
Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #2

Tuesday, February 19, 2019
3pm-5pm
Hampton Memorial Lane Library
2 Academy Avenue, Hampton NH

NOTES

Participants:

- Rayann Dionne, Hampton Conservation Coordinator
- Jason Bachand, Hampton Town Planner
- Nancy Stiles, Hampton Beach Area Commission
- Bob Ladd, Hampton Beach Village District
- Jay Diener, Seabrook Hamptons Estuary Alliance
- Mark Olson, Hampton Planning Board
- Jennifer Hale, Hampton Department of Public Works
- Regina Barnes, Hampton Board of Selectmen
- Bryan Provencal, Hampton Zoning Board
- Nathalie Morison, NHDES Coastal Program | non-voting
- Liz Durfee, EF Design & Planning (project consultant) | non-voting
- Kirsten Howard, NHDES Coastal Program | non-voting

Absent:

- Debra Bourbeau, property owner
- Tom Bassett, property owner

1. Introductions

- Participants explained the authorities of the board/commission/body they participate on and shared any relevant flood updates
- Rayann | Hampton Conservation Coordinator, liaison between the Conservation Commission (CC) and the Planning Board (PB) and DES Wetlands Bureau (WB). Purview is the wetlands 50 ft buffer in the zoning ordinance which requires a permit for certain activities including new construction, redevelopment, fill, etc. The CC reviews permit applications and provides recommendations to the PB and/or WB and the PB and Wetlands Bureau make the final decision on a given permit application. Over the last few years CC found synergy between tidal wetlands and floodplain ordinance and has started encouraging property owners to consider elevating structures, using natural plantings, and implementing other restoration activities, such as invasive species removal when appropriate. Support outreach on certain topics or draft warrant articles.

Has assisted with drafting of two draft ordinances to amend the floodplain ordinance to 1) allow people who want to elevate structures to waive height restrictions equivalent to the amount they want to raise up to three feet and 2) to require any substantial improvements to structures (50% or more structure value added) within the 50 foot tidal buffer zone to elevate structures on pilings to allow water to flow through under the structure in a flood.

- Jason | Works with PB. Coordinates with Rayann in the Planning Department. Has worked on several projects with the Rockingham Planning Commission. Replaced old floodplain ordinance in 2017 to include 1 foot freeboard with height restriction waiver of up to 1 foot. Worked on Community Rating System application and hoping to continue progress on that soon. Brings issues and projects to PB and prepares zoning articles and warrant articles. Scope is town-wide. Also served on the NH Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission on behalf of the Town of Hampton.
- Nancy | Chair of Hampton Beach Area Commission (HBAC). The HBAC is working on updating the Hampton Beach Area master plan natural resources chapter. PB is likely to adopt whatever HBAC will propose. Hampton Beach Area master plan is the neighborhood plan per the RSA. Co-chaired the NH Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission.
- Bob | Hampton Beach Village District (HBVD) Commissioner. HBVD is over 100 years old. Originated with purpose of bringing fire and water to the beach community. Morphed into providing seasonal entertainment and promotion for the beach but as flooding has become more frequent, that's become important to the HBVD. Last week we invited Jason to promote article for new master plan. Invited town-wide office candidates to attend and they heard the benefit of supporting the master plan. Meetings are Channel 22 televised. Offer air time at monthly meetings if CHAT has things they would like to discuss on TV.
- Jen | Deputy Director of the Hampton Department of Public Works; among other things, DPW works to provide roadways that are passable and usable drainage systems, with consideration of public and private property. Working with Meadow Pond and Ashworth Ave. consultants to conduct a flooding study. Also conducting a study of drainage along roadways and homes in Gentian Ave., Green St., Kings Highway areas. Those have been the biggest concerns we've had over 4 years. Many at DPW and residents will tell you the flooding is not new, but it's the quantity in which it's occurring that is causing the alarm. We respond regularly to resident calls about flood issues. Unfortunately the flooding issue is a big one that we have limited capacity to "solve" or prevent but we can help people understand what they can do to protect their properties and what we can do to help them. Met with reps of UNH and CC and consultants to put in sensors to monitor and collect water level data in Meadow Pond. Funding for the consultants is limited, so DWP is cognizant that the results of the studies will provide a platform to take the next steps so those affected have choices.

- Brian | Zoning Board Chair; role in is that anything rebuilt goes through the Zoning Board because everything is non-conforming down in flood-prone areas at Hampton Beach. Lived on Hampton Beach over 40 years, part of the time at the end of Auburn Ave. Owns a restaurant on Perkins Ave called The Pier which floods sometimes.
- Regina | Board of Selectmen has been hearing about flooding at beach for a long time. They receive emails, complaints, requests for town application for Hazard Mitigation grants. We need to understand what all that means. At last meeting a couple on Island Path was looking for ways to get grant support, because they have seen a lot more flooding in recent years. Hoping CHAT can help identify options to deal with the tidal flooding and drainage issues all over town; it's a better setting for problem solving. Will keep Board up to date.
- Mark | Planning Board member and 25 year resident of Hampton. Try to work with CC and ZB. Flooding issues are coming up more often. PB has made changes to ordinances to try to address flooding issues, including impervious cover restrictions and proposing or recommending storage in ground. But it doesn't seem to be enough, so interested in evaluating other options.
- Jay | Board member of the Seabrook Hamptons Estuary Alliance (SHEA). Non-profit focused on estuary with emphasis on research, protection and education. Representatives from Hampton, Hampton Falls, and Seabrook participate on SHEA. Over a year ago decided to try to help inform residents about flooding and options after hearing lots of resident complaints. Organized 3 floodsmart workshops last summer. Workshops covered topics like what's causing flooding, simple(ish) do it yourself actions, elevating, philosophies about how to approach flood risk given an individual's tolerance for risk. Received a grant from the Consensus Building Institute and started this process to do a situation assessment to understand perception of what's happening in Hampton and then to convene this group that will help the town look at different approaches to help some residents in town. SHEA is trying to bring you all together to share and develop information so we have common understanding.
- Liz | EFDP; submitted SA to CBI with hope that CBI might find additional funding to keep going. Coastal Program found additional funding to help Liz stay involved to be able to support this group.
- Nathalie | NH Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program | Here to provide you with capacity and information. Can help find other external resources. Pulse on other coastal programs nationwide so can share lessons learned from communities experiencing similar coastal flooding.
- Kirsten | NH Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program | Nathalie explained our role. I also participate on the NH Silver Jackets team which brings together federal and state agencies that work on flooding in NH, including the Army Corps, NH Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and others, and can connect this group with them. Will also be taking notes today.

2. Approval of 1/10/2019 meeting notes

A few corrections were given.

-Word "resident" was added on page 1 third line up from bottom.

-Pg 6: "A" missing

-Spacing issues

Jay motioned: Accept minutes with corrections.

Motion passed with 8 in favor and 1 abstention (Bryan).

3. CHAT Process and Important Logistics

- Review draft group charter document (goals, objectives, roles, etc.)

Liz reviewed Rules and Procedures draft section by section.

- Intro and purpose
 - general agreement on the objectives
- Membership
 - Jay was meeting with Budget Committee that evening; will suggest that Regina and Bob represent the BC
- Duration
 - General agreement about 1 year commitment and commitment to revisit structure, purpose, duration after 1 year
- Representation
 - Jay mentioned that two representatives are residents but they live elsewhere; could they send an alternate if they are unable to attend?
 - *This question was not resolved.*
 - Will make change to add minimum of two resident representatives
 - Bryan asked how the group determined who is a resident representative. Expressed concern that some neighborhoods may not be well-represented or that some residents may feel like their neighborhood is not well-represented.
 - Jay explained that Deb and Tom have become neighborhood leaders for the areas being studied by the engineering studies. Due to their organizing and influence with a large number of residents, they were invited to participate.
 - Bryan reiterated his concern.
 - Mark mentioned that it's important to have representatives with eyes on the ground.
 - Jay expressed that he doesn't want this committee to get so big that it becomes unwieldy and unproductive, but recognizes that at various stages the group will want to and need to do public outreach and that it's important to be

transparent. He mentioned the Floodsmart Roundtable that is targeted at outreach for residents.

- Jen mentioned her concern about DPW time constraints— she has limited capacity to present to all the different groups working on flooding issues. She mentioned that she isn't concerned about having resident representatives on CHAT, but that she does understand the concern about not being able to have resident representatives from all flood-prone neighborhoods.
 - Liz asked if it might not be appropriate to have residents participate at CHAT?
 - Nancy stated that in her experience, the group needs residents at the table early.
 - Regina asked if they could do regular public meetings as a compromise.
 - Kirsten suggested that the group could specifically ask Deb and Tom to commit to representing flood-prone residents across Hampton—that on CHAT, they are not representing their neighborhoods.
- Bob suggested clarifying language for the section about representative replacements in the event that one representative leaves the group. Others agreed. Liz will clarify the language to reflect that a vacancy will be filled by a member of the respective board or commission.
 - Liz summarized the discussion related to residents:
 - Should residents be members?
 - Jen suggested that the group make it clear that resident representatives should participate with a town-wide perspective.
 - Rayann asked if the group should have a resident representative from an area that's not prone to flooding.
 - Group discussed and decided not to because they want to focus on identifying and solving the problem at this stage. Agreed that residents from areas that don't flood are important stakeholders and should be invited to share their perspectives at some point.
 - Regina suggested that this group could be reached through BOS meetings and Bryan suggested the newspaper.
 - Kirsten suggested that perhaps the group should revisit this discussion when the two resident members are present at a meeting so they can offer their perspectives on this question.
 - Group agreed to revisit.
 - Would residents be welcome to sit in?
 - Group decided no.
 - Will CHAT be holding public/resident invited meetings?
 - Bryan suggested that the Roundtable could be for the public meetings.

- Admin
 - General agreement
- Member expectations
 - General agreement
- Quorum
 - Group agreed to move quorum to voting line. No quorum is needed for meeting, but needed for decisions.
 - General agreement
- Meeting frequency
 - Group decided to meet monthly for now
- Voting
 - See above on Quorum
- Communications
 - Group agreed that the primary contact (Jay for now) can sign
 - Jay will circulate letter to group and must have a simple majority approve electronically prior to sending any letter
- Minutes
 - Group decided not to post meeting minutes but to provide them if asked for. Admins will keep minutes organized in one place.
 - Liz confirmed that this group is not required to hold public/open meetings.
- Non-member attendance
 - Group agreed not to open meetings to non-members (no guests or members of the public, unless invited by CHAT)
 - Reasoning is to ensure CHAT can be as effective and efficient as possible in learning about the issue and making recommendations. Group recognizes a need to be transparent.

4. Coastal Flooding 101 & Hampton's Vulnerability (Nathalie Morison, NHDES Coastal Program)

Nathalie presented Coastal Flooding 101 and Hampton's Vulnerability to the group with the goal of ensuring CHAT members have the basic knowledge about coastal flooding and risk needed to move forward with CHAT's goals.

Nathalie's PPT presentation: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1jQy8GNNXAeDTEhzWhDzfg6RI-pPopWgn>

Important links from Nathalie's presentation and relevant handouts:

- New Hampshire Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission: www.nhcrhc.org

- NHCRHC Science Fact Sheet: <http://www.nhcrhc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014-STAP-report-summary.pdf>
- Website to map property risks: <https://floodiq.com/>
- First Street Foundation press release: <https://assets.floodiq.com/2019/01/a22bd29b007a783c7d3fa7f5c4531c9a-ne-homevalue-loss-slr.pdf>

Discussion:

- Bryan asked how much sea-level rise has occurred historically.
 - Kirsten responded:
Global mean sea levels have risen approximately 0.7 inches per decade in the 20th Century. Satellite data beginning in 1993 suggests a possible acceleration in global mean sea-level rise to 1.3 inches per decade, however longer satellite records are needed to determine an accurate trend.
- Bryan asked how did they decide minor flooding?
 - Nathalie responded that the National Weather Service works with communities to establish that elevation wherever the gauges are located.
- Jen mentioned that she appreciates that the elevation data is taken into account in the sea-level rise maps from Tides to Storms.
- Bryan referenced page 9 of the First Street Foundation press release and asked how they came up with the Tax Assessed Value because he didn't think that any properties on Perkins Ave. are assessed as high as \$560,700.
 - Nathalie offered to ask First Street Foundation how they came up with that number.
 - Rayann thought it might be the assessed value of an entire apartment structure on that street which would include multiple dwellings.
 - Nathalie also mentioned that she will follow up on why several North Beach properties were missing from the study.
- Nathalie ended the discussion by stating that it's important to note that these properties are still appreciating in value but the key finding is that they are not appreciating as quickly as they would otherwise be appreciating if the flooding wasn't an issue.

5. Next Meeting

- The group selected Tuesday, March 19 from 3-5pm. Location TBD.
- Proposed agenda: Julie LaBranche of the Rockingham Planning Commission present Tides to Storms vulnerability assessment and the Repetitive Loss Study information; flood mitigation strategic framework and Louisiana case study; decide on approach for creating new CHAT flood risk and planning maps
 - Group agreed that the general meeting premise seemed good.

- Mark mentioned that Julie's work will present a broad picture and the group can get more specific and focused after that presentation.
- Bryan mentioned a European storm barrier strategy that someone is using with temporary dividers that protect properties against flooding. Asked if the group would address that topic.
 - Liz will add that item to the list of potential meeting topics developed at the first work session.
- Jay mentioned that Regina wanted to talk about a couple that wants to take advantage of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The town would have to apply for this grant on behalf of the couple. Fred Welch is interested in scheduling Whitney Welch, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer from the NH Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, to present to the BOS. Jay encouraged Fred to involve CHAT as part of a special BOS meeting in April.
 - Group agreed this seems like a good idea. It will be helpful to have everyone understand what is actually involved in a grant application.
 - Jay will work on organizing that meeting for April.

6. Adjourned just after 5PM.