
Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #28

Tuesday, July 20, 2021

2 PM – 4 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84508357533?pwd=b3VMSC9GVVpzZEwxTzdTNUhWSjdWdz09>

or Call +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 845 0835 7533

NOTES

Participants: Jay Diener, Brianna O'Brien, Jen Hale, Joe Lynch, Debra Bourbeau, Jason Bachand, Stephen LaBranche, Bob Ladd, Anne (Tocky) Bialobrzkeski, and Barbara Kravitz

Absent: Rayann Dionne, James Waddell, Tom Bassett

Staff: Liz Durfee, Kirsten Howard, and Nathalie DiGeronimo

Absent: Ms. Campbell

Ms. Durfee began the meeting at 2:00 PM.

1. Introductions

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

Liz Durfee indicated she is the planning consultant.

Jason Bachand indicated he is the Hampton Town Planner.

Kirsten Howard indicated she is with the NH DES Coastal Program.

Jay Diener indicated he is with the Hampton Conservation Commission and will be also representing SHEA as Rayanne Dionne is absent.

Stephen LaBranche indicated he is a representative of the Hampton Budget Committee.

Nathalie DiGeronimo indicated she is the Resilience Project Manager with the NH DES Coastal Program.

Barbara Kravitz indicated she is a representative of the Hampton Beach Area Commission.

Bob Ladd noted he is with the Hampton Beach Village District.

Jen Hale is the Director of Public Works and introduced Joe Lynch who is the Deputy Director of the DPW.

Deb Bourbeau noted she represents the residents of the backside of Ashworth Ave.

Anne (Tocky) Bialobrzkeski indicated she is on the Planning Board and will be representing the ZBA.

Brianna O'Brien is the Conservation Commission Coordinator.

2. Approve meeting notes from May 18, 2021

Ms. Durfee noted edits were posted electronically.

Mr. Diener motioned to approve the May 18 , 2021 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Bachand seconded the motion. A vote was taken, Ms. Kravitz and Ms. Hale abstained, Mr. Diener voted aye, Mr. Bachand voted aye, Mr. LaBranche voted aye, Ms. Bialobrzkeski voted aye, Ms. O'Brien voted aye, Ms. Bourbeau voted aye and Mr. Ladd voted aye. The motion passed 7-0-2.

3. Relevant Flood Updates

Ms. Hale reported on flood resilience proposals and ditch remediation. Kings Highway suffered significant flooding and infiltration basins are being installed as a temporary fix to get some water of the road and may be used on Ashworth Ave. as well. Rains attributed to runoff and higher ground water levels. Ms. Hale discussed Green Street and Gentian Road and Meadow Pond. The old Twelfth Street pump station will be used to pump to a new outlet point.

Ms. Hale discussed the design and permitting process to explore removing some areas of existing ditching that cause erosion and stabilize marsh areas.

Mr. LaBranche asked for more information on ditch remediation. Ms. Hale noted the existing patterns were dug out years ago to relieve the mosquito problem.

Mr. LaBranche asked what they would be filled in with – vegetation and cuttings.

Mr. LaBranche noted filling in hundreds of acres seems a colossal project and Ms. Hale explained the exploratory process and offered to have Mr. Lucey come in and talk about it further. A few smaller areas will be a pilot restoration and monitoring before expanding. There are two square miles of marsh and a prioritized list with six potential sites, small, medium and large which will be studied. Links were provided.

<https://resilience.mysocialpinpoint.com/hampton-master-plan/hampton-master.plan-update>

Also bitly-com/Hampton-master-plan

Ms. Bialobrzkeski expressed concerns that filling may be counterproductive to making the marsh healthy, it is 200 years old.

Mr. Diener reported on discussions with Kevin Lucey of DES Coastal regarding the salt marsh. The pre-application was accepted and the final application for funding is being submitted. The Conservation Commission has chosen to take on a few of the CHAT recommendations, #5 greater public outreach and education and #10 looking at special flood hazard area, implementing ordinance and working with the Select Board and Planning Board. #16 is to conserve parcels in or adjacent to the estuary to allow salt marsh migration.

Ms. Durfee indicated the Team can frame a process to track implementations and keep communication open. Ms. Durfee noted she reached out to OSI and they provided flood insurance claims information on loss and payments. 736 total, \$2.4 million repetitive loss claim payments and \$6.2 million total payments over a 35-year history of flood insurance in Hampton. Ms. Bialobrzkeski, Mr. Ladd and Ms. Kravitz requested copies.

Mr. Bachand indicated there would be an audit on the land use regulations. Phase 2 of the Master Plan is going very well. There is a new link on the Town website. The Steering Committee will meet again tomorrow and the Select Board will come in. There will be a community forum on September 29th.

4. Vote on meeting format (in person or Zoom)

Ms. Kravitz motioned to continue meeting virtually seconded by Mr. LaBranche. With all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Membership Update

Ms. Durfee introduced Brianna O'Brien who is the new Conservation Commission Coordinator.

Ms. Durfee reported she reached out to Norma Collins but did not hear back from her and tried to connect with Jim Marchese, the Building Inspector as well as the Emergency Management Director. Mr. Bachand offered to reach out to Mr. Marchese.

Ms. Bialobrzkeski confirmed her representation with the ZBA.

6. Continued review and update CHAT Rules and Procedures and draft Statement of Purpose

The Team reviewed the Statement of Purpose or Mission Statement.

Ms. Kravitz noted she liked Mr. LaBranche's vision of a Mission Statement. Just one sentence, then put Statement of Purpose under that with the four primary objectives on one piece of paper and call the next statement "objectives."

Mr. Ladd noted it was much more detailed than would be needed? and asked where and how it may be used. Ms. Durfee explained it concerns the initial formation and to guide work internally and track progress. With outreach and recommendations it lets others know who CHAT is. Ms. Kravitz noted it should stand alone if someone asks who CHAT is. A subcommittee of SHEA, that SHEA handles funding, etc. Ms. Durfee noted SHEA is the agent, fiscal agent and administrator. CHAT is not a non-profit and can't apply for funds on its own, but it is not a subcommittee of SHEA. Ms. Kravitz requested the members be identified in the second paragraph and as an individual, town employee or representing another group. Ms. Durfee noted that would be addressed within the Rules of Procedure and whether to include specific boards and staff, listing the DPW, Conservation Commission, Town Planner, Select Board. Mr. Diener noted they can be more specific but the background section being reviewed now doesn't need that level of specificity.

Ms. Hale recommended using bullets instead of numbers because one is not more of a priority than another objective. Change analyze to assess. Ms. Kravitz recommended "evaluate." Change "is" to "may" in #3. Change "like" to "such as" in Section 4.3.

Ms. Bialobrzkeski recommended combining #3 and #4 and asked the geographically area served. Ms. Durfee noted it serves the Town of Hampton including areas in and out of the flood zone. SHEA is involved with other Towns. CHAT is an adhoc working group with no relation to the municipality. To date, one representative is generally talked about representing each board/dept., etc.. If there is more than one representative there could be one vote per entity. Mr. Diener recommended having a voting member and an alternate. Ms. Bialobrzkeski noted Boards could select their own representative. Mr. Diener recommended stating "each of the following will appoint a member and an alternate," then list the Boards and the Departments. Ms. Durfee reminded CHAT is not a municipal board and one board doesn't have more authority over the other. Terms were discussed. Attendance was discussed and termination of membership and replacement. A letter would be sent. Ms. Kravitz recommended adding to the agency that appointed the member. Non-member attendance was addressed and noticing meetings when they are open to the public. Mr. Diener recommended use of SHEA's website and Facebook page and coordination with the Town calendar. Non-publics were discussed. CHAT is not subject to 91-A. Mr. Diener recommended having non-public workshops the first 15 minutes of a public meeting in executive session, if needed.

Ms. Hale reflected on how she became a member; an email was sent, it was appropriate and she responded, it wasn't that the Town Manager appointed her.

The Team discussed whether SHEA should be a voting member. SHEA would have one vote. “Membership Manager” refers to the person reaching out to new members or those who don’t attend regularly and may need replacement. Ms. Kravitz recommended “Primary External Contact.”

Ms. Durfee asked the Team to send any additional comments in advance of the next meeting.

7. Review of updated Coastal Resilience Staff Description

Ms. Durfee updated the staff position description and had an unofficial meeting with Town staff and refined the draft.

8. Additions

Ms. Durfee asked if CHAT would write a letter of support for SHEA’s application to the Coastal Program.

Mr. Diener explained that recommendation #13 is for an assessment plan for economic impact of Sea Level Rise. SHEA works with Hampton, Hampton Falls and Seabrook. Mr. Diener has spoken with an economist who worked with Kennebunk, Wells and York to establish a similar economic forecast for those 3 towns. The plan would look at SLR through the predicted 2050 GIS assessment and how factors may change, how the Town may change, suggesting how many property owners may chose to leave due to frequent flooding. The impact on business and revenue and employment, transportation, and vehicular access. In the aggregate for example, how may properties could be affected by impact of change in 2050. Understanding the fiscal impacts not just the physical impacts so the Town can do better financial planning and prioritize and implement the ordinance and mitigate impacts.

The application is due on Friday, July 30, and he would like to have the letter by Wednesday.

Ms. Bialobrzkeski asked if this was parallel with the work the consultant is doing on Phase 2 of the Master Plan and asked to see the application. Mr. Diener noted he has been in touch with the consultant and he will bring it up at tomorrow night’s Steering Committee meeting. The plan will inform and support not be in conflict with the update. Mr. Diener noted he could send out what the consultant prepared for the Maine towns and Ms. Durfee will circulate that. The Team can vote by email on the letter and Mr. LaBranche was decided to be the one to sign it.

Mr. Ladd noted the Village District already sent a letter.

8. Next meeting: August 17, 2021

8. Adjourn. The meeting ended at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hoijer, Recording Secretary