

HAMPTON COASTAL HAZARDS & ADAPTATION TEAM (CHAT)

DECEMBER 2021 MEMBER UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A summary of updates and announcements relevant to flooding, coastal hazards, and coastal planning intended to be shared with Hampton boards, commissions, committees, departments, and the public. Visit <http://shea4nh.org/coastal-hazards-adaptation-team-chat/> for information about CHAT.

- Progress continues on the Piscataqua Region Environmental Planning Assessment (PREPA) grant project. The objective of the PREPA grant is to conduct a land use audit to look for ways to incorporate the [New Hampshire Coastal Flood Risk Summary, Part II: Guidance for Using Scientific Projections](#) into the town ordinances. The consultant for this project, Resilience Planning and Design, has completed the audit of the ordinance. On November 29, 2021, the project team met to discuss proposed revisions, which are primarily in the wetland and floodplain sections of the ordinance. A follow up working session is scheduled for January 11, 2022. Public input sessions will be held, including a virtual forum in March 2022. The Planning Department hopes to bring proposed revisions to the 2023 warrant.
- Roadway puddles are a chronic issue in the Greene St-Meadow Pond-Gentian Rd neighborhood. They form in low spots when water comes up out of the drains during above average tides or when it rains. These puddles are not necessarily deep, but expansive.
- The NHDES Coastal Program is in the process of hiring a program manager for the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Program (NTAP). This will be a 2-year position with UNH Extension and Sea Grant. The program is modeled and builds off of the Landowner Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). The program manager will work at a neighborhood scale to identify strategies that help address flooding, erosion control, and enhance/protect habitat. CHAT members Tom Bassett and Deb Bourbeau are participating in the applicant review process.
- The NHDES Coastal Program, in partnership with the Town of Hampton, submitted a NOAA Project of Special Merit (PSM) grant proposal on December 3, 2021. The proposal included a task to establish and pilot a Coastal Resilience Coordinator position in Hampton. The position's workplan was based on the job description drafted by CHAT. Some of the responsibilities include:
 - Improve internal communication, coordination, and capacity related to coastal resilience
 - Lead the development and financing of coastal resilience projects
 - Identify and address ways to improve floodplain administration and permitting
 - Build off a current PSM project and operationalize a voluntary flood mitigation and relocation program
 - Conduct public outreach and education related to coastal resilience.The funding from this grant would be for approximately \$160,000, which would cover the salary, benefits, and other personnel related expenses. The Coastal Program expects to hear if the proposal is funded in late spring of 2022. If funded, the Board of Selectmen would need to vote to accept the funds and go through the contracting process with the state. The staff person would ideally start in October 2022.
- Jay Diener (Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance) and Kirsten Howard (NHDES Coastal Program) recently participated in a meeting with Rockport, MA, a community that faces similar flooding and sea

HAMPTON COASTAL HAZARDS & ADAPTATION TEAM (CHAT)

DECEMBER 2021 MEMBER UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

level rise issues as Hampton. Rockport is a barrier beach with tidal flooding, inundation, seawall structures, and rising landowner concerns. The Rockport group started meeting in August of 2020 to address these issues and will report out their findings in April of 2022. They were interested in hearing about CHAT's process and progress to date. They would like to use CHAT's history to demonstrate to their community that the process takes time and to buy themselves more time to plan and identify potential adaptation strategies. It was interesting to hear about how another Town is grappling with the same issues. The Rockport group is focused on their deadline now but it is possible that there could be some cross pollination between CHAT and the group in the future.

CHAT's mission is to evaluate, assist, support, educate, and advise on current and future coastal flooding adaptation strategies for the Town.

CHAT is comprised of representatives from boards and commissions in Hampton, Town of Hampton staff, Hampton Beach Area Commission, Hampton Beach Village District, the Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance (SHEA), and resident representatives. CHAT is supported by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program and a meeting coordinator and administered by SHEA.