

HAMPTON COASTAL HAZARDS ADAPTATION TEAM (CHAT)

October 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.

- Ms. Hale – Hampton DPW Director
 - On Oct 4th, the NH Governor and Council approved Hampton’s King’s Highway project contract, and the contractor has been authorized to begin work.
- Ms. Bamford – Hampton Coastal Resilience Coordinator
 - Flood Smart Seacoast Project – Higher Floodplain Standards
 - Planning Board presentation on proposed Floodplain Ordinance revisions for three higher standards related to the construction of critical facilities, elevation of utilities, and flood class design standards.
 - Overall, it was well received – some questions about the data/information used for flood class design elevation determinations and a need for more background information.
 - Preparing for the Nov public hearing and addressing Planning Board questions
 - Pilot Home Elevation and Buyout Project
 - Developed a property owner and renter survey (deploying soon) – Looking to learn more about their experience with flooding, interest level in a Town-supported elevation or acquisition program, and what type of support is needed to participate.
- Mr. Bassett – Hampton Resident Representative
 - Oct 1st – predicted high tide of 10.2 ft but recorded at 10.8 ft with no rainfall.
 - Experienced roadway and backyard flooding.
 - Two sources of flood waters from Meadow Pond – flowing up through the dysfunctional drainage system into roadways and directly from the pond into backyards and onto the streets.
 - Observed a new floodwater channel developing at the north end of the neighborhood.
 - 2021 Flood Study recommendation to consider installing a berm behind Gention Rd and around the neighborhood. Becoming a more relevant and urgent matter with two channels of flood waters coming from Meadow Pond. It is time to investigate the cost of building a berm to make it more flood-ready.
 - Oct 15th – predicted high tide of 8.9 ft but recorded 10.5 ft with no rain.
 - Street flooding continued into 10/16.
 - Observing that high tide flooding occurs well below the 10ft high tides – aligns with the CHAT’s recommendation for the parking placard tide height reduction.
- Ms. Dionne – Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance
 - SHEA’s pilot part-time Coastal Conservation Coordinator position funded by a NOAA Project of Special Merit Grant will be posted soon. This capacity-build position is designed to support each Conservation Commission surrounding the Hampton-Seabrook Estuary (Hampton, Hampton Falls, and Seabrook) to support land conservation efforts. One of the primary objectives is to create town-specific land conservation strategies with an emphasis on land in and around the estuary to support marsh migration. Will share the posting with CHAT members, who are welcome to share with others who might be interested.