
Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #48

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

1:00-3:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Draft Minutes

1. Introductions

Jason Bachand – Hampton Town Planner

Tori Bamford – Hampton Coastal Resilience Coordinator

Jay Diener - Hampton Conservation Commission

Rayann Dionne - Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance (SHEA)

Jennifer Hale - Hampton Department of Public Works (DPW) (left at 2:00)

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

Barbara Kravitz - Hampton Beach Area Commission

Chris Muns – Hampton Representative (left at 2:00)

Eric Sunderlin – Hampton DPW Engineer Technician

Mikaela Hemming – UNH SeaGrant (left at 1:30)

2. Approve meeting notes from February 2023

- February 2023 Minutes
 - Motion: Mr. Diener moved to approve the January 2023 CHAT Minutes
 - Second: Ms. Hale
 - Vote: All in Favor

3. Relevant Flood Updates

- Ms. Dionne shared an emailed update from Mr. Basset
 - 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
 - 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 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
 - 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
 - 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.
- Ms. Heming
 - 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).

4. Finalize Social Media Guidelines

- Motion to approve guidelines
 - Motion: Mr. Diener moved to approve the shorter social media guidelines for the Facebook page
 - Second: Mr. Bachand
 - Vote: All in Favor
- Consensus to revisit the longer version at the next meeting
- Mr. Diener shared his experience on a 3-person Facebook posting team for the NH Association of Conservation Commissions. This approach ensures that the page has at least three new posts weekly.

- Mr. Diener also shared this approach with Brianna. If CHAT is interested, she will work on establishing a Facebook posting team.
- All in Favor of Brianna moving forward with creating a Facebook Page
- Ms. Howard noted that Tori's coastal resilience coordinator workplan includes public outreach and communication. This could provide some added capacity.

5. Discussion on Inviting New Members

- Ms. Dionne shared
 - In the next couple of months, it would be worthwhile to revisit the Town Boards and Commission to share CHAT's 2022 year in review and check in on participation in CHAT. There are some boards and/or commissions with low CHAT participation.
 - The year-in-review provides a prime opportunity to bring people up to speed, especially those boards/commissions onboarding new members.
 - SHEA will schedule and support these board/commission visits alongside 1 or 2 additional CHAT members.
- Ms. Kravitz clarified that the focus is on confirming which board/commission member is participating in CHAT instead of the group's interest in having a representative at CHAT. Ms. Dionne responded that is correct.
- Mr. Diener added that these boards/commissions were approached at the onset of CHAT and agreed to send a representative to participate in CHAT.
- Ms. Hale wrote in the chat box that it couldn't hurt to write a letter to each "board" to ask them to designate or reconfirm.
- Ms. Dionne asked if there were any other groups or staff that CHAT would like to see represented. Noting there is interest in bringing on board the Building Inspector and Emergency Management Director – two positions that have been recently filled with new staff members.
- Rep. Muns recommended a representative from the School District and 1 or 2 Winnacunnet High School students. Help instill civic responsibility and carry back information to the student body.
 - Several members were intrigued by this idea
 - Mr. Diene raised concerns about CHAT meeting times conflicting with the school day. He recommended including a faculty member(s) incorporating climate change and resilience in their curriculum. They could provide some interesting perspectives and bring information back to the students.
 - Rep. Muns asked about the Chamber of Commerce
 - Ms. Hale shared that they had been invited before but stay plugged in through the Village District and BOS.
 - Ms. Dionne noted they could consider visiting and sharing the 2022 Year-in-Review
 - There was a discussion about the different approaches to inviting and engaging potential new CHAT members. General interest in designing a CHAT meeting around what CHAT has been doing – a mini-symposium – to help inform and gain interest in CHAT needs
 - Ms. Howard recommended having representatives from different groups, like John Nyan from the Chamber of Commerce, to provide a greater perspective on how

businesses think about flooding. Discuss with Commerce/businesses what they need and whether CHAT is interested and has the capacity to work with them. From there, maybe it could be the hook to bring them in.

- Ms. Dionne recommended creating a list of potential speakers/guests

6. Continue Discussion on the 2023 Recommendation Focus

- Ms. Dionne noted that at the end of February’s meeting, members were asked to write two recommendations in the chat box that they would like to spend more time on in 2023.
 - CHAT members discussed if any other recommendations should be added to this list and completed a poll to refine focus. The selected recommendations and meeting poll results are summarized in the table below

Category	Selected Recommendation	March Poll
Outreach	Increase efforts to engage and inform the community of flood hazards, vulnerability, and opportunities to increase resilience.	X
Ordinance/Regulations	Develop a new coastal hazard overlay district to regulate development in vulnerable areas.	X
	Restructure the development project review process to increase awareness of flood vulnerability.	
	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.	X
Projects/Studies	Start a visioning process to think about the long-term future of areas that are anticipated to be impacted by sea level rise.	X
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	X
New - Feb	Increase the presence of our joined state, federal, and local government as well as non-profits as it relates to coastal resiliency.	
	Keep the Board of Selectman updated more frequently and prioritize the recommendations with them.	
New - Mar	Focus on CHAT recommendations that align with Hampton Master Plan recommendations.	

- Additional discussion on the recommendation
 - Increasing efforts to engage and inform the community

- Engagement sub-committee – review the mission and look at the next steps
- Continuing and sustaining the momentum of the Engagement committee and evaluating the outreach progress/success
- Involving schools – outdoor classes on relevant topics
- Development of a new coast hazard overlay district
 - Create a fund to support actions that could be costly in this district (benefit from state legislation)
 - Support buy-outs or voluntary purchases; support staff capacity to manage the process; other adaptation strategies.
 - Ordinance Review Committee – looking at how many buildings are in the current floodplain and how many would be added into the overlay district (500-yr floodplain, flood scenario, plus storm surge). The analysis is completed with mapping – share results with CHAT in a future meeting
 - Learn from others
 - David Waters – views and expertise on overlay districts
 - Durham (advisory) and Portsmouth (2' SLR overlay – new development regulations)
- Hampton Master Plan recommendations
 - Presentation/summary of Master Plan recommendations relevant to CHAT
 - CHAT works to prioritize those relevant action items
 - Good timing, given the formation of the Master Plan Implementation Committee. Should CHAT be a member of that committee?
 - Contains recommendations related to managed retreat – an opportunity to explore some case studies. How does the work with RPC to develop a FEMA Mitigation Assistance program fit in?
- Consensus to revisit this topic and have a second poll to refine the list in April.

7. Participation in the Coastal Resource and Resilience Fair - May 20th

- Mr. Diener gave an update on a recent CHAT engagement meeting to discuss having a table/station at the Fair. No definitive plan yet, but considering providing access to the storyMap, creating CHAT business cards with a QR code to point to storyMap, making copies of the CHAT fact cards and the 2022 year-in-review available, and creating a poster to attract attention. The poster could be a photo of one of the streets that often floods in Hampton and have people use post-it notes or tags to predict where flooding might be in 2030 or 2050 – to get people talking about flooding.
- Ms. O'Brien has offered to staff the table, but having others present will be important. Any additional ideas are welcomed.

8. Hampton Master Plan - Letter of Recommendation for 2023 New Hampshire Planners Association Plan of the Year nomination.

- SHEA is working with the Planning Department to nominate Hampton Master Plan as the Plan of the Year. Part of that process involves securing letters of support.

- SHEA is drafting a letter of support and is willing to reference CHAT and their connection and use of the Plan unless CHAT wants to write an independent letter.
 - Consensus was for SHEA to reference CHAT in their recommendation letter.

9. Next meeting: April 18, 2022, 1 pm-3 pm

10. Adjourn at 3:02 pm