
Coastal Hazards Adaptation Team (CHAT) Work Session #27

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

2 PM – 4 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

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

[by dial-in @ \(669\) 205-6099](tel:6692056099)

NOTES

Participants: Jay Diener, Rayann Dionne, Jason Bachand, Stephen LaBranche, James Waddell, Bob Ladd, Tom Bassett, Anne (Tocky) Bialobrzkeski, and Barbara Kravitz (@2:30pm)

Absent: Jen Hale, Debra Bourbeau, Bryan Provencal, June Black, Steve Belgiorno

Staff: Liz Durfee, Kirsten Howard, and Nathalie DiGeronimo

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.

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

Rayann Dionne indicated she was a representative of SHEA (Seacoast Hampton Estuary Alliance).

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.

Jim Waddell indicated he is a representative of the Select Board.

Tom Bassett indicated he is a seasonal resident.

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

2. Approve meeting notes from April 20, 2021

Mr. Bachand recommended edits. Ms. Bialobrzkeski recommended edits

Mr. Diener motioned to approve the April 20 , 2021 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Bachand seconded the motion. A vote was taken, Ms. Bialobrzkeski abstained, Mr. Diener voted aye, Ms. Dionne voted aye, Mr. Bachand voted aye, Mr. LaBranche voted aye, Mr. Waddell voted aye, Mr. Bassett voted aye and Mr. Ladd voted aye. The motion passed 7-0-1.

3. Relevant Flood Updates

Ms. Dionne reported that SHEA was not awarded the PREPA grant for outreach but DES Coastal is expanding their terms for assistance funding which will allow SHEA to do that. Mr. Bachand reported the Planning Board was awarded the PREPA grant.

Ms. Dionne reported she has taken a certification course for CRS as a certified flood plain manager which is four days of training and then a test. Mr. Bachand did his at the same time. Kirsten Howard and Nathalie DiGeronimo are also certified. Having certified staff will gain points for the Town in the rating system earning 16 points every two years. Crsresources.org. www.floods.org/certification-program-ctml

Ms. Dionne reported SHEA is working on the first steps (Visioning) of the Estuary Management Plan and will be putting out a survey and utilizing CHAT's survey data as well.

Mr. Bassett reported he sent out slides and notes from the April flooding. One of the photos shows ducks swimming in the streets. Ms. Durfee noted it would be good to put those photos in a newsletter.

Mr. Diener reported tide projections for the coming weekend are 9' to 10+'.

Ms. DiGeronimo reported speaking with Jennifer Gilbert at OSI and the National Flood Insurance Data as of May 3, 2021 shows Hampton with 43 repetitive loss properties which is the highest in the state. There were 736 claims filed in Hampton representing 19% of claims in the state overall. Mr. Ladd noted the value of the claims is more critical than the quantity. Ms. Durfee will try to find that information.

Ms. Howard reported the Coastal Program is releasing a grant opportunity on Monday available to non-profits, municipalities and academic institutions. She will forward the press release. Des.nh.gov/business-and-community/loans-qand-grants/coastal+resilience-grants

4. Review and Update CHAT Rules and Procedures

Ms. Durfee reported that Deb Bourbeau forwarded her comments.

Ms. Kravitz expressed concerns with identifying who CHAT is and what is its standing. Mr. Diener recommended answering that in a mission statement but did not feel it should be in the ROP document. Mr. Ladd agreed. Ms. Durfee recommended holding off on discussions concerning the mission statement until the next meeting.

Ms. Durfee noted four objectives are identified in the ROP and the group has made more progress on #1 and #2 than on #3 and #4 outreach and education. Ms. Durfee questioned if the importance of two-way communication should be addressed in the ROP and Mr. Bassett noted it seemed implicit. Each representative is bringing back information to his or her Board and vice-versa.

Mr. Diener noted the Team did make progress with developing and presenting draft recommendations this year. Ms. Durfee will address goals bi-annually.

5. New members discussion

The Team agreed an invitation should be extended to the Building Inspector to be a member although they realize he may be too busy to attend meetings. Mr. Waddell cautioned about the potential to overburden employees by requiring attendance at these meetings. Meeting Minutes should be distributed to the Town Manager regularly.

The Team agreed an invitation to the Police Chief as Emergency Management Director would be appropriate and Tim Roche of RPC.

The Team agreed that members could have alternates. Jen Hale was recently promoted at the DPW and may not be able to attend. Someone from her department could attend in her place.

The Team agreed the Master Plan Committee was well represented.

The Team agreed having another resident representative would be beneficial and will work on creating a membership application.

The Team agreed Ms. Campbell should be added as "Staff."

Ms. Kravitz proposed opening the meetings to visitors.

The Team discussed and agreed SHEA should have representation on the Team.

The Team agreed there should be a certain number of missed meetings to qualify for replacing a member who may not show interest in attending regularly and that should be three unexcused absences.

Ms. Kravitz asked about having a designated spokesperson or officers. SHEA has the authority to speak on behalf of CHAT but each member can speak on behalf of CHAT reporting back to their boards, groups or committees.

Ms. Dionne explained the entity would have to be a Town board or committee or non-profit before handling funds. SHEA is CHAT's fiscal agent.

6. Coastal Resilience Position next steps

Mr. Diener reported he met with the Select Board and had a good discussion concerning the position. They are in favor of working with RPC on a regional basis to test the waters and spread out the cost. Next steps should include a meeting with Building, the Town Planner, DPW, and the Conservation Coordinator to get their input on the duties/responsibilities of the Coastal Resilience & Floodplain Manager position. RPC should be at that meeting as well.

7. Next meeting: July 15, 2021

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hoijer, Recording Secretary