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SEABROOK COASTAL RESILIENCE TEAM

Meeting #1 - February 16, 2023

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Draft Meeting Minutes

I. Introductions

Bill Manzi – Seabrook Town Manager (joined at 10:10 am)
Curtis Slayton – Seabrook Water and Sewer Superintendent
Maddie Dilonno – Regional Planner - Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC)
Jay Diener – Vice President – Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance (SHEA)
Rayann Dionne – Executive Director/Project Lead - SHEA

II. Coastal Resiliency Team purpose, goals, and objectives overview

- Mr. Diener provided a brief overview of the Hampton Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT)
 - Objective - provide a unique space/opportunity to learn and discuss coastal hazards and flooding impacts and identify potential strategies to help Hampton prepare for increases in the extent of coastal flooding due to sea-level rise and more frequent and intense storm events.
 - Composition - Town staff, municipal officials, and resident representatives
 - Met monthly since forming in 2019.
 - Interested to see if a similar effort might be beneficial in Seabrook.
- Ms. Dilonno shared slides related to forming Seabrook's CRT
 - For an Ad hoc group composed of Seabrook municipal staff, board members, and residents to help:
 - Identify and advance goals related to climate adaptation and resiliency
 - Improve collaboration, increase awareness, and build capacity
 - SHEA and RPC available to help organize and facilitate meetings
 - Build upon the existing Seabrook climate change and resilience recommendations identified in existing planning documents.
 - Relevant recommendations include
 - Updating land use development regulations
 - Increasing sand dune protection
 - Forming an advocacy group for the community on flood-related issues
 - Such as CRT
 - [Coastal Hazards Adaptation Chapter](#) – several relevant recommendations

III. Open Discussion

- Ms. Dilonno
 - Have generated some potential topics based on available documents and studies, such as the “Tides to Storm” report.
 - Want to focus on what is most important to Seabrook. This will enable RPC/SHEA to identify additional resources and technical support needed to explore and make progress on those topics.
- Mr. Manzi
 - Currently working on wastewater treatment plant resiliency recommendations and looking into the Seacoast Transportation Vulnerability Assessment
 - Other areas of concern related to climate change and sea-level rise
 - Maintaining hard assets (Town Infrastructure)
 - Wastewater treatment is critical
 - Transportation assets

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- Want to build resiliency into the transportation network and provide a plan to deal with some of the anticipated future issues
- Gain a better understanding of the potential impacts on Seabrook Beach
 - What are they?
 - How do we protect against, what do we do, how do we treat residential homeowners who might have issues in years to come
 - Seabrook Beach is a big part of our tax base
- Protecting the quality of life of residents
- Ms. Dilonno shared that Bill Howley, **title**, could not attend today's meeting but shared the following items for discussion via email.
 - Repair and replacement of beach walkways
 - Protection of seagrass
 - Safety for aged/disabled residents to beach access.
- Mr. Manzi responded that sand dune protection is vital, with access to the beach an ancillary issue.
- Mr. Diener noted that one option might be to explore maps of projected impacts on the dune system over a period of set time frames. RPC/SHEA can engage local experts/researchers to help identify best practices to help protect the dunes while assessing potential options for maintaining access.
 - Mr. Manzi endorsed the mapping concept and presenting the findings to residents in an understandable way to gain support if local resources are needed to support mitigation efforts.
 - Mr. Diener noted that mapping from the Seacoast Transportation Vulnerability Assessment could provide additional perspective on future beach accessibility.
 - Ms. Dionne - Dave Walker could present at an upcoming CRT meeting.
 - Mr. Manzi noted that Mr. Walker presented the final finding to the Board of Selectmen (BOS)
- Mr. Diener acknowledged that, hopefully, this discussion provides a snapshot of the resources we can bring to facilitate group discussions, hone in on a particular issue, and address needs or gaps to build a more informed approach or plan. He noted that Hampton CHAT spent its first year discussing and learning about current and potential flood impacts before considering possible adaptation strategies for Hampton.
- Ms. Dionne asked about the current resilient work at the wastewater treatment
 - Mr. Slayton responded that they are working on Phase 1 implementation, which will last two years and is funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Program (\$1M)
- Mr. Manzi shared that the South Main street culvert replacement project is ramping up. The design work is complete, and a construction grant has been secured. Working on construction details now. This project will help address flooding issues on this section of the roadway and positively impact Route 286.
 - Mr. Slayton added work includes water and sewer upgrades within the project area.
- Mr. Diener asked which streets in Seabrook flood most frequently and whether there are commonalities or underlying issues warrant additional focus or study.
 - Mr. Manzi responded that they would share a list of roads that regularly flood due to a lack of drainage systems or undersized pipes
 - Biggest issue - No drainage system in the beach area, causing washouts and flooding.
 - Difficult to install drainage both in the roadways and identify discharge points. DPW is trying to alleviate a couple of spots. Important to study the potential impacts of upsizing pipes.
 - Mr. Diener noted that Hampton has similar issues with poor drainage and undersized pipes. Shared that the Hampton DPW Director secured grant funding to improve that drainage in

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one neighborhood area to help lessen some flooding and drainage issues. (2022 presentation - [Drainage system study & design](#))

- Ms. Dionne noted the importance of including DPW in upcoming discussions about transportation and drainage vulnerabilities and potential options.
 - Mr. Manzi agreed.
 - Mr. Diener asked if any other DPW staff should be included. Having a regular standing DPW representative at CRT meetings would be ideal.
- Ms. Dilonno asked about other topics like Zoning Regulations or Outreach/Education
 - Mr. Manzi recommended public outreach once a particular solution, strategy, or mitigation option has been vetted. For example, residents would like to hear about potential dune management solutions.
 - Mr. Diener commented that SHEA dedicates a page on their website to the Hampton CHAT program and makes information such as agenda and meeting minutes available to the public. SHEA could offer the same for CRT.
 - Mr. Manzi noted that Seabrook could link to the SHEA page
 - Mr. Manzi shared that Seabrook's Master Plan is 11 years old and needs to be updated. The warrant article in 2022 for funding the update was defeated. Secured grant funding to update sections of the plan. The timing is good to integrate this CRT and the Master Plan update.
 - Ms. Dilonno pointed out that this group could act as a subcommittee for Master Plan chapter updates related to resiliency
 - The 2016 Coastal Hazard Chapter recommends more stringent floodplain regulations and the creation of a flood-prone overlay district.
 - Could support the drafting and adoption process. Mr. Manzi noted that this would be a good area of focus.
 - Mr. Slayton encouraged including members from the Beach Area Planning Board and Commission.
 - Ms. Dilonno noted invitations to join had been extended to the Town and Beach Area Boards. Also interested in having a couple of residents participate.
 - Mr. Manzi said that the Emergency Manager, Joe Titone, could join specific meetings

IV. Decide on meeting structure & schedule

- Mr. Manzi recommended a quarterly meeting schedule with the flexibility to transition to more frequent as necessary and as interest in specific topics grows. He would share meeting minutes with staff and request the attendance of various staff or boards based on meeting topics.
- Mr. Diener asked about preferred weekdays and times
 - Mr. Manzi preferred mornings, excluding Mondays.
 - Potential CRT presentation at a staff meeting (TBD)
 - Mr. Slayton scheduling in advance is key – a week or more out.
 - The Group agreed to the following meeting parameters
 - Start with 1-hour time frame
 - Next meeting in early May
 - Doodle poll (Ms. Dilonno)
 - Record guest speaker presentations and make available on Seabrook's YouTube channel.

V. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 am