

HAMPTON COASTAL HAZARDS ADAPTATION TEAM (CHAT)

MARCH 2023 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.

- Mr. Bassett - Resident Representative (emailed)
 - Warrant Article #12 (King's Highway Drainage Project) passed in the March 14 Town of Hampton election (1535 YES votes and 475 NO votes. The new forced drain system will be a significant upgrade to our infrastructure and should reduce flooding in the Greene St-Meadow Pond-Gentian Rd neighborhood. Looking forward to working with DPW in the next phases of this project.
- Mr. Bachand – Hampton Town Planner
 - Master Plan Steering Committee held its final meeting last week. Transitioning to establishing the implementation committee by June.
 - He and the Planning Board Chair will present the final Master Plan to the Board of Selectmen next week.
 - Final Master Plan is available on the Town website – link.
- Ms. Howard – NHDES Coastal Program
 - NHDES Coastal Program recently released a request for applications for the 2023 NH Coastal Resilience Grants opportunity ([link](#)).
 - Eligible entities - all 17 coastal municipalities, non-profits, and state, regional, or quasi-government agencies. Consultants can only apply if partnered with an eligible organization.
 - Funding level - \$200K available total with project levels of \$10K to \$70K. A 25% cash or in-kind match is requested but can be waived with reasonable justification.
 - Project Types – capacity building, planning, or design projects with the intent to help build resilience to coastal hazards. Ms. Howard read a few of the project examples identified in the application instructions.
 - Timeline – Questions can be submitted by April 28th. All answers will be made publicly available. Application deadline is May 26th through the DES application portal.
- Ms. Kravitz – Hampton Beach Area Commission
 - HBAC's Resilience and Environmental Master Plan chapter update is about 50% complete.
 - Estimated timeline includes public outreach in April and the final plan approved by the end of June.
 - The new HBAC website should be online by early June. Website to serve as a host for providing and receiving information on projects like the Route 1a Bridge project.
- Mr. Diener – Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance
 - SHEA has partnered with RPC to establish a group similar group as CHAT in Seabrook called the Coastal Resilience Team. A kickoff meeting was held in mid-February. The group is progressing and plans to hold another meeting in mid-April to discuss potential eligible projects for the Coastal Resilience Grant.

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- Ms. Heming - UNH SeaGrant
 - The Neighborhood Technical Assistance Program has been renamed the “Flood Ready Neighborhood Project”.
 - The program involves working with up to 6 neighborhoods throughout NH’s seacoast area that are currently or potentially in the future vulnerable to some level of flood risk.
 - Objective is to work with neighborhoods to create a neighborhood-scale action plan for effective flood adaptation solutions or options. This can also include identifying ways to increase social connectivity or their voice within the community.
 - Three neighborhoods in Hampton have been identified - Meadow Pond/Gentian Road, Hobson/Manchester Ave, and SunValley (partially in Seabrook).

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.