

HAMPTON COASTAL HAZARDS ADAPTATION TEAM (CHAT)

April 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. Bachand – Hampton Town Planner
 - Flood Smart Seacoast project
 - Working on updating the floodplain ordinance to include higher floodplain standards.
 - Potential options developed by RPC in coordination with NHDES.
 - Next advisory committee meeting on Thursday, April 20th.
 - Master Plan Implementation committee will start in June. Requesting letter of interest from residents
- Ms. Kravitz – Hampton Beach Area Commission
 - HBAC Master Plan Update
 - Draft plan underway
 - Town Hall Session - Sea Shell Complex on April 27th at 11 am. Presentation on the general concepts. There will be at least two site visits, accessed by walking, and what kinds of things are important to address.
 - HBAC Meeting April 27th evening - the consultant will present a summary of Town Hall.
 - Planning another public meeting in May.
 - HBAC will review the draft report at their May 26th meeting. Anticipated completion and HBAC approval in June.
 - HBAC Master Plan Website
 - Website design is also underway, identifying content and working towards a layout and new logo.
 - Storyboard and walk-through by the end of April with a functional/live website by June.
- Mr. Bassett - Resident Representative
 - In January and March, NHDES staff collected and tested the flood waters from their neighborhood streets. Water analysis shows high levels of bacteria.
 - Flood Ready Neighborhood Program
 - Mr. Bassett is the point person for his neighborhood to help engage neighbors to participate in the program.
 - The objective is to increase their collective flood hazard awareness and support the development of neighborhood-scale mitigation strategies. He's working with a support team to develop a statement to gauge his neighbor's interest in participating. Hopefully, this will help build a more resilient neighborhood.

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- Ms. O'Brien (Conservation Commission/CHAT Facebook Team)
 - Conservation Commission released a Request for Proposals (RFPs) to develop a Natural Resource Inventory. The Commission is in the process of reviewing RFPs. Once a consultant is selected, they will submit a grant proposal to Piscataqua Region Environmental Planning Assessment (PREPA) for funding.
 - CHAT's Facebook page is live. Thanks to Ms. Bamford and Ms. Hale for helping out. The goal is to have one weekly post related to CHAT's recommendations – news article or educational post.
 - The NHDES CP is preparing an "America the Beautiful" grant application, which includes three different marsh restoration/resilience projects – one project is ditch remediation in Hampton. Great opportunity to perform meaningful work in Hampton. The Commission is drafting a letter of support.
- Ms. Howard (NHDES Coastal Program)
 - The Coastal Resilience Grant period is open, and applications are due by May 26th.
 - Hampton Tide Gauge –
 - Working with the gauge manager to develop a new datum. The current datum is based on mean low low water (mllw), which is useful for boating and beach-going but does not correlate to the land survey datum in NAVD88.
 - The new gauge-specific datum will be published following a technical review. The effort has found that Hampton's mean high water (mhw) is at about 4.9 ft NAVD88 which is about 1 ft higher than mhw at nearby gauges like Fort Point.
 - This 1-ft difference could be related to the hydrodynamics of the area and sea-level rise. The new datum will help ensure survey plans in Hampton more accurately reflect current water levels.