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## Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #23

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Tuesday, January 26, 2021

2 PM – 4 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

GoToMeeting (Remotely)

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/248423645>

<https://www.gotomeet.me/KirstenHoward/chat-work-sessions>  
[or by dial-in @ \(669\) 224-3412](https://www.gotomeet.me/KirstenHoward/chat-work-sessions)

### NOTES

**Participants:** Jay Diener, Rayann Dionne, Jason Bachand, Stephen LaBranche, Tom Bassett, Jen Hale, Debra Bourbeau, James Waddell and Barbara Kravitz and Norma Collins (by phone)

**Absent:** Bob Ladd, Mark Olson, Bryan Provencal, June Black, Steve Belgiorno

**Staff:** Kirsten Howard, and Nathalie Morrison DiGeronimo

Mr. Diener began the meeting at 2:08 PM.

1. Remote meeting logistics

Mr. Diener asked everyone how the remote virtual meeting format was working out.

2. Introductions

The members introduced themselves and indicated whether they were affiliated with the Town, a group or were residents.

Jay Diener indicated he is a representative of the Conservation Commission and is fortunate to live near Ice Pond which was acquired as Conservation in 06-07 and always has a couple dozen people skating on it. It is nice to see people using Conservation land. Mr. Diener noted NOAA predicts 200 tides over 9' this year and 38 over 10.' Mr. Diener noted it would be interesting to look at what NOAA predicted for 2018 and how many there actually were.

Stephen LaBranche noted he is a representative of the Municipal Budget Committee who just finished with Hampton's budget as well as the School Board budget for the year. Deliberative Session is Saturday. The Budget Committee is wondering if Mr. Diener would give his presentation at one of their meetings and asks that he email if he is interested.

Jason Bachand indicated he is the Town Planner for the Town of Hampton and has a lot of updates on the Master Plan and series of focus group meetings with underrepresented communities such as the fishing community, Chamber of Commerce and residents and is planning a public hearing in March; in the second phase they will be evaluating consultants and proposals and make a decision in February.

Rayann Dionne indicated she is representing SHEA and recently resigned as Conservation Coordinator but will still be available to attend these meetings and SHEA and that SHEA will be hosting a workshop tomorrow night on saltmarsh ditching, information about remedying the ditches resulting from mosquito control. There will be UNH experts and hydrology and habitat of salt marshes with more details on the SHEA website.

Kirsten Howard indicated she is with NHDES Coastal Program and is excited to publish data on tides since 2013.

Nathalie Morrison DiGeronimo indicated she is with the NH DES Coastal Program and grant manager with the first phase of the Master Plan Chapter update and is working on the Vision & Coastal Resilience components of the Master Plan, plans a resident focus group scheduled on February 11 at 7 PM and has submitted the proposal for the Coastal Program; another virtual meeting will be on March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

Tom Bassett indicated he is a Hampton resident and circulated an email about a Biden Administration plan to dramatically increase funding to FEMA, which is potentially big news for our coastal community. He also noted a flood event on January 16<sup>th</sup> associated with the Nor'easter storm that brought an inch of rain and knee-high water to the Greene St-Meadow Pond-Gentian Rd neighborhood. He noted that the much of the water come out of storm drains and flowed down down from Kings Highway which has no storm drains.

Barbara Kravitz is a representative of the Rockingham Planning Commission and Hampton Beach Area Commission and welcomes registration for their upcoming Coastal Resiliency symposium with details on their website with registration at no charge through February 9<sup>th</sup>. The agenda will be posted on the event webpage this week (<https://www.nhcaw.org/hbac-coastal-resilience-symposium/>),

Jen Hale is with the DPW and continues to work with consultants and looks forward to moving recommendations forward.

Debra Bourbeau is a resident and echoed Mr. Bassett's comments about the recent Nor'easter, stating that she was lucky she moved her car when she did.

Norma Collins is taking notes for the Zoning Board; and

and Jim Waddell who is the Select Board Chair stated he had nothing new to report.

3. Approve meeting notes from October 2020 and November 2020

***Mr. LaBranche motioned to approve the October 20, 2020 meeting minutes as amended. Ms. Dionne seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

Edits were recommended to the November 17, 2020 minutes to remove the Master Plan Steering Committee next to Barbara Kravitz's name because she is a member but not officially appointed yet.

**Mr. Bachand motioned to approve the November 17, 2020 minutes as amended. Ms. Hale seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.**

4. Discussion of CHAT's primary objectives (below) from CHAT Rules & Procedures and priorities for 2021

a. Improve coordination of flood hazard management and adaptation efforts in Hampton.

The Team discussed ways it could support the Building Department with managing the recommendations and be more involved in the Steering Committee with regard to the Master Plan updates and the role of CHAT moving forward.

Mr. Diener asked how CHAT would be adopted and whether it would require a Warrant Article. Mr. LaBranche agreed that CHAT should be part of the Master Plan which Ms. DiGeronimo noted is anticipated to be shared in February.

Ms. Dionne recommended transitioning to a role of guiding implementation of CHAT's recommendations to the Master Plan and formalizing the Team's role as an advisory board and discussing other funding mechanisms.

Ms. DiGeronimo agreed that CHAT is grappling with where it fits with governing bodies and recommends weighing the benefits in becoming a formal advisory board to clear up that role and empower the Team more.

Ms. Kravitz noted many recommendations are vetted by the Planning Board first and the Select Board would want to know the Planning Board's viewpoint. There is only one member of CHAT on the Master Plan Steering Committee. Mr. Bachand noted CHAT could be involved in Phase 2 as well. Ms. Kravitz recommended adding another person to the Steering Committee from CHAT.

Ms. Hale noted there is a lot of overlap with the Master Plan and DES working on solutions to take to the next level with funding. Projects may not impact one specific situation and it may be more important to clarify those that go together.

Mr. Bassett and Ms. Kravitz discussed potential funding. Mr. Bassett indicated grant money is a potential source and Ms. Kravitz agreed many recommendations will require funding and if they are not in the Master Plan it may be unlikely to be funded. Ms. Dionne added that it would help the Planning Board feel more confident if a consensus or endorsement comes from other committees to push into the Master Plan. Mr. Bachand agreed it makes a difference.

b. Investigate, analyze, and prioritize flood management and adaptation strategies and

present recommendations to the Municipal Boards and Commissions for consideration.

Ms. Kravitz recommended gathering as much information and advice as possible which will assist with funding.

Ms. DiGeronimo noted it would be helpful to have a consensus on the message the Team is trying to disseminate. Ms. Kravitz agreed it should be consistent across all platforms.

The following future presentations are planned:

Mr. LaBranche noted the Budget Committee Chair has requested minutes and agendas and was told we are meeting today and will report back. Mr. Diener noted the Chair was welcome to be present. Ms. Hale added that these meetings can be viewed online as well.

Ms. Kravitz reported that Mr. Diener and Ms. Durfee agreed to come before the Hampton Beach Commission in March.

Mr. Bachand reported he hopes to discuss the recommendations with the Planning Board at their February 17, 2021 meeting. Ms. DiGeronimo noted it is a good opportunity to gauge the steering committee as well.

- c. Inform residents about the flood hazard management and adaptation options the Town is considering and enable residents to provide input on these options.

Ms. Dionne noted she was confident the Team has been working on 2019 Goals 1 & 2 but haven't been able to spend as much time informing residents and doing outreach.

Mr. Diener asked if there were any suggestions to improve more engagement with feedback.

Ms. Bourbeau noted she was not sure how to manage outreach or if a lot of feedback is being provided in return.

Ms. Dionne recommended sending out a follow-up survey with questions.

Mr. Bassett added that certain recommendations can be flagged depending on the group the recommendations are being presented to. Ms. DiGeronimo agreed that may help promote discussion.

Ms. Kravitz and Mr. Diener agreed putting information about implementation on the application might be helpful.

Ms. Kravit noted anecdotal description and evidence is important to people, to be able to visualize things.



- d. Provide educational and public outreach opportunities concerning flood hazard management and adaptation strategies.

Mr. Diener recommended a symposium of voters. Mr. LaBranche agreed that recording the presentation would be helpful to people with day jobs who would otherwise miss the event.

Ms. Bourbeau noted a neighbor created a *Facebook* page regarding flood zone group and could share information to others.

Ms. Kravitz recommended working through SHEA. Mr. Diener will look into that.

Mr. Bassett noted outdoor events might work.

5. Report out from members who shared the CHAT recommendations.

The following members shared CHAT recommendations:

Mr. Bassett reported that he distributed information to the neighborhood but has not received any comments yet.

Ms. Bourbeau echoed Mr. Bassett's comments.

Mr. Diener reported presenting the information to Conservation and the Select Board and received general feedback. The information was presented to the Zoning Board but there was not much time for discussion. One comment was about justifying the staff position when it is difficult to find a Building Inspector and that projects are vetted by the TRC before coming before the ZBA. The general sense being that CHAT might be cutting off some of their resources. Nobody was opposed to the position itself, just the cost. Ms. Howard recommended CHAT support and assist the BI and staff.

Ms. Dionne recommended thinking about other goals to prioritize for the next meeting.

6. Public outreach needs.

Ms. Kravitz agreed outreach is doable and would like to focus on that.

Mr. Bassett recommended advertising. There is a lot of interest in the issues and the question is promoting interest.

Mr. LaBranche recommended photographs on social media are well followed and could be part of the outreach plan.

Ms. DiGeronimo agreed there are great venues for sharing information on events and promoting them and a lot of strategy behind developing a successful social media plan.

7. Next meeting: February 16, 2021

8. Adjourn.

The meeting ended at 4:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Hoijer  
Recording Secretary