

## Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #9

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

3-5 PM

Hampton Town Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room

### NOTES

**Participants:** Jay, Bob, Rayann, Jason, Jim, Nancy, Stephen, Jennifer, Tom, Deb

**Absent:** Mark, Bryan

**Staff:** Kirsten, Nathalie, DES, Liz

#### 1. Approve meeting notes from August 20, 2019

August 20, 2019 minutes were approved as amended. Jay motioned to approve, seconded by Rayann. Jennifer, Tom and Deb abstained.

#### 2. Brief Relevant Flood Updates

Jay – indicated there will be a Flood Smart presentation September 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at the Masonic Lodge with Allison Eberhardt, NH SeaGrant. There will be a King Tide next month.

Stephen – indicated the Budget Committee will have its first meeting tonight.

Deb – discussed the panic brought on when Willy Weather predicted 1' higher tides listing 11.7 where 10.2 were predicted. Jen added that the Town Manager got a call.

Jen said there would be prestaging if a bigger event with road barricades, etc. The high tide last Winter that caused so much chaos was 11.4 so predictions of higher than that set off alarms. Greg from Willy Weather wrote back and apologized and explained how the mistake was made. Deb added we now have the alert system and parking ordinance. Folks are too busy to be involved and go home when the season ends.

Jim – discussed Channel 22 and residents re-signing up on the Town's new website.

Jen – noted Flood Study reports are due in January. One sensor was damaged, wires cut and it was reinstalled. Identifying choices step by step implementation of solutions, grants, the next step. Warrant Article \$290,000, next round \$100,000 plus \$180,000. Phase 3-4 design and permitting with matching funds next year 50/50 match. Following year go after construction. Plan for March's Warrant Article in July.

Jason – Nathalie and Kristen attended the Master Plan session. Vision and Coastal chapters will be together. Tomorrow night will work on RFP for Warrant Article to be drafted within the next month or so.

Tom – attended Flood Smart in August. There was a lot of energy from citizens wanting the Town to do something. An email was provided but there was no response. Questioning what is the best way to reach out and connect with the public? Jay agreed there was 45-50 people at Flood Smart who were directed to a BOS meeting and there were zero comments made at that meeting. Liz added that the group does not have the burden of reaching out to every citizens and bring the comments of each resident forward.

Rayann – noted the Conservation Commission and Planning Board discussed Warrant Articles; some small housekeeping items, revisions to the wetland permit application to add FloodIQ.COM.

Kirsten – noted the Hampton Harbor tide gauge was not reporting real time data the last few months due to a maintenance issue. Should be back online any day and is still providing forecast data. Can upload full data set from 2013 (6 years) but can't analyze. NIFWF and NOAA grants in October. The Chief of Resilience & Coastal NOAA is visiting in October and asked about Hampton and plans a site visit with DPW.

Nathalie – discussed the upcoming photo contest with NH Coastal Advisory Group from 10/27 to 10/30 with photos taken during the King Tide. Recommends putting on agenda to look at those photos.

### 3. New Hampshire Coastal Flood Risk Summary

Nathalie provided handouts from UNH entitled NH Coastal Flood Risk Summary Part II Guidance for Using Scientific Projects. The purpose of the 2019 Summary Part II is to help decision makers assess and incorporate best available projections for relative sea-level rise (RSLR), coastal storms, RSLR-induced groundwater rise and extreme precipitation into state and local land use planning and decision making.

Part 1 was the Science. Information is on the website <https://scholars.unh.edu/ersc/211>. Part one updated projections, sea-level rise, coastal storms, groundwater, precipitation, freshwater flooding, all of which are increasing. Ground water rise, within ½ mile of the coastline, equals 66% of RSLR. Table 3: Relative Sea-Level Rise Projections based on Project Risk Tolerance and Timeframe was prepared by students at Rutgers University. Projections are 0.5 to 1.3' RSLR by 2050 and 4.6 to 11.7 in 2150. Some examples of projects looked at were walking trails, culverts a Wastewater Treatment Facility and Hospital. Measurements depend on the stabilization of greenhouse gases which is predicted. Currently we are seeing an acceleration of greenhouse gases with the loss of the ice sheet in Greenland, etc.

Part 2 is Guidance using projections.

35 participants met on Tuesday and 25 more on Wednesday in Newmarket to provide feedback on the Guidance. Participants included the public, Conservation Members, Private Consultants, Residents, and Representatives, Planning and Technical Practitioners as well as Senator Watters representing Portsmouth.

Step 3.1 is to Select your RSLR scenario followed by Evaluating RSLR impacts to the project, considering other factors and then proceeding to Step 4, Assess and Consider Coastal Storms.

Nathalie reviewed the seven steps:

- Define – project type
- Determine Project Tolerance/flood risk
- Assess – RSLR
- Assess – Coastal Storms
- Assess RSLR to groundwater rise
- Extreme precipitation and freshwater flooding
- Extreme cumulative and evaluate actions

Nathalie provided a worksheet Appendix 2 and link to Sea-Level rise mapper <https://bit.ly/21k6341> and an online survey at <https://bit.ly/2kug802> and asked to think about how you would see Hampton using the guidance document. Jay noted he worked on a similar evaluation and while it seemed like a lot of work initially it made Step 7 clearer. Jen noted she got information already on LinkedIn. Liz encouraged discussion of challenges.

Tom discussed protecting natural resources. Liz added getting residents engaged. Rayann added that no one went to the BOS meeting after all the energy and momentum from the meeting. Kirsten recommended having the group establish a leader to advocate. Tom suggested an email list. Jim noted it's the responsibility of the taxpayer, not the neighborhood, the whole Town and realizing if you don't do it this is what is going to happen to your tax bill. Deb added people don't understand the budget process, Warrant Articles. Jay recommended scheduling a public meeting to explain how the process works. Jim noted Channel 22 had a video presentation.

Deb asked if there were any feedback from the Press Release. Liz noted she did not hear back from the publisher. Liz talked about other methods of outreach such as Social Media and brainstorming ways to engage the public. Steve recommended "Friends of Hampton." Deb noted a need to balance the negativity on Facebook. Liz recommended incorporating meeting minutes, coordinating what we want to put out there and when.

Deb noted we are seeing more year-round residents. Liz will find out if there is a number available. Kirsten added that folks are not seeing the extent of damage yet, cost wise and to start with small incentives.

Steve discussed the loss of tax dollars if the ocean-front revenue is lost. Bob agreed “without the beach there would be no Town.” Sea-level rise was not discussed five years ago and now it is discussed daily. At least it’s being talked about.

Tom discussed the value of renovations and access to funding to stay. Nancy asked how banks are handling that and recommended inviting a banker to one of the meetings. Bob noted banks require flood insurance.

Jay discussed FEMA hazardous mitigation grant funding. Senators Watters and Sherman offered if we need help with legislation related to funding to let them know.

Liz asked Tom about his experience with raising his home in 2005. Tom explained how he was inspired visiting Sanibel Island. Steel pilings are expensive. Need affordable solutions.

Liz noted Rayann’s examples of elevations after the 2018 storm have inspired more people to elevate their homes.

Bob noted they could revisit the permitting process. Steve wondered if permits could be combined. If a step-by-step guide would be helpful with pictures of raised houses. Highland Ave is one that was just done.

Liz noted contractors could do a presentation.

4. Brainstorm about barriers to adaptation and taking action at the property, town, and regional level (if time)

*This agenda item was not discussed.*

5. Next Meeting: Liz will send out a poll for setting the next meeting.

6. Adjourn

The meeting ended at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer  
Recording Secretary