHDES Coastal Program (joined at 2:07)  
Kirsten Howard – NHDES Coastal Program (joined at 2:08)

#### 2. Approval of August and September 2021 meeting minutes

Mr. Diener made a motion to approve both the August and September CHAT meeting minutes. Mr. Bachand seconded the motion, all present approved with the following acceptances and notes

- Mr. Basset abstained from the August minutes but approved September's
- Ms. O'Brien abstained from September but approved August
- Ms. Dionne, Ms. DiGeronimo, and Ms. Howard were not present.

#### 3. Relevant Flood Updates

Mr. Bachand shared that the Community Forum was held at Hampton Academy on September 29th. The event was well attended, with approximately 100 participants between the two sessions. The event kicked off with a brief overview of the Master Plan update, followed by different tabletop questionnaires that focused on a variety of topics such as natural hazards and coastal impacts. The consultant is tabulating the results. He noted that the questionnaire is available until the end of October on the Town's Master Plan website ([bitly.com/hampton-master-plan](https://bitly.com/hampton-master-plan)). Ms. Durfee volunteered to email the link to the CHAT group.

Mr. Diener shared that he and Mr. Lynch and others met with the Innovative Scholars from UNH. These students are working on developing water level sensors that can be deployed around Hampton, especially on residential streets. The intent is to collect data about how far the water migrates up the streets during high tide and flooding events and the depth. There was also a reference to connecting this new water level data with a weather station enabling correlation to weather elements like wind. There were about 15-20 freshmen, most of which are studying engineering. Mr. Lynch added they were bright students and asked very intelligent questions.

Ms. Durfee asked about the project timeline. Mr. Diener shared that the time frame is unclear. He noted there was a much smaller group of students working on it last year. He suspects with this larger group and the ability to spend more time in the field and the lab that more progress will be made this year. Mr. Diener noted that they invited them to report back in the spring on the progress they are making, what they are observing, and the future of the project.

Mr. Bassett shared some recent conversations he has had with his neighbors in the Gentian, Greene St, Meadow Pond area. Several questions about the status of the forcemain drainage project and if there would be a warrant article for funding this year. He was looking for an update to share with them. Mr. Lynch said he could provide a little bit of an update as he's sat in on one meeting but that Ms. Hale has been spearheading this project. He shared that they were most recently surveying. They have flushed out some of the bigger elements, like the vulnerability of where the flooding is most prevalent and frequent. Part of the design process is to figure out what can be done in the immediate area to deal with the water and then a future phase would be how to take it further south. Mr. Bassett confirmed seeing surveyors in the field. Ms. DiGeronimo was also in that most recent meeting and noted that they are still in the design phase. There does not appear to be a plan for a warrant article to request construction funding. Mr. Lynch confirmed that they are looking to complete the surveying, information gathering, and preliminary designs, not yet final designs. All of this information is critical to providing an accurate construction cost estimate. There is not enough time to complete the information gathering/design phase before the next Town Meeting vote. Ms. DiGeronimo has provided DPW with information on upcoming FEMA funding opportunities, all of which require match. The ability/level to supply match will heavily influence which funding opportunities the Town can go after for the final design and construction phase.

Mr. Ladd asked Mr. Lynch for a status update on the west side of Ashworth Ave portion of the Flood study. Mr. Lynch shared he hasn't been involved in that yet but would pass the question along to Ms. Hale. Ms. Durfee suggested having a November agenda item for a Flood Study update, funding options/opportunities, and potential warrant articles.

Ms. Dionne shared that the RFP for a communication consultant to support CHAT's public outreach efforts was due last Friday. Unfortunately, there were no submissions. A couple of consultants shared that they felt the project was intriguing but didn't have capacity at this time. In the interim, she identified a consultant resource database geared towards non-profits. The database contained several consultants in the communication/public outreach field. The RFP has been updated and was released on Monday and emailed directly to 8 new consultants. She will follow up towards the end of the week to verify the email was received and not caught in a spam/junk folder. The good news is there's a buffer room, so it's still possible to have a consultant join the November CHAT meeting. Ms. Dionne also thanked Ms. Kravitz and Ms. Bourbeau for volunteering to help with the review process.

Ms. DiGeronimo shared an update on the Upcoming of Special Merit Project opportunity and the concept of adding the Hampton Flood Resilience staff position to that proposal. She is still trying to reach out to Town staff to discuss and hopes to have more information at CHAT's next meeting. Ms. DiGeronimo reminded members of the Rise Tide Photo

contest (Nov 5-8) and that this is a more concerted effort to increase awareness about how this is real issue affects people. Contest promotions will be updated to include quotes from residents about their experience with flooding. If any CHAT members are interested in providing a quote, she will reach out later in the week.

Ms. Howard shared that the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Program recently funded by NOAA is ramping up. She shared that this program is a neighborhood scale version of LTAP (Landowner Technical Assistance Program). The intent is to help neighbors get a better understanding of their risks and options. The effort will be led by Alyson Eberhardt (UNH SeaGrant) and they will be hiring a support staff position. She asked if a member of CHAT would be interested in being on the hiring committee for that position. Ms. Howard volunteered to pass more information along to Ms. Durfee to share with the group.

Ms. Durfee noted that the creation of a video on the progress of Hampton's efforts to increase resilience is underway. This project is part of CAW's Path to Resilience Project. Ms. Durfee asked permission to take a screenshot of the CHAT meeting for use in the video. She also noted that there might be an opportunity to include some interview clips with CHAT members if interested. Say something about your participation and how it's helping Hampton.

#### 4. CHAT membership Update

Ms. Durfee shared that Mr. Labranch has resigned from the Budget Committee and therefore will no longer be participating in CHAT. Mr. Diener or Ms. Durfee will reach out to the budget committee for a replacement. Ms. Durfee commented that she has been keeping track of membership. Ms. Dionne suggested asking Mr. Labranch to rejoin CHAT as a resident representative, as he lives in a narrow section of Hampton Beach that is flanked by marsh and ocean.

#### 5. CHAT Outreach Project Update

Ms. Durfee noted that given the status of the CHAT outreach consultant search, she will coordinate with SHEA and adjust next month's agenda accordingly. Mr. Bassett shared that he'd be willing to help with proposal reviews.

#### 6. Coastal Real Estate Discussion

Ms. Durfee shared that she had hoped to have a realtor or two attend this meeting to share with experiences with coastal real estate prices and sales. Unfortunately, she's having difficulty lining up a guest speaker. She still believes it would be a nice opportunity to talk about resources that are available for both property owners and realtors such as the [Floodfactor website](#) and hear what some of their concerns are about the industry and its future. Ms. Howard shared that there are a couple of local realtors who participated in past King Tide contests. They might be worth contacting. Ms. Howard also noted that there was a realtor who wrote in the Union Leader about the [First Street Foundation study](#). Ms. DiGeronimo would look for the article and provide a link.

**Commented [RD1]:** Liz/Kirsten/Nathalie - can you confirm this is the right study that was being referenced in the Union leader article...I am not familiar with the article or we could change link to the union leader article.

#### 7. Review of Current Draft of Rules and Procedures

Ms. Durfee shared her screen with the comments/edits derived from the previous review of this document.

Following edits and recommendations were agreed upon:

- SHEA will participate but not vote
- Include a list of CHAT members on SHEA's website
- 2-year terms, but staggered, so only half need renewal in a given year.
  - How should reappointment occur – board approved or member to agree to continue.
    - Notify board/commission that the term is open and request a vote on whether a new or existing member will participate
    - Staff decide if they want to participate
    - Residents – decide to continue and/or issue a call town-wide for resident participants?
  - Ms. Durfee will rework this section based on discussion
- Alternates can stand in for a member and can attend any meeting but not vote
- Vacancy will be filled by request from the respective board, commission, committee, or department. For residents – put out a call for participants
- Ms. Durfee will send a follow-up email about the current meeting schedule (day/time) and if that still works
- Voting will be based on the majority of members present
- Non-member attendance – should CHAT be sharing/posting their agenda for public access? Should meetings be advertised or a section for public comment? Should there be a public comment section at the end or beginning of the meeting or after a particular topic?
  - Discuss more – how the agenda is published/advertised and how the public can participate.
- Posted Materials – may add agenda depending on further discussions.
- CHAT will assess progress biannually

#### 8. Next Steps and Topics of Interest

There was a brief discussion on next steps and future meeting topics based on the list of topics CHAT was interested in learning more about following year one and the CHAT recommendations.

Mr. Bachand spoke to the concept of forming a subcommittee to work on the development of a new coastal hazard overlay district (recommendation #18). Given the current work to update the Master Plan, he recommended holding off until that was complete. However, he would keep CHAT up-to-date and provide opportunities for feedback/involvement when appropriate.

Mr. Bassett suggested looking at the DPW flood study recommendations and seeing which ones CHAT could support and help move forward. Ms. Durfee thought it would be appropriate to have DPW provide a more detailed status update at the next meeting. Ms. Howard recommended that CHAT review the flood study recommendation from the

perspective of identifying potential barriers such as what might limit the Town's ability to move forward and what resources might be needed.

For new topics, Ms. Dionne suggested learning more about NFIP's Risk rating 2.0. This new system is changing flood insurance premiums calculations so that the cost is more reflective of actual risk.

9. Next meeting: November 16, 2021

Ms. Durfee noted the date of the November meeting. She recapped that the agenda would include a status update from DPW on the flood study and upcoming related projects, a revised version of the rules and procedures, and an initial discussion with the CHAT outreach consultant, if available.

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:40

Copied from the Agenda: News, info, and online tools of interest

- a. [Flood risk information on Realtor.com](#) (information, link to [Flood Factor](#))
- b. [USA Facts – Climate in the US](#) (statistics)
- c. [NFIP Risk Rating 2.0 – Changes to Flood Insurance Premiums](#) (mapper)
- d. [Coming soon to at-risk homes: Property insurance 'sticker shock'](#) (video)
- e. [Can the economy afford not to fight climate change?](#) (article)
- f. [Nationwide Resilience Report Finding 25% of All Critical Infrastructure and 23% of Roads Have Flood Risk](#) (article)
- g. [UNH receives \\$1.8 million grant to study road resilience and flooding](#) (article)
- h. [Climate in the Classroom](#) (UNH CE project info and link to [video](#))
- i. Recent articles of interest related to outreach:
  - i. [How to effectively show climate change in 25 images](#)
  - ii. [7 core principles for climate change communication](#)