

HAMPTON COASTAL HAZARDS & ADAPTATION TEAM (CHAT)

APRIL 2022 MEMBER UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A summary of updates and announcements relevant to flooding, coastal hazards, and coastal planning intended to be shared with Hampton boards, commissions, committees, departments, and the public. Visit <http://shea4nh.org/coastal-hazards-adaptation-team-chat/> for information about CHAT.

- The Town continues the [Master Plan update](#).
- The Planning Department continues work on the audit of land use regulations to incorporate Coastal Flood Risk Guidance with a grant from the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP). The audit revealed inconsistencies in the floodplain management ordinance with the state building code. Four sea level rise design flood elevation options were developed. The final product from the grant will be a report, prepared by Resilience Planning and Design, that summarizes findings and suggested next steps. The findings and next steps will be presented to at the Flood Smart Round Table hosted by SHEA in June. The Planning Department will be submitting an application for assistance through the Flood Smart Seacoast Technical Assistance program to advance the findings from the audit.
- SHEA is hosting a Flood Smart Round table on April 19th, 2022. The next Flood Smart Round Table is scheduled for June 9th, 2022 and will feature Jennifer Gilbert, the State Floodplain Manager. Ms. Gilbert will share information about the new FEMA rating system for flood insurance policies and building code changes.
- CHAT resident representative Tom Bassett reached out to members of the community and connected with about 10 new people who are interested in CHAT updates. He will share the monthly updates via email.
- DPW has completed preliminary design work for the drainage improvement project and anticipates holding a public hearing once a concrete plan of next steps is in place. DPW submitted three grant applications to the Critical Flood Risk Infrastructure Program:
 - King's Highway drainage implementation project
 - Sewer rehabilitation retrofit due to coastal flooding and impacts to wastewater treatment
 - Bank stabilization project at Eel creek and Hampton Seabrook Estuary.
- Conservation Coordinator Brianna O'Brien is revisiting impervious coverage regulations in Hampton and investigating limitations on previous hardscape. She is also looking to identify some parcels within the estuary to protect through easement or purchasing lots.
- The Town has initiated an update of it's Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Article of interest: "[A Lake in Florida Suing to Protect Itself](#)," The New Yorker, April 11, 2022. A lake in Florida has standing to sue a developer on the grounds that it will interfere with the lake's functioning from an environmental perspective.

CHAT's mission is to evaluate, assist, support, educate, and advise on current and future coastal flooding adaptation strategies for the Town.

CHAT is comprised of representatives from boards and commissions in Hampton, Town of Hampton staff, Hampton Beach Area Commission, Hampton Beach Village District, the Seabrook-Hamptons Estuary Alliance (SHEA), and resident representatives. CHAT is supported by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program and a meeting coordinator and administered by SHEA.