
Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #46

Tuesday, January 17, 2022

1:00-3:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

1. Introductions

Jason Bachand – Hampton Town Planner

Tori Bamford – Hampton Coastal Resilience Coordinator

Tom Bassett – Hampton Resident Representative

Jay Diener - Hampton Conservation Commission

Maddie Dilonno –Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) (arrived at 1:50)

Rayann Dionne - Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance (SHEA)

Liz Durfee - CHAT Coordinator and Planner

Jennifer Hale - Hampton Department of Public Works (DPW) (arrived at 1:10 pm)

Kristin Howard –NH Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program (NHDESCP)

Barbara Kravitz - Hampton Beach Area Commission

Stephen LaBranche – Hampton Resident Representative

Bob Ladd – Hampton Beach Village District

Keith Lessard – Hampton Planning Board

Brendan Lynch – NHDESCP (arrived at 1:10 pm)

Brianna O'Brien – Hampton Conservation Coordinator

Lucy Perkins – NHDESCP (arrived at 1:10 pm)

2. Meeting Minute Approval

- November 2022 Minutes
 - Motion: Mr. LaBranche moved to approve the November 2022 CHAT Minutes
 - Second: Mr. Basset
 - Vote: All in Favor; Mr. Lessard abstained
- December 2022 Minutes
 - Ms. Kravitz suggested edit for page 3 to state that the HBAC is a state-mandated entity, not part of the Town.
 - Motion: Mr. Bachand moved to approve the December 2022 CHAT Minutes
 - Second: Ms. Kravitz
 - Vote: All in Favor; Mr. LaBranche and Mr. Lessard abstained

3. Relevant Flood Updates

- Mr. Bachand provided the following updates:
 - Master Plan Steering Com meets on January 18th to review the latest draft, and a public input session is scheduled for February 15, 2023.

- Flood Smart Steering Committee will convene its first kick-off meeting on January 19, 2022. The main objectives are to review the project scope, the PREPA Grant floodplain ordinance findings, and the draft sea-level rise flood design elevation options.
- Mr. Bassett shared photos of major flooding in the Greene St/Gentian Rd/Meadow Pond neighborhood on December 23-24, 2022.
 - High tide was predicted to be 10.3 ft but ended up at 13.25 ft, accompanied by 1.4" of rainfall. Had not seen this level of flooding before.
 - Ms. Howard shared that the January 2018 storm event had a high tide of 13.24 ft
 - Meadow Pond breached its banks and flooded the backyards of adjacent homes
 - Some street fire hydrants were $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way underwater
 - On December 24th cold weather caused roads to ice over.
 - Increased number of neighbors sending photos, able to capture impacts from Meadow Pond up to King's Highway
 - Several neighbors were unable to leave their homes
 - Ms. Durfee asked how long residents were stuck.
 - Mr. Basset shared that some had to cancel December 24th plans but were able to leave on the 25th.
- Mr. LaBranche shared the following observations
 - The 13ft tide height compares to the major flooding event in 1978.
 - Based on flooding images and updates from neighbors regarding the December storm, ocean water breached the Ocean Blvd seawall at Rocky Bend, came up through various seawall stairwells, and crossed the four lanes of Ocean Blvd.
 - No snowbanks to slow water down. Homes near his had flooding in garages and lower-level apartment units.
 - Flooding at the intersection of Island Path and Ashworth Aves. High winds up to 65 mph and rain heightened the flooding and increased property damage.
 - Mutual aid from nearby Towns was requested to help handle car and building fires. Concerned that Towns will be resistant to offer future mutual aid if their experience expensive emergency response equipment experience saltwater damage (i.e., ladder truck).
- Ms. Durfee presented the idea of capturing from community members the areas that experienced flooding that doesn't normally occur and mapping them. This information could be combined with sea-level rise scenarios for comparison purposes.
- Ms. Kravitz noted that the flooding images were compelling and spoke to the seriousness of this issue.
 - Asked Ms. Hale how many days it takes for this type of flooding to recede.
 - Ms. Hale responded that no two events are the same, although many have similar characteristics. For this one, it took until December 25th (2 days) for levels to return to normal.
- Questions to Ms. Hale
 - Ms. Kravits asked how the proposed engineering work would change the likelihood of this kind of flooding happening.
 - Ms. Hale responded that work would not eliminate flooding but help to alleviate some of it. It will help manage rainwater, but it cannot handle the water/volume

when Meadow Pond is full and overflows into yards and streets. As a reminder, the flood studies identified flood control options like a berm or wall on the back of Gentian Rd that need further studying and design.

- Ms. Kravitz asked if the flood waters were saltwater or freshwater.
 - Ms. Hale responded that it is typically brackish.
 - Mr. Bassett added that water sampling from NHDES is showing high salinity.
- Mr. Ladd asked how close were we to having mutual aid not reach the beach area.
 - Ms. Hale responded that it was challenging because Route 101, Winnacunnet Rd, Ashworth Ave, Brown Ave, and Ocean Blvd were closed. However, emergency vehicles and equipment could get through.
 - Ms. Hale shared that she took a video of ocean water flowing like a river over Ocean Blvd down High St (at the end of High St by Bicentennial Park).
- Mr. Ladd asked if other Towns have reported any damage to their equipment
 - Ms. Hale was not aware of any reports at this time, although Hampton PD did have an issue with one of their vehicles
- Ms. O'Brien shared her personal experience trying to reach her home at the end of King's Highway
 - Could not reach her home; initial plan was to wait for high water vehicle, but it was in use for higher priority emergencies. DPW took her home when a vehicle became available.
 - Extremely inconvenient; substantial flooding in the garage (found fish); structurally safe, but the complete inability to leave is concerning.
 - Had an elderly visitor - what would or wouldn't happen if there was a medical emergency?
 - Always recognized the potential risk, but the first time it became real.
 - Revisiting and changing flood event/emergency planning - becoming more frequent.
- Ms. Howard thanked those for sharing their experiences. Asked whether Town staff has heard any reports on the aftermath regarding those with and without flood insurance.
 - Only Ms. O'Brien. She shared that some people have called about post-storm event repairs for seawalls (6 repairs), decks (one floated away), and one is interested in elevating.
- Mr. Ladd shared that an insurance agent presented at Beach Village District's January meeting. Noted that flood damage is not covered under homeowner's insurance. Separate policy required.
- Ms. Kravitz asked about the status of Hampton receiving insurance credits/discounts (FEMA Community Rating System)
 - Mr. Bachand responded that the Town Manager and Building Inspector are currently working with FEMA to bring a few properties into compliance. Once resolved, the Town will be eligible to apply to the CRS program.
- Mr. LaBranche shared insight on how flood insurance is handled in Florida.
 - Two weeks ago, FL enacted a law requiring residents to have flood insurance.
 - Hard to find insurance independent companies – created a citizen's insurance program organized and funded by the state. Last option if you can't find insurance elsewhere.
 - It is expensive – he pays three times for a much smaller house than he does in NH.
- Mr. Diener shared that Saturday, February 4th is the Town's deliberative session at the Hampton Academy beginning at 8:30 am. Noted a conflict with NHDOT's open house (same day) regarding Route 1A from High St to the Bridge. Requested NHDOT consider rescheduling, no word yet.

- Ms. Kravitz added that there is a public hearing on NHDOT 10-year plan in early February. Can find a copy of the plan on the RPC or NHDOT website.
- Ms. Perkins shared that the Rising Tide Photo Contest period begins January 20th through Jan 24th. The site visit planned for Hampton (Manchester/Hobson Ave) is scheduled for Monday morning (Jan 24th, 11:30 to 12:30). Noted that Ms. Howard and Ms. O’Brien will participate, and 12-13 people have registered. Thanked them for the previous meeting’s feedback on the site visit concept.
 - Ms. Durfee added that it would be great to get a video clip of a member giving a CHAT overview/update at this event. Could be used in future social media posts.
- Ms. Howard asked for an update on the status of DPW’s National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant and 2023 warrant article for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant match.
 - Ms. Hale shared that the final NFWF reports and accounting were submitted on Nov 29th. About \$6,000 of grant funds were not expended. Grant will close once the last reimbursement is received.
 - The \$2M ARPA grant is for the King’s Highway drainage project. Will be a request on the 2023 Town meeting ballot to allocate \$800,000 from the undesignated fund as grant match.
 - Ms. Kravitz asked how this funding compares/complements the NFWF grant. Ms. Hale noted that NFWF funded design work while this grant is for installation.

4. Member interests and meeting planning for 2023

Ms. Durfee led CHAT members through a series of poll questions to help with future meeting planning. See the results below.

Poll Questions

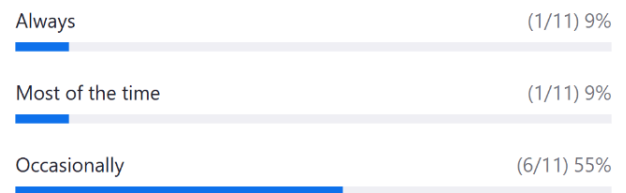
1. Do you feel that you have enough time during CHAT meetings to ask questions and discuss issues that are important to you and the department/board/entity you represent? (Single Choice) *

11/11 (100%) answered



2. How often do you share or distribute the CHAT Monthly Updates and Announcements Summary? (Single Choice) *

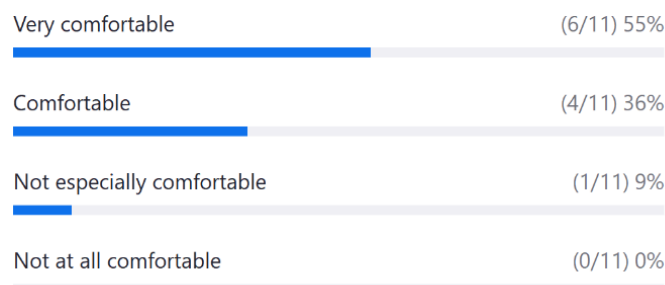
11/11 (100%) answered



3. How comfortable would you be talking about CHAT's recommendations with others? (Single Choice) *

(3/11) 27%

11/11 (100%) answered



Breakout Discussions

Ms. Durfee then broke the CHAT members into breakout groups to identify and discuss what CHAT's most effective role(s) should be in 2023.

- Group 1: Discussion Summary presented by Ms. Dionne
 - Revisit topics discussed at the start of CHAT related to potential flood impacts and available strategies. Suitable for both existing and new CHAT members
 - Increase public outreach and discussions on CHAT's recommendations
 - Create and support opportunities that bring neighborhoods together to talk about resilience issues – Learn more about the NTAP program (Neighborhood Technical Assistance Program)
 - Community input and buy-in are key to moving recommendations forward
 - Public education is important
 - CHAT needs to prioritize 1 to 3 efforts (low-hanging fruit) and create an atmosphere that brings about consensus on the issues and helps to build capacity.

- Group 2: Discussion Summary presented by Mr. Diener
 - Fresh look at recommendations to see if there should be any updates based on new research and/or data.
 - Work with the Planning Department and Hampton Beach Area Commission to implement components of both master plans that overlap or support CHAT's recommendations.
 - Continue emphasizing the importance of communication amongst CHAT and communicating with Hampton residents.
 - Brainstorming the idea of hosting a public CHAT meeting – more than just these meetings.
 - Such as a CHAT symposium to discuss the recommendations and have guest speakers.
 - Explain the importance of public input and how their support helps future implementation.

Future Meeting Topics of Interest

Ms. Durfee will create a list of the previous topics and guest speakers for members to review.

Asked the members to share any new ideas:

- Identifying how CHAT can help to support Master Plan efforts (Town and HBAC)
- How CHAT's recommendations relate to the floodplain ordinance
- Information on the Hazard Mitigation Plan update process and progress to date
 - Sections of interest might be emergency management and evacuation
 - Mr. Bachand shared that it is under review with FEMA and then goes to BOS for adoption.
- Tour of elevated structures in Hampton (open to the public too?)
- Refining specific recommendations
 - prioritizing which to focus on next
- Revisit CHAT membership and participation to ensure engagement with all appropriate departments and boards.

- Elections in March – good opportunity to return to the boards if they want to keep their current rep or a new one.
- Discuss ways to improve flood update delivery to boards and commissions
- Guest speakers relevant to CHAT’s focus.
 - Federal funding opportunities – Increase CHAT’s understanding of opportunities that are key to building resilience and CHAT’s ability to network and advocate.

5. Follow-up items:

Deferred to next meeting

- a. 2022 Year in Review, new draft page 3 (attached)
- b. Social Media Policy draft 3, revised content (attached); comments from Jay (attached)
- c. Recommendations Fact Cards, new ‘what you can do pages’ (attached)

6. StoryMap Outline (attached), if time

Deferred to next meeting

7. Next meeting: February 21, 2022, 1 pm-3 pm

8. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm