
Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #59

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

1:00-3:00PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

1. Introductions

CHAT Members

Jason Bachand – Hampton Town Planner
Tori Bamford – Hampton Coastal Resilience Coordinator
Kate Bashline – Hampton Resident
Jay Diener - Hampton Conservation Commission
Brianna O'Brien – Hampton Conservation Coordinator
Ward Galanis – Hampton Planning Board
Tom Bassett – Resident Representative
Stephen LaBranche – Resident Representative
Jennifer Hale – Department of Public Works
Eric Sunderlin – Hampton Department of Public Works

CHAT Support Staff

Lucy Perkins – NH Coastal Program
Jen Gilbert – Coastal Program
Michaela Heming – Flood Ready Neighborhoods Program, NH Sea Grant
Liz Durfee – Planning Consultant and CHAT Coordinator
Rayann Dionne - Seabrook-Hampton Estuary Alliance (SHEA)
Maddie Dilonno – Rockingham Planning Commission
Laurie Olivier – Planning Office

Guests

Gary Bashline – Hampton Resident
Marcus Landers – Payne Construction and Flood Policy Research Fellow

2. Approve meeting notes from January 2024

January Minutes

Ms. Durfee noted a slight amendment for the January minutes from Mr. Bassett regarding pictures and drone footage from January flood discussion.

Motion: Mr. LaBranche moved to approve the January meeting minutes

Second: Ms. O'Brien

Vote: 11 in favor.

3. Relevant Flood Updates

Ms. Hale

- The Department of Public Works (PW) met today with FEMA to determine if there will be an emergency declaration or not. PW continues to assess the storm damage and the associated restoration costs. There is FEMA funding beyond what we call “bring it back to pre-storm condition” for mitigation projects. PW will also look at incorporating coastal resiliency measures to reduce the need to constantly make the same repairs. If the FEMA funding (non-competitive) comes through, the funding can cover true mitigation projects, specifically with damage related to roadways, parking lots, and parks.
- PW put out messages asking everybody to avoid walking on the beach grass and dune areas for their own safety and for the protection of the ecosystems. More importantly don't walk through the caved-in parking lots and missing sidewalks and rock-infested parks. Repairs will occur before the summer season.
- Kings Highway Drainage Project: PW submitted the basis of design report and the requirement under the grant for the project. Comments have been received; hopefully, a meeting with the consultant will be held this week. Then, shortly after that, DES approval of all design factors. The timeline has changed slightly, resulting in construction being planned to start this year, but it is unlikely to be finished this year. PW is now coordinating with Aquarian who also has water line work to do in that neighborhood. The plan is to do the projects in conjunction so there is a one-time dig.

Ms. Bashline

- Asked if anyone from CHAT can recommend a remedy for cars speeding through flooded areas and creating wake damage. During the January 13th storm, the streets experienced flooding from the ocean and cars driving at a high speed (creating additional waves). A neighbor of Ms. Bashline observed a car wake breaking a neighbor's garage door on Campton Street. The police couldn't stay to monitor speed and keep drivers out of ocean flooded streets.
- Ms. Hale replied that this issue occurred on many streets, especially Kings Highway. The wake from vehicles is creating more damage than the damage that's already created. Part of that response on the 13th was why the emergency command center was opened and the fire chiefs and PD preemptively closed the roads so that less traffic would occur on flooded roads. Ms. Hale stated she would check for an update.

Mr. Bassett

- Asked about the issue of the outfall of the new drainage system. Some residents on the South side of Winnacunnet Rd are concerned about where the storm drain outlet would flow.

Ms. Hale

- Stated some are concerned that the drainage system would add more water, but that's part of the whole basis of the design report. The Sandpiper condominiums are experiencing severe erosion loss adjacent to their property. The goal is not to impact them, which is why the design, flows and velocities out of the pipe are being studied. There will still be a tidal water outlet, but it will be thousands of feet away from the neighborhood and controlled by a pipe.

Mr. Bassett

- Shared the Meadow Pond Neighborhood update for February. There was an important meeting in the neighborhood organized by Flood Ready Neighborhood. They discussed constructing a berm in the neighborhood and why they were thinking of building one. There is currently a berm at the

Ocean Crest Condominiums, and its history, permitting, and effectiveness are being assessed to determine potential next steps for building a new berm.

- Mr. Bassett showed a slide depicting the Ocean Crest Condominium berm. The picture shows the Ocean Crest condominiums on the lower right. There is a red arrow pointing towards the berm, which goes basically across from the west end of the parking lot in a green kind of swath, typically phragmites.
- The Flood Ready Neighborhood meeting was productive. At the end, Ms. Heming put up a poll to get a sense of the neighbors' feelings about this. There were scales ranging from “stop talking about it” to “do it now” and everything in between. About 15 households attended that meeting, and approximately 80% supported further investigating the berm option.
- There are questions about whether the berm would be permissible. It is projected to be more than 15 feet wide, given that it would be in the backyards of homes along Gentian Rd. The backyards are not that wide.
- The funding issue for the berm is critical. The discussion at this CHAT meeting makes it seem unlikely the neighborhood would get public funding for the berm. Roy Shiff, with SLR, one of the principal engineers on the 2021 flood study project, quoted \$8,680 to get a light-phase primary design. If DES and the Town of Hampton indicate this project would be permissible the preliminary design would be needed. Funding would be required, and raising that money among the neighbors would be challenging. Funding will be discussed in future Flood Ready Neighborhoods meetings.
- Mr. Bassett showed slides from the February flooding. February had seven days of flooding. On February 9th, the tides were typically a foot higher than predicted. There was very little rainfall this week, indicating the classic chronic high tide flooding.
- The tide change graph has been really helpful in recording the difference between predicted and actual tides. Mr. Bassett showed pictures from several days in a row to show the rhythm of the flooding. On February 10, the photo shows the intersection of Green Street and Gentian Rd. At 11:00 in the morning, it's fairly dry, and by 2:30 pm, it's flooding. On February 11th, the photo shows that at 9:50 am, the intersection was flooded. At 1:45 pm, it was less flooded, but flooded again at 5:20 pm. The photos show the high tides flooding at the full moon phase. The February 12th photos show the same pattern with flooding in the morning, with it drying off later in the afternoon. The photos show the same pattern through February 14. On February 15th, the photos show ice instead of flooding. The floodwaters, whether from the day before or from that previous night, create hazardous conditions.
- These slides show the chronic flooding in the neighborhood that doesn't get as much attention as bigger areas. The 2021 flood study laid out the dynamics of the flooding and mitigation strategies for the neighborhood. The flood study stated that a berm paired with the drainage system would eliminate chronic flooding for 30 years without increasing risk to other properties.

Ms. Durfee

- Stated that that someone who receives CHAT agendas and the monthly updates with the attached photos commented last month that he didn't see any photos from his neighborhood. Ms. Durfee mentioned that a member shared the photos. Ms. Durfee reminded CHAT members to share available photos from other areas when staff and others may be out looking at damage or flood impacts. Community members who are tuned into CHAT meetings would appreciate seeing that the flooding in their neighborhoods is being recognized, too.

Mr. Deiner

- Asked if there is a deadline by which a disaster declaration needs to be made to FEMA.

Ms. Hale

- Responded that there is no information on a deadline yet, but will provide updates when she has more information. FEMA has changed the process this year. There is an application deadline but no details on the review and approval process timeline. Legislation was brought up at the state level last week, and there's funding on the table as well, but that legislation is also waiting, and it is based on whether a FEMA disaster declaration is made. People should continue looking at what programs are available for private landowners.

Mr. Bachand

- Provided an update on the floodplain management ordinance. The amendment was presented with our other zoning articles at the deliberative session on February 3rd. There were no public comments on that or any of them, and no other concerns were voiced. The amendment will hopefully move forward to the March 12th Town Vote.

Ms. Bashline

- Asked how long the funding for the FEMA declaration lasts.

Ms. Gilbert

- Stated there is no specific deadline for the funding period. The funding is meant to cover whatever happened during the period that was declared. There are cases where storms are really close together, and FEMA has combined the declaration funding. Ms. Gilbert was not sure what the threshold is for how long they have to be apart. But looking at the FEMA disaster declaration webpage, you'll see they have an incident. And they'll have a disaster time frame for what is covered during that period.

Ms. Hale

- Clarified that the disaster period is from January 9 to 14. The funding level (\$2,000,000) is based on the Town's cost of storm-related repairs. FEMA needs to receive actual hours worked, actual hours projected to be worked and proposed cost proposals. The funding is broken into multiple categories; debris removal, emergency readiness, roadways, culverts, a park section, and a utility section. Each project has to stand on its own within that declaration. All the work may be included, but it has to be broken out into projects, and that's the money that FEMA provides. If something unforeseen comes up, it can be added to the project's cost. FEMA funding is for projects designed to bring conditions back to pre-storm conditions.

Ms. Bashline

- Asked if it is like that for homewonwers as well.

Ms. Hale

- Shared she is not familiar with the homeowner program. She has only been working with FEMA's public assistance program.

Ms. Gilbert

- Shared that some towns encourage homeowners to notify FEMA if they have experienced property damage.

Ms. Hale

- Encouraged everybody in Hampton to report damages to FEMA. FEMA compiles all of the damage information and associated costs. Most likely, residents and renters do not report damages because they are unaware or do not see the value in reporting. It's also likely that seasonal property owners have not yet assessed damages. Reporting the damages won't result in public funding for

private homeowners. However, reporting private homeowner damages can result in private owners being considered for private funding programs.

Ms. Gilbert

- Asked Ms. Hale for clarification on what type of damage is being reported. Is it streets and culverts, and is beach erosion excluded?

Ms. Hale

- Beaches are not typically covered by FEMA funding, but we have parks adjacent to Hampton beaches. This information was shown to FEMA today. Ms. Hale believes there is a strong argument for covering sand erosion damage to Bicentennial Park. Also, Plaice Cove had significant erosion and sand dune restoration that needs to happen. There could be a mitigation project at this site in the future. Sun Valley had significant erosion. However, Sun Valley had already been experiencing ongoing erosion, so it would be hard to quantify the loss. How do you bring that back to the previous erosion level? It's much harder to prove to FEMA.

Mr. Bassett

- Asked Ms. Hale if FEMA is open to funding mitigation projects. Would this include mitigation for the flooding streets and pond overflow?

Ms. Hale

- Stated that the funding discussed with FEMA today isn't for chronic flooding.

Ms. Durfee

- Stated that the topic of FEMA funding could be a future agenda item.

Ms. Kravitz (via email to Ms. Durfee)

- Stated Representative Stacy Americ has been appointed HBAC Commissioner at Large.

4. Hampton Voluntary Elevation & Property Acquisition Survey Results and Project Update

Ms. Bamford

- Discussed how Hampton is working with the NHCP and the RPC to learn about elevation and property acquisition programs in other communities. Ms. Bamford has been researching and meeting with several people from different towns to learn from their processes. The research includes discussions with the Hull, Massachusetts.
- A survey was sent out to determine experiences of flooding and gauge interest in an elevation or an acquisition program for Hampton. The goal is to understand the interest in voluntary home elevation or property acquisition projects in Hampton and identify resources needed to support interested property owners and renters impacted by this kind of work.
- Ms. Bamford and her team looked at the special flood hazard area and several social factors that could potentially make it more difficult for somebody to recover from a flood incident, including age, income, race, and disability. Those were placed on a map based on census block groups. The darkest purple areas on the slide are the areas where those factors are connected, so it was decided the survey should be prioritized for those areas.
- Meetings have been held with Hampton staff monthly. They anecdotally know where other areas not represented in the dark purple areas that should also be served. So, those were included in the priority survey area.
- The survey was launched on October 23rd. The link was shared on the town website as well as the HBAC website. The survey was emailed to several distribution lists, including the Meadow Pond email list from Mr. Bassett to his neighbors. The survey was sent to CHAT and posted on the In

The Know Hampton Facebook page. 2,087 postcards were mailed to the mailing addresses of residential properties in the survey area and 124 rental occupancy addresses. Printed copies of the survey were available at Town Hall. The survey was closed in December 2023.

Ms. Dilonno and Ms. Bamford

- Discussed an overview of Voluntary Elevation & Property Acquisition survey results.
- There were 224 survey respondents with 252 comments. 98 people subscribed to updates moving forward. Respondents could put a pin in a virtual map showing their neighborhood location.
 - The survey provided demographic information regarding age, disability, children under 5, and chronic health conditions.
 - Some survey questions determined whether the property was the primary or secondary residence. There were also questions to determine the type of housing for respondents; single-family, condo/apartment/townhouse, multi-family, manufactured, or other.
 - 116 respondents stated their property is in the Special Flood Hazard area. 83 respondents were unsure. 125 respondents carry flood insurance, 83 said no, and 9 didn't know.
 - The survey asked if respondents would be interested in elevating their homes if funding became available. 66 respondents said yes, interested now, 38 people said they were interested but not right now, 37 people weren't interested, 53 were interested but not prepared to spend the funds required, 20 respondents reported their home is already elevated, and 2 respondents plan to spend their own funds to elevate their homes.
 - The survey asked if respondents were interested in voluntary acquisition programs if funding became available. The majority of respondents are not interested, but 13 respondents stated they are interested in a buy-out right now if the funds become available.
 - The survey asked about experiences with flooding. 87 respondents had damage at least once, 24 four or more times, and 25 respondents had filed at least one flood damage claim.
 - The survey asked if respondents had ever felt unsafe during flooding on their property. The majority of respondents answered no. The survey asked if respondents had ever left their property due to flooding on their property, and the majority of people said no. Another question asked if respondents had been unable to leave or access this property due to flooding, with a fair number of people reporting they had been either unable to leave or could not access their property due to flood events.
 - The survey asked several questions designed to determine which considerations would be most important for homeowners in deciding to elevate their homes. The respondents were asked to rank each consideration in terms of how important each consideration would be in choosing to elevate their home or participate in a buyout.
 - The five most important considerations concerning elevating homes were:
 1. Protecting the homeowner's financial investment in the property was ranked as the most important consideration.
 2. Safety and well-being of the homeowner and their family.
 3. The cost to elevate.
 4. Knowing all available options before making a decision.
 5. Knowing the full picture of the property's flood risk and what to anticipate in the future
 - The next question asked the same question but with regard to a voluntary property acquisition.

- 1. The topmost important consideration was the amount of money that's offered for the acquisition.
 - 2. Knowing all available options before making a decision
 - 3. Knowing the full picture of flood risk and what to anticipate in the future
 - 4. Safety and well-being of the homeowner and their family
 - 5. Access to beaches and outdoor spaces.
 - Open response questions response summary
 - There is a wide range of residential flood experiences
 - Residents are looking for more information to make better-informed decisions about elevation and acquisition.
 - Respondents who are limited in the cost of the elevation welcome federal assistance, but those who have already elevated their homes expressed frustration that others will now receive assistance and wonder if there is a way for them to get a little bit of reimbursement. There is currently no known reimbursement program.
 - Many people preferred hardened infrastructure, such as seawalls and drainage improvements, as an alternative to elevation or property acquisition. These structures come with a different set of challenges.
 - Survey respondents shared their connections to the place, neighbors, and homes and that they care about where they are and why they want to protect it.
 - Met with Hampton staff to discuss findings and a full report is underway and should be ready for public distribution by the end of the month. Also, working with the Town to develop a long-term program/framework for staff for administering these federal applications on behalf of homeowners. This work will also include a resource guide, public outreach strategies, and a step-by-step guide for developing these federal applications.

Mr. Diener

- Asked if people who took the survey were given any information about the voluntary acquisition and how that program works? Is there a level of understanding of what the survey respondents' level of understanding is about voluntary acquisitions?

Ms. Dilonno

- Some information was provided on how the acquisition and elevation process works through FEMA. The information was simplified and wasn't entirely comprehensive. Still, it provided some basic information on how the program works with FEMA and the fact that it's a reimbursement project for elevations.

Mr. Diener

- Understands that both programs, home elevation, and voluntary acquisitions, require a 25% match, which means the homeowner will get up to 75% of their cost reimbursed. Has there been any discussion about whether that match will fall solely on the property owner, or will the county, state, or federal government contribute to making up the match?

Ms. Dilonno

- Right now, it is the responsibility of the property owners to front that 25% match. The Town has had some preliminary conversations on potential alternative funding sources that the Town could pursue to help offset those costs to property owners, but at this time, it will be the property owner's responsibility.

Ms. O'Brien

- Stated that from the beginning, the financial burden has been a huge personal concern. There are no official solutions yet, but Ms. O'Brien has been tracking where there might be leverage points to lessen that burden. Hopefully, there could be financial assistance through a local nonprofit or something of that nature that could assist with additional costs that would not be reimbursed by the program. Another possibility is to look at temporary housing opportunities. There are upfront costs associated with this project for the homeowner, and they're expected to front, which will be reimbursed. The upfront costs are a hurdle that many people will not be able to participate in this program. Unfortunately, that's how the program exists. This should be a continued conversation about what can be done to support the interested homeowners through this process that is not currently part of FEMA's program.

Mr. Diener

- Stated that elevations are a reimbursement program but requested clarification for the voluntary acquisition program. It is the understanding that there's no expense on the homeowner's part to participate in that program. Mr. Diener asked for clarification on the timing and the mechanics for reimbursement once homeowners sign up for a voluntary acquisition.

Ms. Dilonno

- From what we've researched, it is our understanding that it takes a significant amount of time for the application process to be completed from the time the property is acquired and demolished, ranging from ten months to five years. For acquisitions, the homeowner isn't fronting costs to go through that process specifically. Still, there are a lot of associated expenses, such as finding another place to live. Sometimes, homeowners have to continue paying for repeated flooding while waiting for that application process to complete.

Ms. Durfee

- Has anyone looked at the places on the map from the slide show where people dropped the location pins and whether responses to some survey questions highlighted interest on a neighborhood level?

Ms. Durfee

- Some neighborhood location pins were tricky on the survey because not all the questions were optional, and not all survey respondents pinned their location. Also, this survey was completely anonymous, and that's how it was presented to respondents, but they may not have pinned their neighborhood due to concerns that their information might be shared. The location pin data is inconsistent, but it is definitely worth exploring later.

Mr. LaBranche

- Asked how the values of houses that would be acquired would be determined. Do the prices stem from fair market value assessed value? Property values change over time. Since the acquisition process could take up to five years, if the homeowner sets a price today and lives there for three more years, for instance, while the acquisition process occurs, and the property value increases in that time, would the homeowner receive the future fair market value?

Ms. Dilonno

- It is understood currently that the market value would be assessed when the application process begins, not when it ends.

Mr. LaBranche

- Regarding Property Elevation: If all residents on a street elevate their homes, that makes the homes safe but doesn't impact the street, cars, trash cans, etc. The street will still flood. There is no plan for the Town to elevate the street. What is the impact on safety vehicles like ambulances during high tide if the streets are flooded? If some houses are raised and some houses are acquired and demolished, there are still complexities associated with flooding levels on the streets.

Ms. Dilonno

- These are important considerations that have come up already, and there's no good answer currently. Will elevating these structures cause additional municipal expenses in terms of emergency services

or stormwater management? Will elevating some homes cause increased flood damage on neighboring properties? These factors must be evaluated as part of a long-term strategy for the Hampton. Each of these projects will be part of the long-term program implementation.

Mr. LaBranche

- Some people at Hampton Beach seem to think that either the problem isn't a problem at all or that somehow there's going to be a wall built or berm built, or somebody else will take care of the problem for them, not realizing this problem is not going away. This problem is something that each person is going to have to face and resolve. Are you planning to send these results to the people and inform them of some options?

Ms. Dilonno

- Yes, sending out the survey results is the next step.

Ms. Perkins

- We're all learning about the options as we go through this and recognizing that a major component is consistent communication and outreach to residents to let them know what options are available and help them move through any process they want to be engaged in. Also, it's important to recognize that people are at different places of readiness. Meeting folks where they are on that continuum of readiness and interest in the program will be really important. Consistent communication through providing resources, information, and Town support is part of the program's framework so that as people evaluate different options, there's information available.

Ms. Dionne

- Asked if there was a way to break out the survey answers based on primary or secondary home ownership in the flood zone. The responses about the inconveniences associated with flooding were lower than expected – this could be because most respondents were secondary property owners as opposed to primary.

Mr. Ladd

- Asked if the acquisition cost is limited to just the structure or the structure and the land.

Ms. Dilonno

- The cost is limited to the structure.

Ms. Durfee

- Provided an update on a discussion with Ms. Dionne and Mr. Diener for planning a flood and emergency preparedness workshop. This meeting will be geared towards residents and property owners in the communities surrounding the estuary. This workshop will mirror previous SHEA workshops where guest speakers include emergency responders from each community (Fire Chief, Police Chief, and Emergency Management Directors). This meeting may coincide with the Rising Tide photo event, which is from March 9th to the 12th. CHAT previously shared an interest in hosting a public meeting to provide the opportunity to share and discuss flood impacts and learn how to be prepared in a flood situation.

Ms. Dionne

- Stated they emailed the Emergency Management directors in each of the three communities along with police and fire and are awaiting responses to plan a meeting. The tentative agenda includes starting with a report on the extent of flooding in each community due to the January storms. Then, transition to attendees sharing some photos and their flooding experiences. Then, emergency responders will discuss what to do before, during, and after a flooding event and wrap up with some questions and answers. The meeting is projected to last around an hour and a half and is projected to occur towards the end of that rising tide time frame.

Representative Muns

- Is it possible to record the presentation and then distribute that recording to the government access channels in the three towns and across social media to inform a wider audience?

Ms. Durfee

- Stated that's something that will be considered due to the projected level of interest.

Ms. Bashline

- Asked if the meeting would cover the complexity of when there is flooding. It's also complicated by road closures which can impact beach access/egress. Every storm is a learning process. Homeowners face a balancing act between staying to protect their property and evacuating.

Ms. Durfee

- It would be helpful for public safety if specific road closures could be advertised along with general guidance about advice on staying at home or leaving. This will help people to make decisions and determine the timing of when they're going to leave. It would also be helpful to publicize information for people planning to shelter in place, such as the types of supplies to have on hand. It would also be beneficial to create a checklist for homeowners to know what to look for to ensure it's safe to return after evacuation.
- It is a good idea to let the public know evacuations are available for a certain time frame, but once the flooding gets to a certain point, those routes may no longer be available. This information could be publicized on radio stations or by subscribing to whatever town alerts are available.

Mr. Bassett

- Asked about planning for 100-year floods or major floods. Viewing chronic flooding as a continuum and how different types of flooding require different types of preparedness. Is there a consideration in the planning meetings for talking to the public about different types of flooding? During chronic flooding, there are different types of access problems, including not getting mail and people deciding not to drive on those streets. This creates parking issues, fall issues, and water contamination issues. The upcoming meetings should have space for people to discuss what they're experiencing and share the impacts of chronic flooding.

Ms. Durfee

- The intention is for residents to share their impacts, thoughts, and ideas. The information will be publicized once an agenda and meeting date are set. A suggestion has been made to hold the standard March CHAT meeting in the evening as a public meeting instead of the standard day and time.
 - CHAT members approved the plan to hold the March meeting as an evening public meeting. A date will be determined and advertised as soon as possible. Follow up with Ms. Durfee or Ms. Dionne with recommendations on a suitable meeting location.
 - Suggested location: The Conference room at the Hatch Shell on Hampton Beach

5. Discussion about funding for flood resilience/adaptation – Representative Chris Muns

Representative Mun

- Flood Disclosure Bill Updates: The hearing on the Bill occurred, and the understanding is that the committee would either have a whole committee work session on the Bill or a subcommittee would be appointed and work on it. The main concern about the Bill concerns which map will be referenced, how valid the maps are, and how long the maps will remain accurate. These concerns will hopefully be addressed in the subcommittee work session.
- Regarding the presentation on the survey results: The major concern is that since they were elected in 2022 and participated in these meetings, there hasn't been real progress in implementing a solution for the flooding. The Town of Hampton did a really nice job securing funding for a study to evaluate the current and projected challenges. The study identified alternatives, such as building some kind of a wall to protect the property from flooding, selling the properties, or elevating the properties. Since then, several significant flooding events have occurred. The response tends to focus on Town and state infrastructure. After the January floods, there was a request from the towns

along the seacoast to provide an estimate of damages to their infrastructure so that it could be included in an Emergency Management request or request to FEMA for disaster assistance. The total sum was about \$700,000. But those funds do nothing to help the people, the individuals, and business owners of properties that have suffered repeated damage. He wants to start identifying how to get the funds to implement a solution. It's multifaceted, and the education component is really important.

- Mr. LaBranche's point about people looking for somebody else to fix the problem was very well taken. People are getting increasingly frustrated by the fact that nobody's coming to them with a solution. On the other hand, building a wall is a temporary solution. We need to educate people about why that's not the best solution and give them an alternative. The concern is that once this survey is shared with the community, the communities will want to see a solution. If we don't have a solution identified or plan on how to implement the solution, it may frustrate people further. Representative Muns would like a subcommittee/group formed to recommend a solution that makes the most sense for the area and put together the steps to secure funding. The funding will likely reach hundreds of millions of dollars.
- Representative Muns had a discussion yesterday with Mr. Landers about a public-private solution to this challenge, and his invitation to present at the next meeting is welcome. The solution to the flooding will likely require a private-public contribution because it is naïve to look to the local government or state government of New Hampshire to provide the funding that's going to be necessary to make the changes. Financing at the required level doesn't exist at the local or state level. That level of funding may exist at the federal level. However, the concern is that if we don't tap into it soon, it's going to disappear, so we need to move fairly aggressively.
- Mr. Landers has spent quite a bit of time already identifying ways to pull in private capital to make this a win-win situation where the private sector can make a return on their investment while at the same time addressing a public issue. This will also create a situation in which the property owner benefits from these investments and increased property value. The Town and state also benefit because as the property value increases, the taxes increase, creating additional revenue for the Town and the state.
- Lessons learned from legislative experience: to get federal or state funding, you first go to the state with the plan. The way the process works is for a request to be for that money in the first year of a budget cycle, which is coming up in January 2025. If the January 2025 request isn't submitted on time, the next funding opportunity would be in two years in 2027.
- The two significant flooding instances in the last year (December 2022 and January 2023) may serve as a call to action for the public, but they will want a tangible plan.

Mr. LaBranche

- CHAT has been meeting for three years, and there have been many speakers over the years. Discussions about flooding weren't an issue a few years ago because flooding wasn't an issue. But now it's becoming an issue. As part of planning, there are projections of what might happen in 2030, 2050, and 2100. Flood levels have already surpassed the 2030 projections made ten years ago.
- Mr. LaBranche has had their house on the ocean for almost 30 years. For the first 25 years, when there was a high tide flood, the beach did not flood. Now the beach gets covered with water and floods where Church St. meets Ocean Blvd.
- Mr. LaBranche agrees with previous speakers that people think someone else, likely the government, will solve the flooding issue, but that isn't a workable plan.

Ms. Hale

- The Planning Board has inserted an entire resiliency master plan for planning for Hampton and Hampton Beach. Hampton Beach is doing its own as well. Part of the planning involved using recommendations from those flood studies to move forward with funding. There was a grant

opportunity that was provided for us. We've reached out to Town residents, the people asking for protection, to help pay for those projects. We applied for grants and just applied for another one for \$3,000,000 to help build this plan. The solutions aren't simple. They are multifactorial and very complex. People will likely look at either the Town or the state for funding to fix the problem. If we are dealing with state laws that prevent public funding on private property or we're dealing with FEMA requirements that you have to check a 32-page document to get that funding, that isn't helpful. We need people who strictly work on this and this alone. Who is the group looking for financial resources? We're already all at capacity.

- Many people are frustrated that we are flooding more often because those working, dealing, and living with it are heavily impacted and frustrated. We realize that there are other projects that we want to move forward with, both current and future projects. A public-private partnership is the best way to provide flexibility and ensure Hampton's hands aren't tied.
- More needs to be learned about the home elevation and acquisition program. Many people are spending a lot of concentrated effort on making Hampton more resilient, and we must continue that work.

Ms. O'Brien

- Clarified that the solutions being discussed are just for Hampton right now. For some of these bigger solutions, Representative Muns discussed might be more of a regional or state-based approach. Maybe it's worth CHAT focusing more on what is happening at the state, local, regional, or wider for inspiration and collaboration.

Representative Muns

- A plan needs to be developed to request additional support. For example, last year, a request was made to the New Hampshire legislature by a Senator who doesn't live in Hampton for \$20 million to build a pier at Hampton Beach. If a non-resident can make those requests, this committee can make requests for large amounts of funding, too. A grant to address coastal flooding should be submitted.
- The area in and around the harbor area is of particular concern - those roads flood regularly.
- Representative Muns stated that, realistically, we'll probably have to propose a project with a broader reach to get state or federal assistance. In order to get anything done at the State level, 201 of 400 representatives have to agree to do something. Proposing a project that does the maximum for Hampton neighborhoods will likely get more support at the state level. Not a big fan of a wall but that at least gives residents hope as to what the future holds for them.

Mr. Bassett

- Stated she would like to thank Representative Muns for trying to raise the issue of searching for funding for business programs and thinking outside the envelope. These actions show we're actively mobilizing our neighborhoods.

Ms. Bashline

- Discussed how Mr. Diener shared a talk called Storm Surge that she attended. Oct. 25, 2023 in Newburyport MA, given by Julie Wormser, Senior Policy Adviser at the Mystic River Watershed and co-founder of the Resilient Mystic Collaborative (RMC). She shared experiences safeguarding people and places from climate impacts. Since its launch in Sept. 2018, the RMC has grown to include 20 municipalities and secured over 61 million in funding for regional climate preparedness projects. Her 9 min [TedX Talk](#) explains how they coordinate with municipal staff and fundraise. Kate suggests Ms. Wormser may be a resource for CHAT to help with methodologies of community partnerships and fundraising.

Mr. Diener

- According to the survey that Ms. Bamford and Ms. Dilonno presented, several people were interested in doing an elevation but couldn't or weren't interested in paying the 25% match. This is

an opportunity to seek state funding. This is a way that we can help our property owners to make themselves more resilient.

Mr. Landers

- As part of a collaborative effort, particularly the elevation program, it is a really good target for private-public funding. Fundamentally, you're offsetting costs, which creates an opportunity for the private sector to invest, similar to what free energy has done for the last 20 years. It's time to do it for climate resilience, too.
- It would be helpful to create a list of attendees you're considering, get these folks together as a workgroup, and determine the timeline for proposing projects for January 2025 funding.

Ms. Durfee

- It would be helpful to hear from Mr. Landers and get a small group together to determine the next steps. The lack of resources is a huge issue. A summary of what is needed would be helpful so it can be added to the wish list. Also, a discussion should occur with state and federal representatives. Requested that CHAT add about 10 minutes or so to the next agenda to discuss follow-up.

Ms. Perkins

- It's important to determine how to build upon the knowledge that's been acquired over the last year to support the work that the Town has been doing in partnership with people on this call and the really thoughtful framework that they're putting together to design programs that consider local priorities and do so in a way that's trying to be more equitable, just, and fair. The ideas that were developed really extensively through the climate resilience regional challenge that include ecological benefits also benefit public infrastructure and private assets. As this work progresses, it is important to address any additional gaps identified. Part of developing the framework for the home elevation and voluntary property acquisition project is thinking about people who have resource constraints. Some communities are filling that gap through creative financing mechanisms, whether a private-public partnership or something else.

Ms. Bashline

- Educating the public about the acquisition and elevation programs is extremely important.

Ms. Durfee

- Stated she would send out a date for the upcoming flood impacts and preparedness community meeting.

6. Parking Placard Program - Next Steps

- This agenda item was not discussed at this meeting.

7. Next meeting: TBD

8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:09pm