

# HAMPTON COASTAL HAZARDS ADAPTATION TEAM (CHAT)

## JUNE 2022 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.

- The Town continues the [Master Plan update](#) and consultants are in the writing stage.
- The June 9<sup>th</sup> presentation about the PREPA grant project looking at incorporating the NH Coastal Flood Risk Guidance recommendations into the floodplain ordinance went well. The webinar also included an update from the NH Floodplain Management Program staff rating methodology.
- Planner Jason Bachand shared that the Town received a technical assistance grant from NH Department of Environmental Services to bring the draft floodplain ordinance amendments further towards a final draft and amendment.
- Resident representative Tom Bassett shared images from three days of significant flooding in the Greene Street-Meadow Pond-Gentian Road neighborhood (attached). The supermoon resulted in very high and low tides. Water from Meadow Pond flooded the streets through reverse flow in the stormwater drainage system as well as from spillover into back yards along Gentian Road. Flood depths reached six inches at the Greene Street-Gentian Road intersection.
- The Department of Public Works continues to work on the design of the drainage and flood mitigation project for the King's Highway neighborhood as well as the Ditch Mitigation Project related to the recommendations from the Town's Flood Study Reports. The designs are anticipated to be completed in August 2022.
- The Department of Public Works Director, Jen Hale, shared that the Town was successful in receiving a Coastal Flood Risk Infrastructure Grant with funds that were allocated from the State. The Town received a total of up to \$2 million dollars for the King's Highway Project. The Department is still looking into how to fund the \$400,000 balance of the project through grants or possibly a warrant article.
- Conservation Coordinator Brianna O'Brien received a phone call from a resident concerned about groundwater rise, which was the first call she had received on this topic.
- Two applications were reviewed at the Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting for relief from the flood zone construction standards for properties located on Mooring Drive. During the meeting, questions were raised about the validity of the ordinances requiring property that does not experience wave velocity to be subject to these standards. Conservation Coordinator Brianna O'Brien noted that the intent of the ordinance is to prevent homeowners from having to rebuild and repair damages as sea level rises. CHAT was asked to review the ordinance and discuss potential amendments to improve the language of the ordinance.
- Via email, resident representative Deb Bourbeau shared that last week, the tide was high and flooded the back streets of Ashworth Avenue.
- Resident representative Deb Bourbeau continues to help distribute information to her neighbors and other interested residents. She forwarded an announcement about a Department of Public Works presentation at the Hampton Beach Village District meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup> to her email distribution list.
- Articles of Interest:
  - [NOAA Predicts Above Normal 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season](#)
  - WMUR [Climate Change Could Increase Flood Events in New Hampshire](#)

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