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## Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #3

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Tuesday, March 19, 2019  
3-5PM  
Masonic Lodge, 77 Tide Mill Road

### DRAFT NOTES

#### 1. Attendance

##### a. Present:

- Kirsten Howard (left early)
- Rayann Dionne
- Stephen LaBranche (new member, Budget Committee; left early)
- Bob Ladd
- Nancy Stiles
- Jason Bachand
- Regina Barnes
- Liz Durfee
- Nathalie Morison
- Deb Bourbeau
- Julie LaBranche
- Jay Diener

##### b. Absent:

- Mark Olson
- Jennifer Hale
- Bryan Provencal
- Tom Bassett

#### 2. Flood updates

- ##### a. Rayann - Conservation Commission three sponsored warrant articles. Two were related to flooding. (1) added flexibility to freeboard that allows waiver of height restriction for additional freeboard beyond 1 foot. Up to 3 feet added onto height waiver maximum. (2) Tidal wetlands (50 feet landward); any new construction and substantial improvements or damage subject to VE zone building requirements (including building on pilings) and received very high support; 2<sup>nd</sup> highest yes vote margin for all zoning ordinances; about 340 properties potentially affected (but only for new construction or substantial improvements/damage). Reasoning behind 2<sup>nd</sup> ordinance: Conservation

Commission wanted consistency in buffer zone instead of negotiating site by site.

- Stephen asked how many properties are year-round occupied residences. He wondered how the non-voting property owners (non-residents) felt about the ordinance. Noticed that a couple people on CHAT are seasonal residents (Tom and Deb). It's important to get their perspective at the table since they often can't vote.
- b. Stephen- Budget Committee representative. He is also on the Hampton Beach Village District board, but Bob Ladd will represent the Village District. He lives just south of Boar's Head. Might be the last remaining single residence on Ocean Boulevard. Has lived there 24 years. Ocean in front and marsh in the back, so he gets to see two types of flooding. Will bring that experience and perspective to this committee.
  - c. Bob - Hampton Beach Village District unanimously supported articles to amend Hampton's zoning ordinance. Reality is the flooding is coming. These are just the baby steps toward addressing what is coming. Disappointed to see that the master plan failed to pass.
  - d. Nancy - Hampton Beach Area Commission. Very informative meeting last month. Couple came in from insurance company talking about what we might be expecting down the road. Meeting is online on Channel 22. Advise taking a look. Meeting is 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in the evening. Might have a public hearing in May.
  - e. Jason Bachand – Town Planner. Echo approval that zoning articles passing. Also disappointed to see the master plan didn't pass, but not discouraged. Will still form a Master Plan steering committee. Might not be able to do all the work, but can get the process started. Good news about the Coast Shift (FFY19 Project of Special Merit) grant getting approved for coastal hazards and adaptation Master Plan chapter.
  - f. Regina - Re-sworn in as BOS representative last night. Appreciate all work done here. Regina expressed her regret and offered her resignation from CHAT. She is planning to dedicate time to other issues that her constituents would like her to focus on for the next year. That said, she recognizes that we need to figure out what to do at the beach. Public hearing in May would be huge for the Hampton Beach Area Commission. Offered to still act as a liaison on the BOS.
    - Group thanked Regina for time on CHAT. Jay will attend the BOS meeting to request participation from another selectman.
  - g. Deb – Thanked group for patience with limited attendance so far. Thanked Regina for all she has done. One thing I've been thinking about after the minutes

is how to get the word out. Knows that there are concerns about how to be good representatives for the whole beach. Expressed her concern about flooding and that she is open to other ideas about how to get the word out and participate. Originally met as 15-20 houses; now meet and communicate with 60-80 residents; people mostly found out through word of mouth and she maintains an email list now. Originally went to the Hampton Beach Village District to ask for help with parking. HBVD helped us get together with the town who put together ordinance for parking for tides 10ft higher. Recently on the Hampton Facebook page, she noticed that people didn't know about the ordinance so that got her thinking about how to communicate better with people in the town. Also worked on warrant article for flood study that is now ongoing. Worked with Tom Bassett to link the two groups at Meadow Pond.

- h. Nathalie - Shared that NH Coastal Program received a Project of Special Merit from NOAA. One task is to hire a consultant to help Hampton develop Coastal Hazards and Adaptation Master Plan Chapter. Starts in October 2019 through March 2021. 18 months to get consultant on board and develop a chapter, with robust public engagement process. Would like to talk more about how CHAT can be involved in that process. \$30,000—that's about double what has been paid for master plan chapters in the past. Hopeful that product will be that much better.
- i. Julie – Julie LaBranche from the Rockingham Planning Commission; other part of the NOAA grant is a Coastal Corridor Study for transportation Route 95 to Atlantic Ocean. Will look at what happens to transportation infrastructure when flooding becomes repetitive? If certain parts aren't functional where will traffic go? How might it affect people and business. Function of whole system. Should be useful for MP chapter. Not enough funding for engineering, can look at where flooding occurs most frequently, and look at what a few engineering concepts might be to mitigate flooding (accommodate or create a barrier?). Will look at crossing/tidal culverts too.
  - Bob: Is it broad enough to include evacuation planning?
    1. There is some broad evacuation route mapping in Tides to Storms vulnerability assessment. A more concerted effort needs to happen. We will probably look at bit at pinch points for evacuation planning.
- j. Jay - April 1 at 7PM having next FloodSmart Roundtable discussion; outgrowth of FloodSmart workshops; more informal discussions. Having Jennifer Gilbert talk about construction standards in VE zone as well as contractor and resident coming to talk about elevating a structure.

- Should post on Hampton Beach Facebook Page
- Mailing list tomorrow or tonight
- Rayann: good timing VE zones focus on pilings; was really nice to have homeowner decide about that

*Note: At this point Stephen LaBranche suffered a medical emergency and Stephen, Nancy, and Kirsten left the meeting to get him medical attention. Kirsten passed notetaking responsibility to Nathalie. Nancy returned within about 30 minutes. Kirsten and Stephen did not return. Stephen later updated the group to let them know he was back home resting and recovering.*

### 3. Introduction to meeting topics

- a. Liz - presented graphic of adaptation framework from New Zealand Coastal Plan; process outlines 10 steps: what is happening (data collection); What matters most (values/objectives; vulnerability and risk); what can we do about it (evaluate different adaptation actions on a community scale); how can we implement the strategy (comprehensive approach; assign roles; identify funding); monitor, review, adjust
  - Sets up good process for CHAT to follow
  - Slide #4 lists recent activities and next steps for Hampton & CHAT under each step in the adaptation framework
    1. What is happening? Situation assessment, engineering studies, review of existing data/studies/actions
    2. What matters most? SHEA flood survey; flood smart roundtables; review engineering studies
    3. What can we do about it? Develop comprehensive maps; review case studies; learn about types of adaptation strategies; develop process; conduct outreach; evaluate funding options
    4. How can we implement a strategy? Develop adaptive strategy; create implementation plan; solicit funding; etc.
    5. How is it working? Solicit stakeholder feedback; monitor; adjust approach as needed
    6. Additional layer = coastal hazards and adaptation chapter

### 4. Approve meeting notes from 2/19/2019 (5 mins)

- The group skipped the meeting minute approval and planned to come back to this if time remained at the end of the meeting. The meeting minutes were not discussed or approved at this meeting.

5. Hampton's Vulnerability: Tides to Storms & Repetitive Loss (Julie LaBranche, RPC) (45 mins)
  - Links to Hampton's report and maps available [here](#)
    - a. Purpose: 1) Map sea-level rise and storm surge impacts; 2) Engage stakeholders to develop recommendations
    - b. Goals: 1) complete assessment for seacoast communities; 2) provide uniform vulnerability data for each community
    - c. Each community received customized report
    - d. 8-12 community representatives met at least 2 times and up to 4-5 times
    - e. Kept running list of issues/concerns raised during discussions that was used to develop recommendations
    - f. Used sea-level rise scenarios from third national climate assessment; slightly different from NH Coastal Risk and Hazard Commission (NHCRHC) but within ballpark
      - a. By 2100: Intermediate Low: 1.7'; Intermediate High: 4.0'; High: 6.3'
    - g. Took sea-level rise scenarios and placed them on maps with current 100-year flood elevation to show how the regulatory floodplain may change over time
    - h. Created a map-set and data tables for four categories of impacted assets: infrastructure and utilities; critical facilities; natural resources; transportation
    - i. Objectives:
      - a. Identify location and type of impacts
      - b. Evaluate extent and severity of impacts
      - c. Prioritize impacts based on vulnerability and risk
      - d. Identify mitigation and adaptation strategies
      - e. Integrate strategies in community plans, budgets, policies, and regulations (e.g., master plan, hazard mitigation plan, zoning amendments)
    - j. Also developed regional plan included regional planning recommendations that communities can work on together
    - k. Since 2015, all 7 seacoast communities have incorporated into hazard mitigation plan; also included in NHCRHC report; helped inform readiness of Hampton and Rye's readiness to join Community Rating System
    - l. 1.7' SLR nests within current 100-year floodplain
    - m. 4.0' SLR scenario inches closer to current 100-year floodplain; amount of land affected doubles; covers a lot more geography
    - n. 6.0' SLR breaches current 100-year floodplain; mimics 500-year floodplain boundaries/elevation

- o. We already have a regulatory framework for mitigating flooding in the 100-year floodplain; the better we can build within the 100-year floodplain today, the better off we will be in the future with sea-level rise
- p. How do you marry storm protection with long-term sea-level rise protection
- q. Roads Impacted by SLR and SLR+SS; more local roadway miles impacted due to higher number of local roadway miles than state roadway miles
- r. Hampton Beach has a dense roadway network than adjacent communities; Route 1a in Hampton is lower lying than most communities
- s. Regina – Hampton’s WWTP sits in the middle of this; will the upgrades take SLR into account?
  - a. Rayann – access to WWTP will be affected
  - b. Nathalie – adapting WWTP is tricky because they are designed to use gravity and are typically sited at low elevations; New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) has developed standards for elevating critical components of WWTP 2-3’ above base flood elevation
- t. Bob – at what point will be the roads in town become impassable?
  - a. Typically at 6.3’; a lot of roads that back up against the marsh are most impacted
- u. Deb – question about timing; usually tends to be a 30 minute lag between time of posted high tide and when high tide reaches back of marsh?
  - a. Nathalie suggested that this might be due to the fact that the tide gauge is located near the mouth of the estuary, resulting in a delay between peak high tide at the gauge and peak high tide in the back marsh
- v. 6.3’ SLR+SS paints all the more reason to enhance current floodplain regulations; or expand current floodplain extent
- w. Rye has greatest amount of upland (above Mean Higher High Water) at risk;
- x. Did also produce maps of depth of flooding; can zoom into .pdf to see greater detail; starts at 1.7
- y. Project timeframe from May 2015 – September 2015
- z. Bob – did you look at assessed value of structures?
  - a. Julie; Under 6.3’; aggregate assessed value of \$1 billion worth of parcels are at risk of being at least touched by water
  - b. Bob; Wouldn’t have a revenue stream if that amount of assessed value is lost
  - c. Julie; Not lost; parcels are potentially at risk of being touched by water
  - d. Jay; important to consider when we think about adaptation strategies
  - e. Julie; sea-level rise provides time to adapt, but is a game changer when there is a big storm

- f. Deb; but then it becomes a matter of safety; loss of life; resources to save people; wastewater flood
- g. Bob; will crush assessed values; will have a lot of trouble selling properties if it's affected twice a day by high tide
- h. Julie; always someone with deep enough pockets who can afford to build in vulnerable areas; vicious cycle of redevelopment and gentrification; people with modest means can't afford to continue living
- i. Deb; a lot of people on Hobson don't have mortgages so they opt not to have flood insurance, which creates another suite of problems
- j. Bob; we need to convince the town that if they want to be a town then we need to work on these issues
- aa. Jay – we as CHAT are going to look at case studies of a spectrum of adaptation strategies to help think about what's in the town and property owner's best interest
- bb. Julie mentioned the Salisbury seawall as something to look at
  - a. Deb and Nathalie mentioned it is not functioning well, cost a lot of money, and took a long time to build
- cc. Jay – not going to be a one sized solution
- dd. Julie – begs the question of who pays; state will have to play a part
- ee. Bob – there will be no state park if we lose Hampton beach; so the state has a stake in this
- ff. Bob – where are we with community rating system?
  - a. There are 6 properties that are non-compliant with floodplain standards
  - b. Need to have verification visits

The meeting adjourned without getting to other items on the agenda. Liz committed to sending a Doodle poll to schedule the next meeting. Items to potentially tackle next time:

- Approve CHAT minutes from meetings 2 and 3
- Case Studies for adaptation planning approaches: Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan and others
  - Louisiana Coastal Master Plan available [here](#)
- Finalizing Rules and Procedures
- CHAT maps