| Recommendation | Detailed Version of Recommendation | Notes and updates, possible roles for CHAT, and next steps |
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| *These recommendations are subject to modification based on input from staff, board and commission members, and the public. CHAT may also propose revisions. Order of recommendations does not indicate priority.* | | |
| Outreach, Engagement & Education |  |  |
| Increase efforts to engage and inform the community of flood hazards, vulnerability, and opportunities to increase resilience. | Continue and enhance public outreach efforts to engage and inform community members of flood hazards, vulnerability, and opportunities to increase resiliency and to solicit input from residents. | Sept 2022 update: CHAT's Strategic Engagement Plan has been drafted and implementation has commenced.  Next steps: Continue to identify opportunities to share information with and collect information from the public. |
| Floodplain Ordinance |  |  |
| Review the Floodplain Ordinance and draft amendments to reduce vulnerability to flooding. | a.     Prohibit construction of critical facilities within high risk Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) unless the project has been reviewed using the NH Coastal Flood Risk Guidance and the following criteria are met: (i) No feasible alternative location exists, (ii) the facility is designed to higher protection standards, (iii) a flood evacuation plan has been developed.  b.     Prohibit new construction within the SFHA. c.     Prohibit placement of fill within the SFHA OR require compensatory storage.  d.     Reduce the substantial improvement threshold from 50% to 40% of the market value of the structure. e.     Require that improvements and repairs be tracked cumulatively over a certain time period (i.e. 3,5, 10 yrs) to ensure that flood regulations are triggered with enough reinvestment in the building. f.      Reduce impervious surface coverage limit within the SFHA from 60-75% to 50% for all districts.  g.     Require 2 feet of freeboard or elevation based on the Design Flood Elevation determined using the NH Coastal Flood Risk Guidance. h. Require that construction or substantial improvement of any structure within the SFHA (as opposed to only structures in the Tidal Wetland Conservation District) comply with the standards of section 2.4.11-C. | Coordination with Planning Dept and Planning Board would be required in order to identify if and how CHAT can assist with implementation of these zoning amendments.  CHAT’s role in floodplain ordinance-related strategies could involve targeted education and engagement of Planning Board or creation of material to explain why the proposed changes are recommended.  Sept 2022 update: Planning Dept is continuing the amendment process with technical assistance through the NH Coastal Program.  Next steps: CHAT members should review proposed amendments to the ordinance. CHAT could assist with outreach related to proposed amendments. CHAT members should follow along with and review proposed changes the Floodplain Ordinance associated with the audit. |
| Other Policies and Regulations |  |  |
| Develop a new coastal hazard overlay district with regulations to control development in vulnerable areas. | Form a subcommittee to work on development of a new coastal hazard overlay district that has higher regulatory standards for areas of the community at risk to flooding and sea level rise. One requirement within the overlay would be that individuals who submit an application to the Planning Board, or the building inspector if no Planning Board approval is required, utilize the NH Coastal Flood Risk Guidance. Another potential component could be inclusion of areas of predicted marsh migration under specific scenarios and timeframes. | CHAT has had some preliminary discussions about creation of an overlay district. CHAT could continue to coordinate with the Planning Dept and Planning Board on this concept following the completion of the master plan.  Next steps: Review and comment on the PREPA recommendations and Master Plan recommendations. |
| Restructure the project review process to increase awareness of flood vulnerability. | Investigate opportunities to improve applicant, local board awareness of flood vulnerability by restructuring the project review process. | CHAT, or a subgroup of CHAT members who are involved in the review process (staff), could flesh out this recommendation more and provide more specifics on why the project review process could be restructured. Educational material could also be developed to support discussions with boards and staff. The new CEO should be engaged in this discussion. |
| Explore options to use land use ordinances and regulations to encourage and incentivize development in areas that are not vulnerable to current or future flooding, while discouraging development in areas that are vulnerable to current or future flooding. | Review Zoning Ordinance, Site Plan Review Regulations, and Subdivision Regulations and identify opportunities and strategies to encourage and incentivize development in areas that are not vulnerable to current or potential future flooding. | RPC and partners are in the process of developing a resilient land use guide that will have recommendations and examples of regulatory tools for building resilience. Once this is released, CHAT could review the document and help identify what might be most relevant/effective for the Town. |
| Allow parking in municipal parking lots when tides are in excess of 9.5 feet, as opposed to 10.0 feet. | Amend Town of Hampton Code Section 805-9(M)(1) to lower the threshold for authorized parking in municipal parking lots when tides are in excess of 9.5 feet (as opposed to 10.0 feet). | CHAT has started compiling information to support this recommendation. Once sufficient information is collected, CHAT could submit a letter to the Board of Selectmen. Next step to collect parking data |
| Planning and Land Use |  |  |
| Integrate sea level rise impacts in the Comprehensive Master Plan and identify strategies for effectively responding to sea level rise and encouraging development in safe areas. | Require that the Comprehensive Master Plan and future updates of the Comprehensive Master Plan integrate sea level rise (SLR) impacts throughout of the plan and identify strategies for effectively responding to SLR and encouraging development in safe areas. | This is related to the ongoing Master Plan update. CHAT’s role could be to review and comment on the draft plan when it is available.  No action needed at this time unless CHAT wants to comment on the draft Master Plan. |
| Support an Implementation Committee to follow up on recommendations of the Master Plan. | Establish an Implementation Committee to ensure that the various recommendations of the Comprehensive Master Plan are carefully considered and adopted in a timely manner, as appropriate. | This is related to the ongoing master plan. There will be an implementation committee. |
| Start a visioning process to think about the long-term future of areas that are anticipated to be impacted by sea level rise. | Conduct a visioning effort to begin to identify potential positive, alternative land uses and activities for areas that are anticipated to be impacted by SLR. | CHAT could lead or assist a visioning effort. Additional engagement efforts would likely be required prior to this effort to set the scene for this type of discussion. Any discussion on future land use should be informed by the master plan.  Next steps: Review Master Plan findings and recommendations (when available), lay out a plan to start this visioning process. |
| Prioritize land conservation efforts in areas that can support marshes in the future. | Prioritize land conservation initiatives in areas of predicted marsh migration. | April 2022 Update: Conservation Coordinator is building off of SHEA’s prior efforts on conserving land to accommodate marsh migration. July 2022 update: Conservation Coordinator shared an update of the Conservation Commissions conservation priorities.  Next steps: Compile existing resources and maps depicting marsh migration, create new resources as needed, share with Conservation Commission and property owners. |
| Economic Implications of Sea-Level Rise and Flooding |  |  |
| Conduct an assessment to better understand and plan for the economic impacts (development, tourism, tax base, etc.) of sea level rise. | Conduct an assessment to better understand and plan for the economic and social impacts (development, tourism, tax base, etc.) associated with SLR.4  Initiate a discussion on how coastal properties are assessed and the impacts of sea level rise on properties. | SHEA Submitted proposal 7/31/21 for economic study. CHAT provided a letter of support for the grant application. The project was not funded;  Flagged by CHAT as one of the recommendations that the group would like to start investigating/supporting implementation of.  April 2022 update: SHEA is working to get a project proposal together for funding.  Next Steps: Coordinate with SHEA on project development. Look for examples from other communities and studies |
| Continue to pursue participation in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System. | Continue to work with out-of-compliance property owners to comply with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) so that the Town can join the Community Rating System (CRS), the Community Resilience & Floodplain Administrator can track and identify points for CRS, and property owners who pay flood insurance can benefit from reduced premiums. | CHAT could play a role in educating residents about CRS. CHAT could also request updates about compliance status on a semi-annual basis. |
| Financing, Funding, and Municipal Investment |  |  |
| Prohibit construction of critical facilities within high-risk Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) unless the project has been reviewed using the NH Coastal Flood Risk Guidance and meets certain criteria. | Prohibit construction of critical facilities within high-risk Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) unless the project has been reviewed using the NH Coastal Flood Risk Guidance and meets certain criteria. | CHAT could initiate a discussion with the BOS on creating a policy. |
| Identify funding sources to build town-wide flood resilience. Funding sources may include a dedicated local fund. | Create Capital Reserve account or Community Resilience Incentive Zone (NH RSA 79-E) with seed funding to be used for grant match and cost share for municipal repairs, upgrades, flood mitigation and/or projects identified in the Coastal Management Master Plan Chapter, Hazard Mitigation Plan, flood engineering studies, and other local or regional flood studies. | CHAT started refining and investigating implementation of this strategy in Feb 2022; April 2022 update: CHAT has determined more information is needed and is going to table the discussion on this recommendation for now. A possible interim step is to conduct and economic impact study. CHAT discussed the need for town-wide flood resilience. |
| Projects in the Capital Improvement Plan should identify and account for climate change impacts. | Develop a process or policy for staff and departments to follow to identify and account for climate change impacts when submitting a project for inclusion in the Capital Improvement Plan. | CHAT could draft a preliminary process or policy and develop supporting rationale for the policy.  Next steps: Identify guest speakers from other communities who could share their experience with this. |
| Hire a full time Community Resilience & Floodplain Administrator staff position. | Create a full time Community Resilience & Floodplain Administrator staff position. A percentage of this individual's role would be allocated to administering the floodplain ordinance and a percentage would be allocated to building climate resiliency and educating about flood and climate resiliency. May be an opportunity for a regional staff person. | CHAT drafted position description Aug 2021; NHDES + Town refined description and submitted Project of Special Merit proposal; It is anticipated that the Coastal Resilience Coordinator would start in fall 2022.  Next steps: Invite future staff member to join CHAT. Coordinate with staff on community outreach. |
| Modeling and Flood Studies |  |  |
| Future modeling efforts and studies should build off findings of the flood engineering studies and Master Plan. | Utilize data obtained through flood engineering studies and Coastal Management Master Plan Chapter as baseline data for future modeling efforts and studies. | No immediate action may be required by CHAT for this recommendation. |
| Look for and apply for funding to continue engineering and hydrogeological studies and address flooding and drainage issues. | Seek funding to continue engineering and hydrogeological studies and address flooding and drainage in vulnerable areas. | CHAT’s role could be to identify outreach and educational needs on this topic, assist with identifying funding sources. |
| Risk Disclosure |  |  |
| Advocate options to require flood risk disclosure, including, but not limited, to statewide legislation that requires that current and future flood risk is disclosed so that future owners are aware of the potential risk. | Advocate options to require flood risk disclosure, including, but not limited, to statewide legislation that requires that current and future flood risk is disclosed so that future owners are aware of the potential risk. | CHAT could review reports on states with disclosures and identify potential recommendations for New Hampshire. |